

# **BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**Council of the County of Maui**

## **MINUTES**

**April 8, 2021**

**Online Only via BlueJeans**

**CONVENE:** 9:04 a.m.

**PRESENT:** Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Chair  
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Vice-Chair  
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member  
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Member  
Councilmember Kelly Takaya King, Member (in 2:34 p.m., out 5:21 p.m.)  
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member  
Councilmember Michael J. Molina, Member  
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member  
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Member (out 7:01 p.m., in 7:25 p.m.)

**STAFF:** Lesley Milner, Legislative Analyst  
Kasie Apo Takayama, Legislative Analyst  
Shelly Espeleta, Supervising Legislative Analyst  
Richard Mitchell, Legislative Attorney  
Yvette Bouthillier, Committee Secretary  
Jean Pokipala, Council Services Assistant Clerk

Kate Griffiths, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Gabe Johnson  
Keisa Liu, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Gabe Johnson  
Evan Dust, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Tasha Kama  
Davideane Sickels, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Tasha Kama  
Lois Whitney, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Tasha Kama  
Axel Beers, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kelly Takaya King  
Michelle Del Rosario, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kelly  
Takaya King  
Sarah Freistat Pajimola, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Keani  
N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez  
Gina Young, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci,  
Member

**ADMIN.:** Michele M. Yoshimura, Budget Director, Office of the Mayor  
David C. Thyne, Fire Chief, Department of Fire and Public Safety  
Bradford K. Ventura, Deputy Chief, Department of Fire and Public Safety  
Michael Werner, Assistant Fire Chief, Department of Fire and Public  
Safety  
Lori Ann Y. Tsuhako, Director, Department of Housing and Human  
Concerns

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Linda Munsell, Deputy Director, Department of Housing and Human Concerns

Kristina Toshikiyo, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel

**OTHERS:** Mike Morris, Director, Maui Family YMCA  
Jack Naiditch, Maui Family YMCA  
Jud Cunningham, Aloha House, Inc.  
Malia Bohlin, Aloha House, Inc.  
Kealoha Laemoa  
Stan Franco  
Alexis Camara  
Reuben Ignacio, Director, Hale Mahaolu Personal Care Program  
Tom Fischer  
Faith Chase  
Douglas Bigley  
Jennifer McGurn, Assistant Director Community Services, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.  
Jelena Dackovic, Maui Rescue Mission  
Scott Hansen  
Junya Nakoa  
Aisha Senas-Childs  
Cassi Yamashita, Community Service Director, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.  
Suzanne Antounian, Maui Adult Care  
Dane Ka'ae, Director of Youth Services, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.  
Danielle Bergan, Mental Health Association on Maui  
Debbi Amaral, Director, Head Start, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.  
Gladys Baisa  
Grant Bigley, Ikaika Ohana

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

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Aloha kakahiaka kākou, mai Moloka`i nui a Hina. 'Ehā minuke i ka hala o kahōla 'eiwa. Ma 'ewalu o 'Apelila I ka makahiki `elua kaukani Iwakāluakūmākahi. E 'olu'olu mai, e ho'omalū ke Komike Mo'ohelu Kālā a me ho'omohala waiwai 'o wai ka luna o ho'omalū o kēia Komike o Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. It was 9:04 on April 8th, 2021. Will the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee please come to order. I'm your Chair, Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, and monet *(phonetic)* kākou is the greeting from Council Chair Lee. I keia lā me ko kākou, hope luna ho'omalū, Tamara Paltin. Aloha and monet.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Monet and aloha kakahiaka from the upper West Side. We got surf in the two to four-foot range with an occasional larger set, kind of lumpy, trades blowing at 10 to 20 miles per hour, partly sunny and partly cloudy skies.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sounds beautiful. I'm sorry you're indoors. Next, we have Member Shane Sinenci. Monet. How's the weather on your side of the island?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair. Kuka ka lā ma ka Hikina, and good monet, everyone.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Monet. Member Mike Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Good morning. Aloha no, and monet to you, my colleagues, and everyone. And may I say, Madam Chair, you...your 'ōlelo is so eloquent, as always.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Flattery will get you everywhere. Council Chair Alice Lee, monet.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Monet, Madam Chair. The surf is flat in Wailuku today, but other than that, it's a beautiful day. Looking forward to our meeting. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Wonderful that the rain cleared up in Wailuku. And then Member Kelly King will be joining us momentarily. And we have Member Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Good morning, Chair. Good morning, Councilmembers. Monet. Looking forward to an interesting meeting, and can't wait to hear from the testifiers. And the weather on Lāna'i City is cold and windy as usual. I...I got to get over...I'm waiting for the summer. I'm waiting for it because it isn't here yet. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Monet. Hopefully that brings a lot of condensation and water to recharge your aquifer. And we have Member Yuki Lei Sugimura. Monet.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Monet, everybody. I'm in Wailuku, we are what, 73 degrees here. Kula, where I actually live with all the jacaranda trees, are at 64 degrees, so we're having really cold, brisk weather this morning. But good morning, everybody. Looking forward to a very productive day with Fire and Housing and Human Concerns, and we'll be working hard for you. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. And Pro Tem Tasha Kama, monet.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair, and monet. The weather here in Kahului is just gorgeous, it's beautiful, the breeze is balmy and gently kissing the coco palms for sure. Good morning, everyone.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sounds absolutely delightful. From Corporation Counsel, we have Deputy Corporation Counsel Kristina Toshikiyo. Monet.

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MS. TOSHIKIYO: Monet. Aloha, Chair and Members.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. From the Office of the Mayor, Budget Director Michele Yoshimura. Aloha, monet. And we will have the two departments, Department of Fire and Public Safety, and Department of Housing and Human Concerns today. And we have Committee Staff, Committee Secretary Yvette Bouthillier. Monet.

MS. BOUTHILLIER: Good morning, Committee Chair and Members.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Good morning. Supervising Legislative Analyst Shelly Espeleta. Monet.

MS. ESPELETA: Monet, Chair and Members.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Budget Committee Analyst Lesley Milner. Monet.

MS. MILNER: Aloha, Chair. Monet, Members.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Legislative Analyst Kasie Apo Takayama. Monet.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Monet, Chair and Members.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And Legislative Attorney Richard Mitchell. Monet.

MR. MITCHELL: Aloha, Chair and Members.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Okay. This online meeting is being conducted in accordance with the Governor's most recent emergency proclamation on COVID-19. Please see the last page of the agenda for more information on meeting connectivity. We have one...our one agenda item, BFED-1, Proposed Fiscal Year 2022 Budget for the County of Maui. And I see we have about eight testifiers currently signed up, so we'll begin with public testimony. Oral testimony via phone or video conference will be accepted. Please note that if you are signed in, you are on the list to testify, even if you did not request to testify. Please let Staff know in the chat if you are signed on and do not intend to testify. Testifiers wanting to provide video testimony, please go to the link noted on today's agenda. Testifiers wanting to provide audio testimony, please call the number noted on today's agenda and enter the meeting code. The Committee intends to keep the same meeting link and phone number throughout this Budget Session. Written testimony is highly encouraged. Instructions on how to submit testimony can be found at [mauicounty.us/testify](http://mauicounty.us/testify). Oral testimony is limited to three minutes per item. If you are still testifying beyond that time, I will kindly ask you to complete your testimony. When testifying, please state your first and last name. If you are testifying on behalf of an organization or are a paid lobbyist, please inform the Committee. Staff will...or has posted the testifiers log in the chat so that testifiers can see where they are. Please be mindful of the use of chat during the meeting. Chat should not be used to provide testimony or chat with Councilmembers

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or other testifiers. If providing testimony, please be courteous to others by muting your microphone and video while waiting your turn to testify. Once you are done testifying, you will be asked to disconnect from the call; however, you are welcome to continue to view the remainder of the meeting on *Akakū* Channel 53, Facebook Live, or on mauicounty.us, and I think that's a forward slash, agendas. Participants who wish to view the meeting only without providing testimony, please also disconnect at this time and instead view the meeting on Channel 53 *Akakū*, Facebook Live, or on mauicounty.us. We will now proceed with public testimony. The first person signed up to testify is Mike Morris, followed by Jack Naiditch. Aloha, Mr. Morris.

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

MR. MORRIS: Great. Great, thank you. Good morning and monet. Thank you, Chair, and thank you, Councilmembers. I'm Mike Morris, I'm the Director of the YMCA. I've been a Hawai'i Director for 36 years, and the last 22 years the Y Director here in Maui. I'm asking that you support a proposal to include \$150,000 in the budget for YMCA scholarships. We are finding now more than ever our most at risk and need of the Y and its programs. In the first quarter of 2019 and the first quarter of 2020, the Y gave an average of about \$7,800 in financial assistance to the community. This year, our first quarter, we've done \$30,000 so far. Quite a jump. Part of the rise in demand is because of the new programs that we're running, like blended learning and childcare that practices social distancing. It's very cool to see the new space we've carved out and remodeled to accommodate a classroom setting and maintain social distancing. It's right next door to me. But there's also been a continued demand for coping with Parkinson's disease, or diabetes prevention program, or arthritis prevent program. There's never been a more important time for our aging in the community to get out and stay healthy. First...first responders still need us...need our help. It is my hope that we're able to partner with the County this summer and continue our childcare program and scale it so that we can meet the entire County's needs. So what will the \$150,000 do for our community? For more than 22 years here on Maui, I've asked our board and staff to do their job well, and I've done it because I don't feel comfortable turning someone away because they can't...because they don't have the money. I don't feel comfortable telling somebody no, you can't participate at the Y. I don't feel comfortable being an organization that only serves those that can afford it. So I tell them, work hard, I want to feel comfortable here at the Y. 100 percent of the \$150,000 will go directly to families, children, and seniors to help them afford any service we provide. I made a promise over 20 years ago that we wouldn't turn anyone away due to inability to pay. For the first time, I'm in need of your help to make...to help me keep that promise. I thank you for your time, and thank you for your consideration. Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Morris. Okay. It looks like we have a question from Member Molina, followed by Pro Tem Kama. Member Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning, Mr. Morris. Nice to see you, as always. Just a quick question with regards to the program and outreach

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for those in need. Does the YMCA offer, or do you have an office on Molokaʻi or Lānaʻi, or is this strictly for Maui Island only?

MR. MORRIS: Yeah, we're currently just here on this island. I don't have offices on Molokaʻi or Lānaʻi. But we're hoping that this summer, if we partner with Parks and Rec, that we'll be providing what...what used to be and still would be a partnership with the PALS Program to do childcare on those...those islands.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. All right. Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

MR. MORRIS: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina. Pro Tem Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for being here again, Mike. So you know your scholarships that you offer, how...how...how do you do that? Is it a fee, or is it sliding scale, or is it based on income or...how do you do that?

MR. MORRIS: Yeah, it's a...it's a sliding scale. We...we handle each individual differently. So we'll start with a sliding scale. And if there are extenuating circumstances, huge medical problems or something recent that happened in a family that changed their financial background, we take all of those things into consideration. But it is basically based on poverty level and a sliding scale based on number of people in the household that gives a...gives us a starting...jumping off point, I guess, as to what they qualify for.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Is the scholarship a monthly scholarship, or annual scholarship, or what?

MR. MORRIS: Yeah, we review it every six months.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Every six months.

MR. MORRIS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

MR. MORRIS: Good question. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Pro Tem Kama. Member Paltin?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Morris, for your service to our community. I just was wondering, I was flipping through the Department of Human and...Housing and Human Concerns' section, and there's some portions where it doesn't say who the awards are going to. Do you know if you were awarded the 150,000 in the Mayor's proposed Budget that you're requesting?

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MR. MORRIS: I...I was not awarded that in the Mayor's. I was a little too late to get into the Mayor's Budget. We didn't realize we were going to have such a big demand this year. A lot of our...you know, a lot of the support we got last year was Hawai'i Community Foundation and those kinds of organizations, and grants. But we don't feel like we're going to be getting those this year, and haven't so far, and haven't had any word that we may. So we're looking at other avenues, which...which we should, I think, in being able to fund the scholarship program. But yeah, we did not make it into the Mayor's Budget.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: And...and your request is for \$150,000?

MR. MORRIS: Yes, ma'am.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Member Sugimura, did you have a question? I saw your hand go up a little earlier, and I see that you may be having connection --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: *(audio interference)*

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- issues.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I'm having network issues.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah. I'm having connection issues. But I just wanted...I just wanted to let the Members know that it is...it is in my priority, and I am grateful that Mr. Morris is here to *(audio interference)*

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So it's --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Did you hear what I said?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- one of Member...it's one of Member Sugimura's priorities. It's on priority number 22 on your matrix --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Correct.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- if you'd like to see that. Mahalo, Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Correct. Yeah, thank you. And again, I'm having network issues, so I may be going in and out, but --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

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COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: -- *(audio interference)*

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. Okay. Hopefully...hopefully it gets better. Okay. Mahalo, Mr. Morris, for your testimony this morning. Aloha. Okay. Our next testifier is Jack Naiditch, and hopefully I'm saying your name right, sorry, followed by Jud Cunningham.

MR. NAIDITCH: Can I...can you see me and hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes, now we can.

MR. NAIDITCH: Okay. Thank you. Honorable Council Chair and...and Members, Councilmembers, I'm Jack Naiditch. I've lived on Maui for 30 years. Since I moved here, I've worked with and supported numerous community organizations. I've been a member of and a donor to the YMCA for many years, and recently was honored to join the board of the YMCA. The people of our County have always recognized our YMCA as one of Maui's critical organizations. The Y is literally a refuge for families in good times and in bad times. Its programs reach out to everyone in the community. Its doors have been open to all at all times. As we all know, these are difficult and unprecedented times, but during all these hardships, the YMCA has stood strong with severely strained finances. The YMCA now needs the help of our leaders to approve this proposal for \$150,000 in our County's budget for YMCA scholarships, and to continue providing the services that Mike Morris just outlined to you. I understand that we...we're not in the Mayor's Budget, but we respectfully request that the \$150,000 be disbursed to the Y for the reasons Mike stated. We appreciate your time, support, understanding, and kokua. Thanks a lot.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Naiditch.

MR. NAIDITCH: You're welcome.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No hands from the Members, we'll thank you for your testimony this morning.

MR. NAIDITCH: You're welcome. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

MR. NAIDITCH: Thank you, Councilmembers.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Our next testifier is Jud Cunningham, followed by Malia Bohlin. Oh, we see you --

MR. CUNNINGHAM: Can you hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- Mr. Cunningham. Now we can hear you. You may proceed.



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MR. CUNNINGHAM: Oh, okay. And you can see me too. Aloha, Chair Rawlins-Fernandez and Members of the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee. My name is Jud Cunningham, and I am the CEO of Aloha House, Malama Family Recovery Center, and Maui Youth and Family Services, collectively known as Maui Behavioral Health Resources. I'm here to testify today on a very pressing concern for Maui County, one that seems to be worsening with the current state of the economy and the pandemic we've been struggling with this past year, and that is the issue of some of the root causes of homelessness, mainly substance abuse and mental illness. Aloha House is proposing to provide enhanced access and support services for homeless individuals with behavioral health issues. We propose to address this issue by providing immediate housing, detox, crisis support services, substance abuse treatment, behavioral health counseling, psychiatric services for those with serious mental illness, providing residential treatment and extending housing options through our sober living programs in conjunction with outpatient substance abuse counseling. We know that the best support recovery...to best support recovery, it is necessary to find housing for clients who may not have a home to return to or do not have one that supports sobriety. Our primary goals are to improve quality of care, reduce relapse, and help end the cycle of homelessness by implementing an enhanced coordinated care program which provides expanded access and support services for homeless individuals with behavioral health issues. We hope to accomplish these goals by adding a behavioral health specialist care coordinator to support those with co-occurring disorders, co-occurring meaning substance use disorder and behavioral health diagnosis. By improving our ability to provide clients with appropriate treatment with the addition of an intake specialist to our admissions team, increasing our capacity to reach clients where they are located and assist with the admissions process, and tracking the results of this enhanced service. Through these efforts, we hope to reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness due to drug use and for behavioral health issues, reduce recidivism and relapse, improve sober support and ultimately recovery rates, and build on Aloha House's capacity to track client outcomes. We have provided a more detailed description of the financial resources needed to effect this enhanced system of coordinated care through the Affordable Housing Committee, to which we made a formal presentation several weeks ago. Our specific request is for \$377,300 for the next fiscal year to cover primarily staff salaries and related costs. Additionally, if we were to plan for construction of a new dormitory in order to increase our residential capacity by 12 beds to 60, the estimated initial cost would be a little over 200,000 for planning and design. Subsequently, 950,000 would be needed for construction-related costs. We already have most of the infrastructure in place at our licensed residential treatment facility in Makawao leased to us by the County of Maui through our extensive network for clean and sober residences, outpatient facilities in Central Maui, and through our partner agency, Malama Family Recovery Center. We have the capacity to address these concerns, but funding is inadequate to support these services at their present level of utilization, and of course, for the added positions we're requesting. Mahalo for this opportunity to share our ideas about how we believe we can make a significant impact on this ever present and growing problem in our . . . *(timer sounds)* . . community with your help. Hey, right on the bell, huh?

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Perfect timing, Mr. Cunningham. Questions, I see a question from Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And aloha, Mr. Cunningham, for your testimony this morning. So just clarifying, you're being supported by one of the Councilmember's priority proposals?

MR. CUNNINGHAM: Yes, that would be Councilmember Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. I see it. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. And for Members' reference, it would be on priority 18 and priority 23 on your matrix. Okay. Any other questions? Seeing none. Oh, oh, Member...Member Paltin, followed by Member Johnson.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I just was wondering if it would be possible if Mr. Cunningham is the primary person for Aloha House if he could stay around as a resource when this item comes up.

MR. CUNNINGHAM: This afternoon?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Probably. Or maybe not stay around but come back on.

MR. CUNNINGHAM: Yeah, we'll...I will make every effort to do that, and I'll have someone else there too.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Are there any objections, Members?

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS**

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. We just have to be mindful that with DHHC, Human Concerns has a lot of grants. So if we're going to be asking for resource people, we may, you know, be extending the time that...of our meeting, you know, well past 5:00 p.m. Just for Members to be aware of that. Okay. Member Johnson, followed by Pro Tem Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Good morning, Mr. Cunningham. Thank you for coming in and testifying today. I just wanted --

MR. CUNNINGHAM: Monet.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- to ask a question in regards to clarification for the Members. Can you speak on the types of drug addiction? Is it...are we finding more

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increase in the...the pills, or more increase in alcohol? Is there a particular drug that...drug addiction that's on the rise in our County?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Johnson, would you mind asking him a clarifying question on his testimony?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Sure.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- then...yeah. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I...I...okay. So a clarifying question is, is there a type of addiction that is maybe changing the amount of money you're spending on a different type of drug that's...that's on...on...coming to the islands?

MR. CUNNINGHAM: Well, you know, there tend to be kind of cycles in...in drug use, you know, depending on availability and a variety of matters that we've kind of observed over time anecdotally. Methamphetamine continues to be a very serious problem on our...in our County. Alcohol abuse has been there all along and, you know, pretty steady, a major reason why people come into treatment. And then of course the...the most...the more recent one would be opioids and the opioid epidemic. People often getting hooked on prescription medications for pain and that sort of thing, but then when they're not allowed to have those anymore, or it becomes more difficult for them to get them, then they resort to street drugs and go that direction.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MR. CUNNINGHAM: Marijuana certainly is...is in there. And I think that my staff, my clinical staff will tell me and you that probably the most common thing too is that people aren't necessarily selective, they'll...there tends to be poly drug use. So addiction, you know, can be addiction to a number of things at the same time.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right. Okay. Thank you, Mr. Cunningham. Thank you, Chair. I have no further questions.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Johnson. Pro Tem Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: *(audio interference)* Chair. Thank you for being here again, Jud. We...I appreciate every time you come before us and share more information. So you know, you outlined for us your...what you would propose if the funding was available. So did you have a timeline in...and in mind when you talked about you needed X amount of dollars for planning and design, X amount of dollars for construction, and X amount of dollars...I forgot what the last one was. But do you have a timeline in your head as to how long this would take in terms of phases?

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then --

MR. CUNNINGHAM: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- I'll remind Members that we did take up this item in Member Johnson's Committee, and a lot of these questions regarding expansion were asked in the Committee. And...and so if you review the meeting minutes, you'll...you'll find a lot of that information. Mr. Cunningham, if you can make it as brief as possible, your response to Member Kama.

MR. CUNNINGHAM: Well, I think she's...Councilmember Kama is referring to the capital portion of...of our request to be able to expand our residential treatment programs. In meetings that we've had with, you know, people in the community and also Councilmembers, various Councilmembers, there's been an expression that, you know, we probably do not have enough beds for residential treatment on Maui.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Cunningham?

MR. CUNNINGHAM: So...yes?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Cunningham, Pro Tem Kama's question was about your...your timeline, so if you would be able to provide a brief response...

MR. CUNNINGHAM: I'll...I'll...I'm sorry. I'll try to get more to the point. I was addressing that particular issue. Obviously planning has to come first, the architectural design work and all of that, permitting. I found that realistically, you know, that can take a minimum of six months for that to happen. So these things would have to be sequential. So it's...it's possible that you...it's...contractors, general contractors will tell you it's possible to do something like this in a year. Realistically, probably not. Probably it's going to, you know, lap over into another year, if that answers your question.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Pro Tem Kama. No other questions. We'll thank you for your testimony this morning, Mr. Cunningham.

MR. CUNNINGHAM: Thank you. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Perhaps, Member Johnson, when we take up...before we take up this item, you can share with the Members...or share with Staff, and Staff can share with the Members the...the details of the project, your priorities, because we did take it up in your Committee.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Certainly. I can send an email to BFED as well.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Johnson. Okay. Our next testifier is Malia Bohlin, followed by Kealoha Laemoa.

MS. BOHLIN: Aloha and good morning, Councilmembers and Chair Rawlins-Fernandez. Thank you for having us here today. My name is Malia Bohlin, and I'm also with Aloha House, and I'm here to offer support for the enhanced coordinated care proposal that Jud just reviewed with you all. And as he said, this proposal addresses just one nuance of homelessness around substance use and behavioral health issues. And my piece in this today is actually to offer testimony on behalf of two clients. And I had asked them if they could testify today, and they both really wanted to. And they looked at the schedule, and both of them were scheduled to work and so unable to kind of be online during this time and hang out until their...their time. And so they gave me statements to share with you guys. So I'm going to read those in a minute. Just for background, both clients have graduated from our substance use treatment program, and now they've moved into a sober living home where they can live more independently, but still have that support from staff and each other really, that's important too. And these homes are important because...Jud mentioned this also, that many clients possibly don't have a home to go back to after treatment. Or if they do, it might not be a place that supports their sobriety, and in some cases this...the home is where some of these issues first started. And one of the studies that I recently read shared that participating in these types of homes can increase recovery rates by up to 50 percent, so that's pretty significant. In any case, I'd like to share with you what our client named David wanted me to read for you today. Here we go. He said, I feel that housing is very important after treatment because most of us, myself included, do not have the resources to survive. I basically started over with nothing, and having this housing gave me security and confidence to grow with my sobriety, and it made me want to work harder so I can eventually become self-supported and productive in society. Without this housing, I don't think I would have accomplished the things that I have, both in my sobriety and in life. And my second client is named Justin, and he wanted me to share this. For me personally, if it wasn't for Aloha House and the sober living home, I would have no choice but to go back to my old town, which would lead into my running into old friends, and eventually into old habits. This would basically mean going downhill until I reach the bottom, being jobless, then moneyless, then hopeless, and finally reaching homelessness. But with the help of this housing, I was able to have a brand new start at life. Living in a new neighborhood, it also gives me a sense of safety. I call this home my safe zone, he says. So again, I hope that the Council will consider funding our proposal to further enhance our programs and so that we can serve more individuals and . . .(timer sounds). . . share more success stories like this. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Bohlin. Okay. I see a question from Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I just had a clarification question. When you were talking about this housing --

MS. BOHLIN: Yes.

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VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- and can it be just any house? Like is there specifications? Like could you...could someone buy a house and then it be a sober house, or is there like specific needs that you have to build?

MS. BOHLIN: Typically we purchase the homes and then provided staff support around them, and...which means identifying the clients which would be a good fit for the program, and...and getting them placed in the home. Is that what you mean?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah, yeah. I think you answered the question. I...I wasn't sure if you had to build a specific house for it to be a sober house, or you can just buy an existing one.

MS. BOHLIN: Yeah. Actually we like to have homes in the community, and we did receive funding from the County with this last round from Affordable Housing that allowed us to purchase two homes that we just did one in December and one just last week we closed on it, and they're both in Kahului. And they're both great, they both have like eight bedrooms or something. You know, we have a lot of people that can live there. And we're really excited. In fact, we just had our final walkthrough at one in Kahului on Tuesday. And then on Wednesday, yesterday, they were moving clients in already, and it was a really wonderful partnership. The realtor got a bunch of furniture donated and they decorated. I mean, it looks beautiful. Anyway, that's an example of kind of coming together with community partners to establish these homes and then bring in the residents.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Okay. Seeing no other questions, we'll thank you for your testimony this morning.

MS. BOHLIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Our next testifier is Kealoha Laemoa, followed by Stan Franco.

MS. LAEMOA: You guys can hear me? Keani, you can hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes, we can hear you loud and clear.

MS. LAEMOA: Oh, loud and clear. Right on, babes. Right on. Anyway, my name is Kealoha Laemoa. I've been a 20-year resident of Moloka'i. And I am testifying on the fact that, you know, we never have homeless...a real big homeless issue here on Moloka'i until just recently, and it's becoming very out of control. I'm very concerned on you folks allocating budget for only Maui residents. We are Maui County, which includes Maui, Moloka'i, and Lāna'i. I really am concerned that if you're going to be prioritizing only Maui, that's not maika'i. That is very not maika'i. And in fact, you know, it's just...it's not really...how should I say it, it's not a really good way to put it, that you're only

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going to budget only Maui, and not include Lānaʻi and Molokaʻi when it comes to the homeless issue. We have homeless people that yes, are...are drug dependent and also alcohol dependent, but you know, if...if you're going to be giving all these other organizations monies and not service us, that's really not maikaʻi. So that's why I wanted to jump on and give you my testimony. Thanks, Keani.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Laemoa. Members, any questions for our testifier? Oh, Member Paltin?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Aloha, Ms. Laemoa. Thank you for your testimony. Are there many providers on Molokaʻi that are available that are seeking funding?

MS. LAEMOA: You know, my...well, seeking funding, I am not sure if they're seeking funding; however, there is a lot of duplicate agencies here on Molokaʻi that help not many...not...the...you know, like the Department of Mental Health, they're the only ones that I am aware of that helps the...everybody, you know, including the homeless here, but not specifically what agency. Like you guys have Ka Hale A Ke Ola, and you guys have...oh, what is the other agency. Anyway, you guys have numerous ones, but they're all on Maui, none here.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: *(audio interference)* No other questions for *(audio interference)* Ms. Laemoa, for your testimony this morning.

MS. LAEMOA: Thank you, Keani. Have a good day. Buh-bye.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You too. Mahalo. Aloha. Our next testifier is Stan Franco, followed by Alexis Camara.

MR. FRANCO: Good morning. I hope everybody can see me or hear me.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We can see and hear you clearly.

MR. FRANCO: Great. Good morning, Chair Keani and Members. As you know, I'm Stan Franco and I'm speaking on the Department of Housing and Human Concerns' Budget, and I speak for myself. I've reviewed the 2020...2021-'22 County Budget, and have these comments. In the general discussion of goals, vision, and need for the County of Maui, these were three things that I picked up from that...that review. The County of Maui says that the Countywide Policy Plan has a goal to expand housing opportunities for residents. And under the strategic vision, it is written that collaborative efforts and innovative planning continue to lead to action and progress to addressing Maui's lack of attainable housing for working families. Then under the County profile, it is written that the State and County analysis indicate that Maui County will need to produce approximately 10,400 housing units by 2025 to meet the needs of Maui County's workforce. So with those general guidelines, I reviewed the County Department of Housing and Human Concerns' Budget, and I found what I

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think anyway is...there was \$250,000 from the Hawai'i Community Assets for housing affordability initiatives in the Budget, about a million dollars for a County housing acquisition program, and around 14 million on the Affordable Housing Fund, so maybe \$15 million or so for the attaining of affordable housing units for the County of Maui and for its residents. I...I don't know if that is enough, I don't think it is enough. Right now we are grappling, as you well know, with the development of a plan, a comprehensive affordable housing plan. The Council has put aside, over two Councils, over half a million dollars of monies to come up with a plan like this. The first study was done that recommended a plan, and now we are in the throes of trying to write a plan. I'm not sure how this monies that the County has...the Department of Housing and Human Concerns' Budget can help move that plan along in the fiscal year to come. So I really want to hear how we're going to collaborate between the County Administration and what the County Council is doing right now as far as creating this plan, how we're going to implement that plan if we don't have enough money in the plan. . . .(timer sounds). . . So thank you for listening. I hope I hear more from the Department of Housing and Human Concerns. Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Franco. Okay. Do we have any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. We'll thank you for your testimony this morning. Aloha.

MR. FRANCO: Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Our next testifier is Alexis Camara, followed by Rachelyn Ignacio [sic].

MS. CAMARA: Aloha. I'm Alexis Camara. I'm a senior at Kekaulike High School, and I am testifying on BFED-1 in support of Maui Economic Development Board's economic development grant under the Maui County Office of Economic Development. I'm in MEDB STEMworks. I'm a senior at Kekaulike, I grew up on Maui on the slopes of Haleakalā. (audio interference) agriculture (audio interference) with Kyle Caires at the UH through MEDB. And I learned a lot about agriculture, germination testing, and taking samples. I think it's super important for us to continue funding these programs because they do a lot (audio interference) our environment, our agriculture in Hawai'i and how to specialize from mainland agriculture (audio interference) gets to...a lot of our peers get to create these networks with people in our community for future jobs for when we come back from college and things like that. To have that hands-on experience is so important in any occupation, agriculture especially. You can read all the books, but having that experience of getting those seed samples during the germination test (audio interference) Agriculture is a dying occupation. In the nation and in Hawai'i specifically, with the increase in tourism and things like that, agriculture is slowly dying off. So I think it's super important for us to keep these programs running and create more programs, integrate them with the schools more, things like that to help the kids learn more about agriculture and learn more about that it's important and should become less dependent on the barge, and creates (audio interference) So yeah, it's funding (audio interference)



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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony, Ms. Camara. We have a question for...from Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I really couldn't catch what was being said because it was poor connection. Wondering if you can mute your video, sometimes that helps with the audio, and just briefly summarize what you had said, because I couldn't get it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: She's...she's testifying in support of MEDB STEMworks.

MS. CAMARA: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Camara?

MS. CAMARA: Sorry. Is that better? You hear any better?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MS. CAMARA: Yeah. I think...that I think it's important to fund these different STEM and ag programs that helps with agriculture and connecting with our community, and for our environment here in Hawai'i.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Camara. So...and the ag program, and that way it'll help with improved occupational opportunities and food security.

MS. CAMARA: Yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Any other questions, Members? Okay. Seeing none. Thank you so much for your testimony this morning, Ms. Camara.

MS. CAMARA: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Okay. Our next testifier...our last testifier signed up is Reuben Ignacio?

MR. IGNACIO: Yes. It's Reuben. Good morning, Chair and Members. I heard you mention my daughter, Rachelyn, I happen to be visiting her, so I was using her laptop.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. The video on the bottom says Rachelyn.

MR. IGNACIO: So aloha. My name is Reuben Ignacio. I'm the Director of the Hale Mahaolu Adult Personal Care Program. We also call it the personal care subsidy program, it's because we provide subsidy payments directly to the clients. Our clients need some nursing care, but they want to continue living at home. They use a subsidy to help pay for their caregiver, and it helps them age in place. They live at home where they feel comfortable, it's familiar, it's something we all want. Subsidy payments can be up to \$1,800 per month just for a single client. We serve eight clients currently, and we paid out \$153,000 in subsidies alone last year. But if you compare the \$1,800 to, let's

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say, a one-month stay at Roselani Place, the cost savings is huge in that sense. So this program helps prevent premature institutionalization. We also serve the puka where the client, they fall short of qualifying for Medicaid or long-term care. During the pandemic, our care aides continue to go into the homes and provide personal care and other services, and this was really heroic to me. It was also clear that the services were even more valuable during the COVID pandemic. The care aides would go out, run errands, do shopping, pick up medicine. I want to thank you for your support in the past and your help again this year, especially now without funding from the State, the grant-in-aid, your financial support is critical for these kupuna clients in our program. One of the daughters of the caregivers...or the client wanted to testify, but she couldn't be here, she asked me to read this though. Aloha. My name is Andrea, my mother is Susan, who's in the Hale Mahaolu Personal Care Program. If it were not for this wonderful program, my mother would not be able to afford to live independently. My mother is quadriplegic, confined to a wheelchair with the only use of her right arm due to a stroke many years ago. We found Hale Mahaolu Personal Care Program about five years ago after my mother started requiring further assistance getting into bed, out of bed, showers, dressing. We applied for Medicaid, although she did not qualify as she was slightly above the income threshold. I was helping my mother as much as I could. It was difficult for me, as I have a boy that has autism that requires a lot of me as well, so we were at a crossroads on what we could do. That's when I found your program. This has helped saved us to keep my mother to be able to live independently with assistance. We found two loving caregivers, Kara (*phonetic*) and Irish (*phonetic*), and my mother is able to pay them due to the subsidy that she receives. She's grateful, and would tell you herself, but she can only whisper so I can...I help her to be her voice. I know this program is a saving grace for those not able to pay for care on their own. We're very thankful and grateful every day. Mahalo, Andrea Castroman (*phonetic*).

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: (*Audio interference*) Mr. Ignacio. Members, any questions for our testifier? Member Paltin?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Mr. Ignacio. I just was wondering, how long is your waitlist?

MR. IGNACIO: Well, you know, we do have a waitlist, but it is probably outdated. We...when I first joined the program, we had 12...12 clients, and through attrition, that's why we've gone down to eight. So I can't tell you exactly, Councilmember, how many are on that waitlist right now, but I would have to go back and see if their...you know, their circumstances might have changed where they're no longer in need of the service.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Okay. No other questions. Thank you so much for your testimony this morning, Mr. Ignacio.

MR. IGNACIO: Mahalo. Thank you.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All right. So sorry about that, Members, my Google spreadsheet wasn't updating in real time, and we actually have 11 more testifiers signed up. Our next testifier is the caller with the last four digits 0002, followed by Grant Bigley.

MR. FISCHER: Can you all hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. Proceed.

MR. FISCHER: Okay. Good morning, everyone. Tom Fischer, Ikaika Ohana. Can you all hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MR. FISCHER: Okay. Great. Yes, I just wanted to offer testimony regarding the various infrastructure items that I think there's *(audio interference)* in Maui. Just really three points to make. *(audio interference)* But the infrastructure is always challenging *(audio interference)* working on several items *(audio interference)* key elements in the development plan to make projects *(audio interference)* We do try and obtain support from State and Federal resources because we're fine for our cash credits and bonds *(audio interference)* very much kind of advantage for local commitment to funding *(audio interference)* so again a brief...brief key point here. It helps us to obtain the support of State and Federal resources *(audio interference)* from the community. The third point is there are matching funds available from State and Federal agencies, and a proposal along those lines I think is very much needed. We are able to bring resources *(audio interference)* Kupuohi on the West Side or West Maui, and we made over...I think it was a \$1.3 million contribution for infrastructure *(audio interference)* That's just the three points I wanted to make. I thank you very much for your time.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Will you please repeat your name for the record?

MR. FISCHER: Oh, sorry. It's Tom Fischer with Ikaika Ohana.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Mr. Fischer.

MR. FISCHER: Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sugimura has a question for you. Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: You know I...I...it was hard to hear you, Tom, so can you just say what project you are speaking about or summary of why you're testifying or what...what the testifying...about infrastructure?

MR. FISCHER: Yes. Can you...can you hear me now?

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, that's a lot --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, better.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- better.

MR. FISCHER: Okay. Great.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MR. FISCHER: Sorry, technology is a wonderful thing when it works and the person actually knows what they're doing. No, I...I think we were under the impression there's going to be some discussion about commitments of infrastructure for affordable housing during this...this meeting, so that was the purpose of my...my testimony. And the project, Yuki, was our Kupuohi apartment project over in Lāhainā. And that particular project, we were able to bring State and Federal resources to Maui. And we contributed about \$1.3 million thereabouts for infrastructure development, roadway, et cetera. It's up to the County how they want to, you know, use that, but that's how we did it.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thanks for the clarification. Nice to hear from you, Tom.

MR. FISCHER: You too, Yuki. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Member Molina, followed by Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, thank you, Madam...just for clarification, what, I guess, specific points of commitments to infrastructure is in this Budget? I guess maybe in CIP. I mean, I'm just trying to figure out how the testimony ties in to what's on our agenda today.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Fischer...

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: It sounds like maybe it's related to the Comprehensive Affordable Housing Plan? I mean, I know they had recommendations for the County to invest in infrastructure, but I'm just trying to figure out how the testimony ties into our Budget and the agenda.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mr. Fischer, is your testimony connected to the proposed draft Comprehensive Affordable Housing Plan?

MR. FISCHER: I believe it is, yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that clarification.

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COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. So Madam Chair, is that on our agenda today? I mean, just for...if there's anybody out there who wants to testify on this plan, is that appropriate for people to testify on the plan as it relates to what's on our agenda? Just curious. I don't know if Corporation Counsel can chime in.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No. It's...so the...the contents of the plan, no --

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- but because it's Budget and we have infrastructure projects, if it's going to be related to infrastructure. And I'm not sure if...I don't think any of the Members...Member Johnson, is it one of your priorities?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes. Thank you, Chair. It is one of my priorities, Councilmember Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. All right. Thank you. Thank you for that clarification.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina. Member Johnson, did you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. In regards to...to that, the infrastructure on Lānaʻi specifically, can Mr. Fischer speak on how do we...how do we overcome that huge hump on infrastructure?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, I'm sorry. I'm not going permit that question.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh, okay. Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Clarifying question on his testimony --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Got it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- you can ask that. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right. Could I...could I rephrase it in a way that says how...how do they structure their...their...their money that they would receive to make it from a grant to a loan to make it bigger? Is that a fair question?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: From a grant to a loan.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: The way...I've been watching...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So...so during testimony (*audio interference*) --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- clarifying questions on what was said.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Got it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But we would...yeah. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Johnson. Okay. Okay. Mahalo, Mr. Fischer, for your testimony this morning. Our next testifier is Grant Bigley, followed by Faith Chase.

MR. FISCHER: Okay. Mahalo, Chair.

MR. G. BIGLEY: Hello, Keani. So I think I'll...I'll...I think I'll pass on my testimony if Doug is available or on the line, in my place. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Bigley. He is...will be right after Faith Chase. Okay. Mahalo. Faith Chase is next to testify, followed by Doug Bigley.

MS. CHASE: Good morning, Chair. Good morning, Council. I want to first apologize for an item I spoke on yesterday in which I wasn't completely informed. I think I just...I get excited when I see and I hear spaces and places that have Hawaiian connection, and I would like to retract my support for the change in 3.38.020 and how it relates to the improvements of Kamehameha 'Ike Park until I learn more. I've...I've made some inquiries...I have some inquiries out, and I will speak to it before your Budget deliberations come to an end. Just wanted to comment on the Fire items. You know, as you all well know, I've been trying to advocate for a year now, since COVID started, to find solutions for the most vulnerable residents that we have. And I see in the Fire Budget, there's A and B, FEMA \$700,000, FEMA \$750,000 that's specifically to that item. I'm really hoping that that makes...it has that trickledown effect that really is reaching those in need because I have gotten nowhere in finding support in the area from the services and the agencies that should be supporting these residents. I have a list of 20, I don't think I'll bore you, but I'll probably send it in my written testimony. Specifically, immediately because I have the advantage to stay on agenda item, I've made an inquiry to...I made an inquiry to MEMA, Mr. Andaya has...will...is...I'm not sure what's going on, but my calls and emails don't get returned. I then called Red Cross when we had the flood, and I...and O'ahu was generous enough to send over 100 tents that were really needed because all the people who got destroyed in the wind and the rain really needed replacement tents. And I was informed that 100 tents were on their way from O'ahu and the Maui Red Cross somewhere got...there was some communication that got intercepted where--this is verbatim--Maui County has a change in...has a change in distribution. And I got...I hit a roadblock. And it's been three weeks now, and people are still, with the heavy winds and the continuing rains, struggling. So that Red Cross, that FEMA, that MEMA, all that, I really hope that strengthens and it really does have a trickledown effect. So I'm excited to hear more about that if they can elaborate. Also quickly mentioning, it's not my area, but I have

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heard some reports from the commission, and a really good commission, and I did hear your...I did hear your deliberations on the new member and the conflict of interest. And that was...that was a healthy conversation. I do encourage Miss...Mrs. Hodges to, you know, find a commission that works. But specifically, you know, Kahikinui area, they're really struggling with fire mitigation. It takes 40 minutes from...for the...the Kula firetruck to get to Kahikinui. They've had fires for nine years in a row. Even the IMG, where it says National Fire Academy Training Program, I understand that the Hawaiian Homelands Association, Kahikinui Hawaiian Homelands Association or a branch of that body is going after some...a Hawai'i Community Foundation fund, and they're specifically pushing forward a program called Adopt a Firebreak. And so I...if there's anything that the Fire and Safe...Public Safety can do to help that, that would be amazing. Because you know, when you call 911 from Hāna, Kipahulu, Kaupō, or Kahikinui, it goes to...it goes to the Big Island 911. They've got some real issues about emergency services. . . .(timer sounds). . . So one really quick thing, ending with DHHC. Sorry. I just want to say that page 309, it has some really muddy language about the...what they call the compassionate response, which has been...it's a way to say sweeps, and you guys all really know how I feel about that. I would just really encourage to...to really look at that language because it's...it's a little insulting. I went to Yuki Sugimura's town hall, and I expressed my concerns there. Cleaning up an area to make the rest of the public feel better is the way it reads, and that's really concerning. It's...it's skipping the people in need. And so without going into it right now, I will let you continue, but I'll put it in my written testimony, those items, F, K, and W within the DHHC item that I...I'm really concerned with. Thank you for your time.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Chase. We have a question from Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Ms. Chase, for your testimony. I was wondering if you could also add in your written testimony some clarification about the...what you were saying about the Red Cross. I...they changed distribution, is that what you said?

MS. CHASE: Yes. I actually have a separate piece of correspondence that was circulating because I just can't get to the bottom of it. Nobody seems to want to reply. But we have a generous contribution from O'ahu Red Cross of 100 tents, and I...we can't get to...I can't...I've been trying to datamining for weeks now. And it was kind of a...it was pretty sad because it was a promising...it was a promise, and then I maybe spoke too soon, and there are residents that are struggling that are still kind of waiting for that...that contribution. So I'll put it a form that you can understand. Thank you for asking.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Okay. Seeing no other questions. Thank you so much for your testimony this morning, Ms. Chase.

MS. CHASE: A hui hou.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: A hui hou. Our next testifier is Doug Bigley, followed by Jennifer McGurn.

MR. D. BIGLEY: Hi there.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

MR. D. BIGLEY: How are you? I wanted to...this...I guess this is general, you know, general testimony, I'm not sure. I did go through the agenda though, it was a little difficult for me to ferret through it, but I'm going to talk a little bit about what Tom was talking about and try to connect the dots a bit. I just wanted to let this group know here that these are going to be pretty exciting times for Maui potentially. And last year, affordable housing got a tremendous boost at the end of the last year that...from the Federal Government that is producing probably 25 to 30 percent more equity to every deal that you do on the housing side. So I guess today I'm speaking again for housing. The other thing is that the infrastructure bill is coming out, and that's supposedly housing...affordable housing is considered infrastructure. So we're going to get a lot of dollars flowing into this field and...for infrastructure. And I think the emphasis, when you...as you develop your housing plans and you do all of that, think about preparing those shovel-ready projects. So even if a project seems remote or was remote before, it's not going to be so remote as you thought it was. I think some of these projects . . . *(inaudible)*. . . like Lānaʻi or possibly in...you know, in some of these other more remote places, I think projects can get done. So as you're allocating out all the money, I think housing will be a big leverage going forward for the next two to three years, or even beyond that. So I just wanted to, you know, add my voice. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Bigley. Seeing no questions. We'll thank you for your testimony this morning. Aloha.

MR. D. BIGLEY: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The next testifier is Jennifer McGurn, followed by Jelena Dackovic.

MS. MCGURN: Good morning. I'm back again. I feel like I was...I was just here a couple days ago. But this time, I am testifying as the Assistant Director of Community Services at MEO, speaking specifically to where programs that are under the...the DHHC, that would be our Rental Assistance Program, our Enlace Hispano Program, our Planning and Coordinating Council, which is the program where we work with the kupuna, our Maui Independent Living Center, which is the program that works with persons with disabilities, and our B.E.S.T. Program, which is our returning citizens. First of all, I just want to say I'm happy to see...it looks like we are looking at flat funding from last year, which is a bit of a relief. But all of these programs are so important for various reasons. Rental assistance, I think we all know, is really, really important right now, and although there's a lot of money flowing into rental assistance from the Federal stimulus funds, there are still a lot of people out there who need



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rental assistance, who maybe don't fit into the COVID parameters. You know, I right here am reviewing rental assistance files, and two of them don't qualify because they were not affected by COVID, so they don't qualify for the CDBG rental assistance, which you must be affected by COVID, but they...they would likely qualify under the County's regular rental assistance. So there is a definite need for that, and we appreciate the continued support. And if you were so inclined, that program could for sure use even more funding. Our reentry program, our B.E.S.T. Program, often one that does not give people that warm and fuzzy feeling but is so, so important. Jud Cunningham touched on it a little bit. You know, those are our returning citizens who are coming out of jail or prison, they face so many barriers. Simple things like getting their, you know, documents back in place, their driver's licenses, their Social Security card, all that kind of thing, all the way up to getting them housing, helping them find jobs. That program is probably our busiest program, along with Rental Assistance. No lack of clients, no lack of work there. Enlace Hispano, we have two really great Staff working in that program now. We had some Staff vacancy in the second quarter, but we are now fully staffed again. And word gets around quick in the . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . Hispanic community, and they are also very busy. So we're happy that they are going to continue to be funded. The kupuna, you know, they suffered quite a bit over the last year, and the P&CC program really helped to keep them connected. You know, we had to help them figure out how to do things virtually, like our kupuna luncheon and the senior fair, but they were so grateful just to have that ability to connect. And then our...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. McGurn, if you could close your testimony in a minute.

MS. MCGURN: Yeah. Yeah. And Independent Living Center also, the persons with disabilities, they...you know, that is also a small, tightly-knit community, but they also, you know, need the...the support of the County and the support services that we can give them. So thank you so much for your continued support of...of our programs here.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. McGurn. We have a question from Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. McGurn, for your service. My clarifying question is, one of my priorities was Rental Assistance, to increase the amount. If the County increases the amount, then it can be used whether or not they were affected by COVID, just they need assistance, rental assistance; is that correct?

MS. MCGURN: That's correct, yes. Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

MS. MCGURN: So...so much of the...we've already gone through all of our County funding from last year. We now are just left with the CDBG funding, which you must be affected by COVID. But there are still...you know, there's a lot of people out there who, you know, need assistance for whatever reason, COVID or not, but yes. Yes.

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VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: And the County funding, it can help you if you were affected by COVID or if you were not affected by COVID?

MS. MCGURN: Correct. Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. And just to add additional clarification, County funding as in general funds, so that would be funds that would be County's revenue and not receiving grants from Federal Government in response to the COVID pandemic. So those are the...the CARES Act funding, CRRSA, all those COVID-related funding has that requirement to have been impacted by COVID. But General Fund funded rental assistance, it doesn't have that requirement. Mahalo, Member Paltin. I saw Member Sugimura with your hand up. Did you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, my question got answered. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay. Seeing no other questions, we'll thank you, Ms. McGurn, for your testimony this morning. Aloha. Our next testifier is Jelena Dackovic, followed by Scott Hansen.

MS. DACKOVIC: Aloha, everyone. Can you hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Yes.

MS. DACKOVIC: Yes. Hi. My name is Jelena, and I'm an outreach worker with the Maui Rescue Mission, specifically on the West Side, Lāhainā side. So I have been on the Lāhainā streets, it's more than a year, every single day, and I want to testify in support of getting more funds and resources for the Aloha House and specifically the LEAD Program on the West Side. So...and I want to ensure you that people want and need help. So what we tend to think is that if you are homeless and have addiction or a, you know, alcohol or drug problem, you don't want to get better. I can tell you that so many of our friends wants help right now, want to get better, but there is...like almost no resources available. And I wanted to share another successful story from our friend Marty (*phonetic*) that have spent some time at Aloha House. He has been clean and sober for 93 days, and he actually joined us in doing outreach with us every single day and want to support other unsheltered to do the same. But it's impossible unless we have more resources, unless we have more beds for the recovery, and more shelter or any kind of housing options. That's all. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Dackovic. We see...I see a question from Member Paltin. Please proceed.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Ms. Dackovic, for your service. I didn't catch what you said. What was the program on the West Side?

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MS. DACKOVIC: So I read the bill, and there is saying that you're going to extend funding for the LEAD Program, correct? And specifically for the West Side. That was in the bill, I think so.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: LEAD like L-E-A-D?

MS. DACKOVIC: Yes. Correct *(audio interference)*

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. All right. Thank you.

MS. DACKOVIC: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Okay. Mahalo, Ms. Dackovic, for your testimony this morning.

MS. DACKOVIC: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Our next testifier is Scott Hansen, followed by Junya Nakoa.

MR. HANSEN: Aloha. Can everyone hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes, loud and clear. Mahalo.

MR. HANSEN: Okay. Awesome. So Maui County, as I understand it, has adopted the Housing First Program, and I've...I've read somewhat on what that means and what that is, and that's basically get people into housing, first and foremost. If they need supportive housing, give them the support they need. Begin recovery addiction problem...recovery from addiction, begin mental health support after housing has been established. That's the Housing First Program that I understand it, and I think it's great. I think it's a perfect way to approach the problem because many of our friends drink or do drugs or have mental health issues because they are homeless, because homelessness is a traumatic event. And so if you are homeless for any length of time, you begin to suffer from trauma, so many of them resort to drugs or alcohol to compensate for that. The problem that I think I've noticed is that there is an extreme lack of housing, and on top of that, a lack of supportive housing also. So the bill to increase not only Aloha House and beds for recovery, which is absolutely vital, but also to put a little money into creating housing for these individuals so that they can recover I think is...is 100 percent instrumental. There's...there's really no other avenue you can go because you...you can't send someone to Aloha House to get recovery, they get recovered, and then they're back out on the street. It's just a cycle that we've seen over and over again that keeps happening. I'm sorry, I...I forgot if I introduced myself. I'm the Executive Director of Maui Rescue Mission. I probably missed that part. So I am, I would say, almost 100 percent in support of what Gabe Johnson is proposing, to allocate a lot of these funds towards the recovery programs, but also towards some affordable housing and/or supportive housing. Without it,

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you're just going to end up with the same people back out on the street over and over again. Yeah, I want to mention Marty, he's a rare case. We personally, as an organization, have helped many people get into Aloha House or LCRS, and they've recovered, they've been successful, and...but then they're unable to find housing. And of course, during the pandemic, unable to find work as well, and they end up back on the street, and within a couple weeks at most, they're back on drugs or drinking. And it's just that...that constant spiral. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . So I'm just...I'm in support.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Hansen. Seeing...oh, Member Sugimura, you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So Mr. Hansen, thank you very much for testifying. I have a question for you about that continuous spiral. So you also help situations with homeless and with whatever conditions with your organization for the hospital.

MR. HANSEN: Yes. So we're actually trying to develop a closer relationship with the hospital in the process of that, so that as we send our clients to the hospital, we're able to follow up with them and find out when they're being released, if they need to go to a respite center, if there is respite available for them. Our goal is to follow our clients all the way until 100 percent recovery or back into society, whether it's working with the hospitals, Aloha House, LCRS, whatever organization they're getting resource help from.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. I...I really support that. I guess I'm going to get in touch with you. If you could, call my office, I would love to meet with you to learn more about what you do for --

MR. HANSEN: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: -- situations that come up. Thank you.

MR. HANSEN: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, this is Yuki Lei Sugimura, by the way.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Okay. Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Okay. I just had a real quick question. Do you...do you find that there's a dire need right now? Has...has the needs really increased in the past couple...or because of COVID, or is it really risen...on the rise as far as the need for this?

MR. HANSEN: So what I would like to say is something that I think a lot of people don't realize, maybe because homelessness is so prevalent lately. Homelessness is an emergency situation. If someone's living on the street, they're in a dire emergency situation. It's a life sentence. I did homeless outreach in New York City for about three years before moving to Maui, and within a year, we've lost more people on the

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street in Maui than I can recall losing in three years in New York City. It's...it's...it's not something that is...should be taken lightly or we should drag our feet about, it's an emergency situation. People need to get recovery, they need to get off the street ASAP. That's just all there is to it.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Hansen. Thank you, Chair. I have no further questions.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Johnson. Okay. Mahalo, Mr. Hansen, for your testimony this morning.

MR. HANSEN: Thank you. Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Our next testifier is Junya Nakoa, followed by...oh.

MR. NAKOA: Hey, howzit.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: *(audio interference)* numbers 0805. Aloha --

MR. NAKOA: Howzit.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- Mr. Nakoa.

MR. NAKOA: Sorry. Small kine tired. Yeah, I came on this talk because my...the thing was going off and on, on the *Akakū*. But yeah, you got to support all these programs. Gabe Johnson one, the one you prioritize because oh, brah, I went listen to the...some stories, the thing touch me personally. This...this Aloha House thing, all that kind stuff, my family went through it, so please support them. Yeah. Sorry, I was on my way...I got to take my vaccine, my first shot today. But what you call, all these people, some people I know, they seven years go Aloha House, they...they no drink alcohol. And my father, he was one of them, he no drink. I think I wen take his place. One day I going grow some...one day I going grow some balls and be like them and be strong enough for, you know, do this stuff. But hopefully you guys fund them so when I do grow some balls, that you guys going support me like that and all that kind stuff. So yeah, support these buggahs that...that standing up and, you know, are needing the stuff. And then...okay. But not only for the...for the Aloha House and all the guys that helping all us out, mahalo, mahalo, mahalo. But then the...the affordable housing thing, you know, the infrastructure, go look into detail about all that stuff, what they doing in the Department. I going get into it. My last baseball game was yesterday, so now I going to get plenty action, plenty time for...for call the Planning Department, call all da kine, so get that buggah going. Okay. Mahalo you guys. Wish me luck on my stuff because I scared needles like a mother...oh, I was going swear. Never mind. All good.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Nakoa. Okay.

MR. NAKOA: Good?

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No questions. Yeah, good. Oh, Member Paltin, you have a question, or you're waving bye?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I just was...you know when we had the meeting yesterday, I could have sworn I hear you yelling up at the park from my house.

MR. NAKOA: I was, I was. That was our last game. That was our last game, so...and I told the parents that I going yell at them because the last time I going yell at them this year.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I told my husband oh, that sounds like Junya yelling up at the park.

MR. NAKOA: Yeah, yeah. I went apologize to the parents, but the parents said they need them so I wen...I wen give 'em gas.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Good luck, Mr. Nakoa. Mahalo for your testimony this morning.

MR. NAKOA: Shoot.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Okay. Next testifier is the caller with the last four digits 0805, followed by Cassi Yamashita.

MS. SENAS-CHILDS: Hi. Aloha. My name is...oh. Hi. Aloha. My name is Aisha Senas-Childs. Can you hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Loud and clear.

MS. SENAS-CHILDS: Okay. I'm...I'm part of the Maunaloa Community Association. I live on Moloka'i. And I just wanted to testify in regards to this subject on homelessness. Moloka'i is in dire need of the help. We have...before COVID happened we had homelessness, a lot of it due to drug addiction and...and other issues that has, you know, come upon our community residents. But we...we need the help, we don't have housing for rehabilitation for the people who are trying to get out of the drug addiction. I know firsthand because we...as an association, we had an addict come approaching us for help. But because the agencies here on Moloka'i have to send people off island, they...they don't want to go off island, they want to stay on Moloka'i, but we don't have a facility or a house for these guys to go to and to rehabilitate, yeah, to...and to heal. So we had a few houses, but they got shut down because of lack of space, they don't have enough room. So...and we don't have the proper certified people to work with these...with...with...with the people. So I...as the President of the Maunaloa Community Association, I ask for your guys' help in this for Moloka'i. Moloka'i really needs it. Not just for Maunaloa, but for all of our communities on Moloka'i. Thank you.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Childs. No questions from the Members. We'll thank you for your testimony this morning. Aloha.

MS. SENAS-CHILDS: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Our next testifier is Cassi Yamashita, followed by Suzanne Antounian.

MS. YAMASHITA: Aloha. This is Cassi Yamashita. Can you hear me? All right. I'm from MEO as the Community Services Director. I'm happy that Jen was able to speak on behalf of the programs through our department, so I'm going to talk a little bit more about numbers and stats. But I cannot explain to you guys how, you know, impactful the pandemic was on all of the programs, especially those in our department, which include again the B.E.S.T. Reentry, Enlace Hispano for the Spanish-speaking community, Maui Independent Living Center for the individuals with disabilities, Planning and Coordinating Council for kupuna, and the Rental Assistance programs. You know, this...we've changed the way we service our community, but that doesn't mean that we didn't impact just as much individuals through these tough times. In our B.E.S.T. Program, we've assisted 95 individuals without being able to go into the facilities for the majority of the year, so these are people who have sought us out who have zero to...any means of contacting us. They come walking to our doors looking for assistance. You know, our Rental Assistance Program has always met our outcomes. We've served 109, and have already obligated all of our funds for the year in this last quarter. So their need is always there. We've always try our best to serve each and every one of the individuals that walk through our door. And case management for our staff doesn't only mean we serve them with the program that...you know, that service for that particular program, we look at all the aspects of that individual's lives and try to refer them to as much services as possible. So somebody coming in for rental assistance, we'll refer them to employment services, we'll refer them to childhood services, transportation, each aspect of their lives to ensure that they're able to sustain themselves beyond the assistance that we're able to provide. We really take the person as a whole when they come into our doors, and we try to assist them beyond just a service, and...and that's, you know, common for all of our programs. Right now, we're asking for flat funding to continue the services that we carry out. Again, I cannot stress how important these services are to continue. Each of our programs are also connected to other community partners that are County, State, and Federal funded. You know, our Rental Assistance is part of the Maui Homeless Alliance, that's also including the shelters. Our Reentry Program is connected to Aloha House and Mental Health America. These kinds of services are crucial. And so we definitely try to engage as much services as we can to make sure that the community is helped in the best way possible. We definitely take the funding that you guys provide and stretch it as much as possible. So I just wanted to thank you for the opportunity to be here today and, you know, ask...and...yeah, just . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . mahalo for your continued funding over the year.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Yamashita. Okay. Member Paltin?

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VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I got some power washing outside, so I have a little hard time to hear. But I just wanted to clarify, when you said that flat funding, is that everything that the Mayor's proposed Budget is for MEO is all flat?

MS. YAMASHITA: For the programs that I spoke about, yes, that's...that's what is on the doc.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Okay. Mahalo, Ms. Yamashita, for your testimony this morning. Aloha.

MS. YAMASHITA: Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Our next testifier is Suzanne Antounian, followed by Dane Ka'ae.

MS. ANTOUNIAN: Good morning, Chair and County Councilmembers. I...oh. Good...good morning, Chair and County Councilmembers. I'm testifying today on behalf of Hāna's Maui Adult Daycare Center's Hale Hulu Mamo. We are very excited that we received an award for a new van or similar to like a small bus, through the Hawai'i State Department of Transportation, the 5310 Program. And it...you know, we're very grateful, especially during these times. As you may know, Hale Hulu Mamo serves the most vulnerable kupuna and challenged Hāna residents. Hale Hulu Mamo is the hub for the Hāna area. The estimated cost of the van that we received...awarded, is \$75,000, and if you're familiar with that program, we are to pay 20 percent of the 75,000 as a down payment, and the grant gives us the money for the rest of the small bus. So we're requesting an additional \$17,000 to our budget for the van's share and to help us with the insurance payments. Our previous van was donated by Maui Toyota over ten years ago. As you probably are aware, driving the Hāna Road can be very treacherous, and safety is Maui Adult Daycare Center's primary concern for our clients and the residents of Hāna. Our current van definitely is in need of replacement. And again, we're very grateful to Department of Transportation and to Councilmember Shane Sinenci, who has been trying to help us, you know, get the money together for the down payment. It's been a really tough year, and I'm sure you're all aware of that. It's been a tough year for Maui Adult Daycare centers. You know, we're very fortunate that we didn't incur any breakouts of COVID as of yet. And yeah, so we're just trying to be able to provide the same services to our clients and residents of Hāna. Hale Hulu Mamo is not just a daycare program, but we assist with the Food Bank, Hospice Maui, and many other partners to provide the services and distribute services to the residents of Hāna. The van will help the Hāna community transport...we'll be able to transport clients to medical appointments as well as, you know, different activities once they get going again like aquacize, yoga. We are also able to provide transportation to like...once it gets it going again, the Maui Senior Fair, you know, the Aloha Luncheon, and Maui Adult Daycare Centers hold a variety of activities for our clients and residents of Hāna. So . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . that's what I'm testifying for today, and I hope you can take it into consideration. And I...I just want



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to thank you for everything you've done since I've been at Maui Adult Daycare and before then. So thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Antounian. And this is Member Sinenci's priority number 20 on the matrix. Members, any questions? Okay. Seeing none. Mahalo for your testimony this morning. Aloha.

MS. ANTOUNIAN: Thank you very much. And thank you so much for everything. Thank you, Shane. Buh-bye.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Our next testifier is Dane Ka'ae, followed by Danielle Bergan.

MR. KA'AE: Aloha. Can you guys hear me? Okay. Hi, County Councilmembers. My name is Dane Ka'ae. I am the Director of Youth Services at MEO. I know you guys might be surprised, and maybe some of you guys never heard of us, we're...but we're a small little department with a lot...big impact. We...we do a lot of prevention work in the community. We serve middle school and high schoolers. We do underage drinking prevention, youth suicide prevention, and bullying and cyber bullying. Also, we do...we...we're definitely involved from...since I started ten years ago, like tobacco and vaping. So we had to modify a lot of things this last...since last year's...the start of the pandemic. We had to move a lot of our in-school curriculums to virtual, which proved to be hard because, you know, the kids were already struggling virtually, and it was hard to get them to do extra afterschool virtual work. So that one, we're still working on it. Luckily this fourth...this next couple months...before school ends, a lot of schools have been open to it, so we be in Kamehameha Schools and Kalama and Maui High. Also reaching out to the other islands. Moloka'i, we're going to be teaming up with them too, to do youth suicide prevention. Other than that, I have...I have...we do have afterschool and on break, so it's a year-round program. This year, because of the restrictions, we...we still got to see some youth of around ten, and then we had to cut it down to five, but we split it up, so we still saw ten the day, but the...to...they did different activities that day. But I really wanted to focus on community service, especially people in need of...you know, facing the pandemic. So they did a lot of activities, like they did Feed My Sheep, they put these food boxes together. There were...if you guys noticed, we planted a garden on my background. And we did sweet potato, and we donated that to the Maui Food Bank. It wasn't a lot, but they...you know, everybody eats sweet potato. And then they made masks. Look, we got donated masks and they tie-dyed it, if you guys can see. We gave that to the front liners, the hospitals in Kula and downtown, we also gave it to the seniors, and some of our...our other program in community service, the ...*(inaudible)*... program with the...the...the disabled program. So we've been passing those out. If you guys want, tie-dye is back, 2021, I can get you guys...you guys let me know, I can get you a mask. So other than that, I wanted to highlight...oh, also, we've been doing family strengthening, or we call it ohana nights because we got to get the parents involved too, yeah. They're at home, so we try to do...we have...we have done events like bingo night, Scattergories, we do a game night, but also, like we passed out gingerbread houses and we made a little of contest out of it. In fact next week, if you guys want

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the link, I got...we got two chefs coming in, and we're going...all the families will be cooking a dinner, like learning how to cook it and then eating it as a family. So that one I'm excited for because food will always bring us together, and it's supposed to be real ono. So that's a series that I...I'm hoping that we expand on. I want to touch base on the --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Ka'ae --

MR. KA'AE: -- the things that you guys is...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- *(audio interference)* conclude your testimony in ten seconds.

MR. KA'AE: Okay. Okay. So yeah, for social host, when you guys got testimony that underage drinking, the Kalima *(phonetic)* family that talked about sixth grade and tenth grade, she said twice instead of like all year round...or every year. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . We were the ones that was doing that prevention program. Yeah. Thank you guys.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

MR. KA'AE: Thanks...thanks for your guys' support and ongoing support.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It looks like MEO has the perfect person to keep up with the energy of the youth in this position.

MR. KA'AE: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sugimura, you have a question for our testifier?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah. I...I just want to congratulate Dane, I was thinking the same thing, Chair. Ten years, I didn't realize you were there that long. But the previous speaker, Cassi, was in charge of this program, and then she's moved up in the organization, so kudos to MEO. And now Dane is in charge, and I've seen him doing many things with the kids. So thank you very much, Dane, for being a very good example for, you know, good stewardship in the community and teaching them strong values. So thank you.

MR. KA'AE: Yeah, thank you for your guys' support. And definitely, Yuki Lei, that she's always been supporting...you know, that's a big issue, underage drinking. And just...just alcohol in general we want to, you know, keep the keikis safe and, you know, everybody safe.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Vaping. Now the other one is vaping we're working towards --

MR. KA'AE: Yes.

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COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: -- right?

MR. KA'AE: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sugimura...

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MR. KA'AE: We're doing the flavor ban.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. KA'AE: That's coming up, so we'll be working on that.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: If you can just remember to try to keep our, you know, questions to clarifying questions as much as possible. Mahalo, Mr. Ka'ae, for your testimony.

MR. KA'AE: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We have three...three last testifiers signed up...four. Okay. Oh...okay. Our next testifier is Danielle Bergan, followed by Debbi Amaral. And we'll...we'll...we'll take these last three to four testifiers, and then we'll take our morning break. Mahalo, Members. Okay. Ms. Bergan?

MS. BERGAN: Good morning, and thank you, Chair. Happy to be here this morning to see all your smiling faces here on BlueJeans. We always appreciate the support of the Budget Committee and the Maui County Council, and of course the County of Maui as well for our programs at Mental Health America of Hawai'i in your budget as the Mental Health Association in Maui. We're asking again for the same funding as last year, and I have spoken individually with some of you, and we've communicated by email as well. What we're actually looking for is...I want to just give you a little bit of information, is I've been...this is going into my fifth year now at Mental Health America of Hawai'i, and of course like anyone, we were challenged with the pandemic. And within two weeks after, you know, there was a shutdown on our island, we had pivoted pretty quickly and got, you know, so much...so many...a get connected page that we put together up on our website that listed resources and trainings that we began to do online for the community. We've been able to reach out to our community this year during this uncertain time. We have already trained more than 1,300 people within the County of Maui, that also includes those on Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and especially in Hāna with a lot of our different virtual trainings. Our help calls have gone up about 20 percent, but we're, you know, directing people in the right places where they need to talk to people. I have a warm helpline that I offer a lot of empathy and good listening skills to be able to point them in the right direction to get help. One of the biggest successes we had this year was our Suicide Prevention Awareness Conference last fall, building connection and honoring culture to save lives. I was hoping to get

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100 people to be there, and we had over 250 registered, and over 200 folks came to the training and left with some really good resources. So we're going to continue to come up with our new trainings. I've sent a list to many of you on all the ones we came up with during the year based on coping skills and self-care, which is so important during this time of the pandemic. Because so many people do not take the time to settle down and take care of themselves after a hard day's work. I really hope that all of you, when you're done with work, will just be grateful about something you can be going on in your life and utilize, you know, going outside on your break today and looking at the sun, taking your shoes off, digging your toes into the grass, grounding yourself. Self-care is a huge important asset for suicide prevention training. What it does is three times more important...any kind of protective factors are three times more important than anything that affects suicidal ideation. When I reached out to the schools this last semester, virtually every single one of them said please, Danielle, come...come into our health classes and...and work with these kids, and we were very well received. So you know, again, asking for the same funding. We're going to continue and...and keep going and reaching the people that we need to reach. We're always available. You can always call my number during the week, 242-6461. I'm here to talk to you, listen to you. You want a training set up for any agency, community group, youth group, anyone. And kudos to Dane who was on just before me because Dane and I are both members of the Prevent Suicide Maui County Taskforce, so we've done a lot of work together with MEO and Mental Health America and the taskforce in helping our youth in suicide prevention. So I want to thank you so much. And if you have any questions, I'm glad to try and answer them.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Bergan. And you would be very proud of us, we have been doing breaks with exercise and dances and stretches with like fun music for some self-care during this grueling process.

MS. BERGAN: Yay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sugimura, you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Clarifying question. So nice seeing you again. So in our Budget...the Mayor's Budget, we have two mental health...Mental Health Association of Hawai'i for 95,000 or Mental Health Kokua. So you are?

MS. BERGAN: Mental Health Association of Maui for 95,000.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. Just little different name, but that's who you really are then, the Mental Health Association.

MS. BERGAN: That's who I really am.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. Thanks. Thanks.

MS. BERGAN: Thank you. Thank you for asking, appreciate it.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Seeing no other questions, mahalo, Ms. Bergan, for your testimony this morning. Aloha.

MS. BERGAN: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Our next testifier is Debbi Amaral, followed by Gladys Baisa.

MS. AMARAL: Aloha and good morning, County Councilmembers. So good to see you. Thank you first of all for all the support that you've given to MEO as an agency, and to Early Childhood Services, which is inclusive of our Head Start Program and Kahi Kamali'i. Head Start serves the population of the most vulnerable children in our County, mainly on the island...Islands of Maui and Moloka'i. So they range in age from three to five. And then our Kahi Kamali'i is on Maui, it's a partnership with the J. Walter Cameron Center, and we have the capacity to serve 15 children, ages 1 to 3. The funding that you provide helps us to extend the day for our Head Start programs, which typically would end at 12:00 noon, so by the funding, it goes until 2:00 or 3:00. And then for Kahi Kamali'i, it offers those that have demonstrated financial need to have scholarships so that they can continue to attend and continue their work. When the pandemic hit, I know that our...our Head Start centers was going on Spring Break, it was March 13th. That was the last program day that the children attended, and after that, when the stay-at-home order went in, we actually had transitioned and provided learning packets for families. And then at Kahi Kamali'i, we remained open throughout the pandemic time, and we stayed open until today, serving the families that needed to report to work and required that childcare in order to...to do that. At a time right now that research is showing higher numbers of child abuse, higher numbers of domestic violence, the Head Start Program is more than...and...and also the Kahi Kamali'i Program, more than just a childcare facility, it's a two-gen approach, and we work with the families, providing them with resources, connecting them to community agencies that provide them with food, rental assistance, not only internally through MEO, but externally with other partners that we...we work with. The impact of children going on to kindergarten next year and not having that opportunity is...is something that we...we take very seriously. And at a time right now with economic recovery as our focus, we realize that families who do not have childcare will be very challenged to...to go to work and have that sense of safety that their child is in a place that they're loved, nurtured, and cared for. So for MEO Head Start and Kahi Kamali'i, we are...and I believe it is in the Mayor's Budget, we are asking for flat funding for the next year. And it would serve a total of eight centers for our Head Start Program for the afterschool. And then during the summer, we actually have six centers that are supported through the County funding for summer. And then for our Kahi Kamali'i, it's 15 families that we serve, and then those that have that demonstrated need, we would love to provide that scholarship for them for continued support. And again, you know, we were talking about self-care, I'm currently participating--today's the last day--in a UCLA Health Institute, talking about self-care and focusing on the wellness of our staff. Because we know that if our staff is not taken care of, there's no way that they can have the energy and time to provide to the families. And of the families...of the staff that we have, there's five that are parents that transitioned into the Head Start Program to work as staff, and we have one person who's actually an assistant at

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our UH Maui College program that was a child in Head Start. And so now she's going on to get her degree. And the impact that we make in our community is long lasting. The sustainability of the...the . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . And with that, I will thank you very much and ask that you please continue funding this programs that I shared, along with others in...within MEO. Thank you so much for your time.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Amaral. I see a question from Member Paltin, and then Member Sinenci.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Amaral. My clarifying question is, when you referenced the eight centers and the six centers in the summertime, do those eight centers line up with our residency districts? And if so, what is the one center that isn't lined up with residency?

MS. AMARAL: So I believe that we have...there's a majority of our centers Central, so we have Kahului, we have Wailuku, we have Lāhainā, we do have Molokaʻi, and Kīhei, and Upcountry and...yeah, I think I mentioned Haʻikū.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: And then --

MS. AMARAL: And once...go ahead.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- is there any on Lānaʻi?

MS. AMARAL: No. We did have a partnership on Lānaʻi. We partnershiped with E Malama I Na Keiki. And when the EOEL State pre-K went into place, we found that they served the population that we were committed to serve through Head Start, which is 100 percent poverty, families on TANF, homeless, or foster children is the priority. And so with that being said, the EOEL State Pre-K Center was able to serve that population.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. And then do you serve...what was the six locations for the summer program?

MS. AMARAL: Oh, for summer, we do an assessment with our families, and so because it's 20 children that we serve in each center, it's impossible...and we prioritize those families that are working, going to school, or in job training. So for Lāhainā, for example, they only have 20 children in enrollment, and not everyone would qualify under the...the summer criteria. So when we...serving families, we ask for the greatest need, and typically it comes out to be Central, Makawao...and in Central there's...there's a heavy number. So Kahului A and B, Wailuku A, UH Maui College, so four centers centrally to meet the needs, and then Upcountry and Molokaʻi. Molokaʻi is in agreement that we will continue to serve because Molokaʻi, out of our entire population, has the highest number of families in poverty. And so we always maintain the priority of having Molokaʻi with one center.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Thank you for your service.

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MS. AMARAL: You're welcome. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Member Sinenci, followed by Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, thank you. Good job, Debbi.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha, Miss...

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh...oh, sorry.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sorry --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I thought I heard my name.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- Member Sinenci, followed by Member Sugimura. Member Sinenci first.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Sorry about that, Shane.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, thank you. No, just clarifying that your funding is under MEO Youth Services, yeah?

MS. AMARAL: That is correct. It's under...I know Maui Economic Inc. for Head Start Afterschool Program, Maui Economic Inc. for our Head Start summer programs, and Maui Economic Opportunity Inc. for Infant/Toddler Care Program, and that is Kahi Kamali'i.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you.

MS. AMARAL: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Sorry about that, Dane...not Dane, Shane. So I was going to do something similar where just kind of clarifying the programs you're in, the Head Start Afterschool, you're in for \$170,160 [sic], MEO for Head Start Summer Program, of which Moloka'i is provisoed for the summer program and that is 189,262, and then the Toddler...Infant/Toddler Care Program is 107,885.

MS. AMARAL: Yuki Lei, could you please repeat the one for the Afterschool Program again?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So the Afterschool Program is 270,160.

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MS. AMARAL: That is correct. Thank you. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. So we're all...you're all in here, including the proviso for the Moloka'i --

MS. AMARAL: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: -- which is under --

MS. AMARAL: And as mentioned...

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: -- the Head Start Summer.

MS. AMARAL: Yes, we always include Moloka'i with the agreement that because they have the highest level of poverty, they...they demonstrate the most need. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Good job. Thank you.

MS. AMARAL: Thank you too.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Seeing no other questions. Mahalo, Ms. Amaral, for your testimony this morning.

MS. AMARAL: Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

MS. AMARAL: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Our next testifier is Gladys Baisa, followed by Wendy Stebbins, and then one last testifier.

MS. BAISA: Good morning, everyone. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I, as you know, retired a year ago, and retired from MEO in 2005, it's been 15 years; however, I...I apparently did not retire from life, and I'm listening to you this morning. And of course I hadn't planned to testify, but the more I listened, the more I felt that it was important. I'd like to testify and thank you very much for all the funding you've given to human services, particularly, of course, to MEO. I listened to all the programs and all the services that are going on, and I am so grateful that they are still surviving, doing well, and trying to do the best they can with the money they have. Over the past year, I've paid close attention to what is happening in our community with services and needs, and I have to agree that the worst thing that I'm hearing is about homelessness. Unfortunately, homelessness seems to be very closely tied to substance abuse, and once we have substance abuse, of course we have all kinds of problems that go with it. We have need for housing, we have need for mental health, we have need for employment, transportation...I mean, I've been through the whole thing, and you have too, so you all know. One of the things that I particularly want to



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support is Aloha House. What they're trying to do not only in providing service, but also in providing residential long-term treatment after they are treated. Because you can treat them, and two weeks they're doing better; but if you turn them back into the community with no home, no place to stay, no job, no transportation, they will fail, and this is why we have to have a continuum of services like we tried to do with the B.E.S.T. Program. And not everyone is an offender, many people unfortunately are into drug abuse or substance abuse for various...many, many situations. One of the things I noticed in dealing with some stuff this past year was that in applying for housing assistance, there is a great deal of money and support for people who are suffering impacts of COVID; however, there are a lot of people that are in trouble, and it's not related to COVID. They had other problems and still have other problems that are different, and so that's an area where you might want to put a little more attention. I am so excited to hear Chair Johnson talk about his ideas about what to do for homelessness. I think you're right on the right...right track, Gabe, and thank you very much. You know, we have to come up with some innovate solutions because we don't have enough places to put people. And I was thinking, you know, we've got all these empty big buildings, and that might be a place to look and see if we can put them in a barrack-like situation where at least they have a place to stay out of the weather, and a place to be safe, and a bed to be safe at night. You know, there...people are sleeping in their cars, and that is so dangerous because there's no place to park, a lot of it is, you know, not allowed, and it's very uncomfortable, and they feel unsafe. And I think it leads to many other problems. So I wanted to very quickly refer to the housing study that's going on, and I really...I listened to the first meeting the other night that they're having the community meetings, and we're talking about the plan and how we're going to build affordable housing. But before we can get to putting people in affordable housing, we have got to deal with the issues that made them...put them in trouble in the first place with housing. So I want to make sure that plan addresses that. So those are my suggestions. I want to thank you. I am very impressed with the work you're doing. Chair, you're doing a beautiful job of...of the Budget Committee. And that said, I want to wish you all the best. And I'll be paying attention. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, former Councilmember Gladys Baisa. Any questions for our testifier? Thank you so much again. Aloha. Mahalo for cheering us on. Okay. Our last two testifiers are Wendy Stebbins, followed by...oh, okay, maybe she dropped from the call. Our last testifier signed up is Grant Bigley.

MR. G. BIGLEY: Hello, everyone. Can you hear me okay? All right.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MR. G. BIGLEY: Great. So I'm back. So as I mentioned earlier, my name is Grant Bigley from Ikaika Ohana, and I just wanted to speak briefly on the priority \$5 million for Lānaʻi specifically. So it's my understanding that the...the County has property on Lānaʻi and historically, it's been a difficult project because...in large part due to the lack of infrastructure that was mentioned earlier. And as Doug mentioned, these are...you know, these are really exciting times for the development of affordable

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housing, rental housing specifically with a minimum term of 65 years and rents below 60 percent because there's substantial equity and gap financing available, or that are...that's now becoming available for this purpose, and it can be used as matching funds. So with that, the...some of these projects that at one time seemed too remote or impossible because of this infrastructure issue, you know, may now be possible with this new bill. So we think it's really important to start now to position these projects so that they'll be more shovel-ready, more than they are today at least. So overall to conclude the testimony, I just would encourage the County of Maui to fund Lānaʻi, and this would also be true of some other more remote areas, such as Upcountry and Hāna. So thank you for your time, everyone.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Bigley. I see a question from Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, Grant Bigley, I just want to clarify, you said available gap...I think you said gap funding, so what funding are you talking about? What gap funding? The funding part.

MR. G. BIGLEY: So the fund...so the funding...so the two funding parts that we can speak to, that's something Doug will put in a written testimony because there's more specifics that he could give. I can't really speak to the...the...the specifics of the financing issues on this one.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. G. BIGLEY: It will all be...yeah, we all follow up with a written testimony with a lot more detail.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Seeing no additional questions. We'll...Member Johnson, you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah, thank you, Chair. So would that help with matching funds if...with...with that kind of...to help the gap...overcome the gap, you can use matching funds for that?

MR. G. BIGLEY: Yeah, that...that is...that's a big piece of it, yeah, and that's the draw.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Johnson. Okay. And seeing no other questions, we'll thank you for your testimony this morning, Mr. Bigley. Okay. I will see again if Ms. Wendy Stebbins is on. It seems that she may be having network issues. And while we're doing that, I'll give a last call for anyone signed on that would like to provide testimony. You may unmute yourself now and proceed.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Chair, I think Ms. Stebbins might be an employee of DHHC and the Volunteer Center.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. Mahalo, Member Paltin. Okay. So hearing no one else indicating they would like to testify, if there are no objections, I will now close public testimony and accept written testimony into the record.

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS**

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

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Members. Okay. So it's 11:07, and we'll take our morning break. And we have Fire ready for us...ready for our questions. And we'll...so we'll break for about ten minutes, so let's be back at 11:00 (*audio interference*) round up, 11:20, but like be in your chairs by 11:19 so we can get started by 11:20? Okay. All right. It's 11:08 on April 8th, and the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee is now in recess. . . .(*gavel*). . .

RECESS: 11:08 a.m.  
RECONVENE: 11:21 a.m.

**ITEM 1: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY  
OF MAUI (CC 21-30)**

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .(*gavel*). . . Will the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee please return to order. It's 11:21 on April 8th. And before we get started with the Fire and Public Safety Department, it's about that time, Members, for self-care. We have some music lined up and we can dedicate this one to the Department. Ms. Pajimola...DJ Pajimola, you can start playing the music.

. . .(*the Pointer Sisters' song Fire plays*). . .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Fire.

. . .(*the Pointer Sisters' song Fire continues to play*). . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, DJ Pajimola. Mahalo, Department, for stretching along with us. Okay. Now, we ready to go?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And mahalo to the Pointer Sisters for joining us.

**DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Aloha, Chief Thyne. Would you like to introduce who you have with us from the Department today?

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MR. THYNE: Yes. Hi. Good morning. We know we're in between you and lunch, so we're going to try to answer as best we can. We're...been watching your Budget Sessions, and we certainly appreciate the opportunity to visit with you today. I do have Deputy Chief Ventura to my left. Of course in the corner, Michele Yoshimura, the Budget Director, and then directly behind me is Assistant Chief Werner. And our other Staff and...and chiefs and whatnot are...are monitoring online as well. So we're here in force and ready to answer questions. So good morning again.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Okay, Members, so I would like if we can review all of Fire Department before we break for lunch, and then that way when we...you know, we can excuse the Department. And then when we return from lunch, then we can take up the next department. I think it's cleaner that way. Yeah? Any objections?

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS**

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Right. We'll...we'll dive into the questions that were submitted by the Members. Question one, if Council were to ask for an 11 percent cut in programs and activities funded by the General Fund to fully fund the recommendations proposed in the Comprehensive Housing...Affordable Housing Plan at \$57 million without increasing real property tax revenue, A, what programs or activities would you cut; and B, what impact would the cuts have on residents?

MR. THYNE: Thanks, Budget Chair Rawlins-Fernandez. So yeah, we...yeah, much like probably most of the departments as directed by, you know, the Mayor's Budget Office, when the pandemic started, started to really restrict our spending and looking at alternative strategies for spending. And we knew that coming into this Budget season, we would have to come in very lean, and so we did that. We came in as...as lean as possible in our proposals in order to still continue the services our community requires us to provide and expects us to provide, but at the same time, it would be difficult to cut our Budget any further. But certainly we understand that if cuts need to be made, they're going to be directed to us as a Department, and we will certainly request that if cuts are need...further cuts are needed to be made, that we would like to work with you to discuss what that would be in order to maintain our service level for the community. So thank you for that opportunity.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chief. Okay. So the next set of questions are in regards to salaries and wages. Question one, please explain the Department's 10.5 decrease in E/P, including whether it is related to suspension of Department of Land and Natural Resources grant funds for Mākena State Park.

MR. VENTURA: Good morning, everybody. This is Chief Ventura here with you. Yeah, for that particular question, it is in regards to the suspension of that MOU that was suspended in April of 2020.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Question two, please explain the reason for the reallocation of the Administrative Assistant II position to Administrative Officer,

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including how much of the \$13,032 increase is due to the collective bargaining agreement.

MR. VENTURA: All right. So the next few questions are related to a reorg that we did in our administration, and this particular position, our Administrative Assistant was part of the reorg, and basically reallocated to an office...Administrative Officer. And the...it was done by basically identifying the job duties of that person, and to put them into the right job position. And yes, the change in amounts for salary was based on the collective bargaining agreement for that particular position. When we did submit the numbers early on it was in October while the reallocation was happening, those numbers were estimates, but as the numbers became finalized they were a little bit less than our estimates. So all those numbers will be provided to you folks.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Perfect. Okay. So that covers question three, four, and five?

MR. VENTURA: I can go to question three, which was the Business Administrator. Same thing as well, in the reallocation there was...it was basically the reflection of the actual duties performed by that person. So the position was reallocated from a Budget Administrator to an Accountant IV. That particular position went down, and so the salary is red circled, so that's what the differential is in this year's Budget. And then question number four was in regards to a position that was given to us by Councilmember Paltin in Ocean Safety. There was a reallocation in that Bureau, was specifically we reallocated a Clerk III up to a Staff Service Assistant, and by doing that reallocation, that person gained a little bit more responsibility. Then we were able to work and do a budget amendment and move that Secretary I position to our administrative, and then we concentrate on HR responsibilities. And that's when that position was reallocated to a...sorry, a Staff Service Assistant...I'm sorry, in our DPS area. And the change in salary again was CBA related, and that was why the increase is there.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. So question five, please explain the 17.3 percent decrease in premium pay in the Department's overall budget for FY'22.

MR. VENTURA: All right. The...the main decreases in our premium pay this year are based on reimbursement grants that we got this year...this past fiscal year. We did get 1.2 million total from two FEMA grants that were incidents. And then also, the reduction of premium pay due to the fact that Mākena was taken out of our Budget, that premium pay, which is also grant based. So both...about \$1.2 million and \$40,000 from those two grants are not anticipated in our Budget this year, so that's how the...that great reduction in premium pay for the 17 percent total this year.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Question six, please explain the proposed 60 percent increase in premium pay for the Training Program for FY'22, the increase in FY'21, and what measures are being taken to control premium pay.

MR. VENTURA: Okay. So our training program includes both our Training Bureau, as well as our Health and Safety Bureau. They...in FY'21, we reduced the premium pay by

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about \$29,000 due to the fact that we knew community service events, you know, all of our screening that we do, blood pressure screening, supporting, you know, fairs, keiki festivals, that wouldn't be happening, so we reduced our premium pay in the FY'21 Budget by \$29,000. So in the FY'22 Budget we're anticipating, if things kind of clear up with COVID, that we'll be putting that effort back out to the community, so we added that \$29,000 back into our Budget. And then on top of that, we're looking at our actuals in those programs, and our actuals in those programs are...for FY'20, we did spend \$93,000, and currently in this fiscal year, as of March 31st, we're already at \$75,000. So the big 60 percent is basically we're getting back our reduction that we gave in FY'21, and then a little bit more that we're seeing actuals this year. As far as, you know, what they do, they're responsible for responding to all of our afterhours rehabilitation calls. So if we have a structure fire, a wildland fire, they provide rehab to our fire fighters, as well as some of the long rescues that we've done recently with Ocean Safety, they'll...they'll respond out to those calls to provide, you know, nourishment, medical monitoring for our responders, and make sure that they're able to continue performing their duties. So a lot of those are afterhours and on weekends, so that all incurs premium pay. What we're trying to do to kind of, you know, manage our premium pay in there is just always...always just allocate the right amount of people for the job. We try not to overstaff things, but we do need to provide the service to our members so that we make sure we keep everybody safe at these incidents.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Assistant [sic] Chief. Question seven, please explain the continued need for an increase in premium pay after the Fire Prevention Program...for the Fire Prevention Program. Does full-year funding for the Fire Fighter IV not offset premium pay?

MR. VENTURA: All right. Thank you. So our Fire Fighter IV that we recently hired, it was eight-month funding, but they're going...they're still going through sustained training to get them to the position, you know, fully involved in the position. They will be a major benefit to that Bureau. But currently, with construction and the boom that's it in, we are right now behind on reviewing about 146 plans, and we're waiting for about 229 to be approved that we've already looked at once. So we do require these guys to work overtime when they can so that we can try to keep up with the demand that's going on right now in the construction industry.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Question eight, regarding Ocean Safety Officers, OSOs, please explain the following discrepancies between the Program Budget and the Budget Details. A, five OSO I positions and 41 OSO II positions in the Program Budget and 4.5 OSO I positions and 41.5 OSO II positions in the Budget Details; B, nine OSO III and 4 OSO IV positions in the Budget Program [sic], and 8 OSO III and 5 OSO IV positions in the FY'21 Council Adopted Budget, including specifically the P-30991 position reallocation from OSO I to OSO IV; C, in the FY'21 Budget, it was stated the new E/Ps for Ocean Safety were to remain non-supervisory staff to increase the coverage on beaches. Please explain the reallocation and whether the new OSO positions are still intended to be non-supervisory. D, is the current OSO I performing OSO IV duties; and E, where will the OSO IV position be stationed?

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MR. VENTURA: Thank you. So there was a clerical error on questions A and B, and you folks will be receiving a corrected version of that. The...the 41 to the 41-1/2 is a discrepancy, so that's going to be re-presented to you folks. As far as the positions being reallocated, you know, we were very fortunate during the, you know, beginning of COVID when we lost the Mākena positions that we did have vacant OSO positions that we were able to move personnel into. When you come into our Department as an Ocean Safety Officer and you're in a recruit class, you're an Ocean Safety Officer I. After you finish your probation, you immediately become a II on the beach. So all those positions were intended, like mentioned here, to be non-supervisory on the beach and not in an administrative role, so we've honored that and we've kept everybody that was removed from Mākena into these positions and reallocated to our County workforce with those expansion positions that were given to us. The reallocation of the OSO I to a IV was to divide our North Shore District. We use a span-of-control model as far as supervisory goes, and what we try to do is make sure that we don't have too many subordinates working under one supervisor, especially at emergency incidents. That being our biggest district, warranted an additional Ocean Safety Officer IV position, and that position was placed at the Ho'okipa Beach Park. So between Kanahā, Baldwin, and Ho'okipa, that district is very long and large as opposed to Kam I, Kam II, Kam III, and so a second captain was put in that area to manage all the resources under them. And I think that answers all five parts of that question. Yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Question nine, relating to rescue water craft, A, please clarify whether operator pay is included in premium pay; and B, how is operator pay allocated per rescue water craft?

MR. VENTURA: So the rescue water craft differential is included in our premium pay. So when we look in the Ocean Safety Program and you look at the total premium pay, that does include the daily rescue water craft operator pay. When you...the way it's paid out is two Ocean Safety Officers are assigned to the ski every day for eight hours, and then when it's their lunch break, we would use a third Ocean Safety Officer to cover their lunch break. So that's a total of eight hours for each of the officers that work on the ski and are ready to respond to emergencies all day, then when they take their break they get this position covered. So it's broken down into eight, eight, and two hours every day per...per ski.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. The next set of questions is in regards to operations and equipment. Question one, if the Department's 10.5 decrease in E/P is related to Mākena State Parking [sic] fund [sic], A, what are the Department's plan to: one, provide sufficient coverage of the beaches; two, work with the State to install appropriate warning signage; or three, close affected beaches as a safety precaution? And B, also provide any available FY'20 or FY'21 data on rescue operations and interventions at Mākena State...State...State Park.

MR. VENTURA: Okay. All good questions. The...as far as the losing the ten positions, we're currently physically not at Mākena State Beach Park anymore, but we were able to

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cover all the County beach parks with the personnel and positions that we had. So we did not...we currently don't have, you know, any beach parks that have towers that are not being monitored or managed. As far as what safety precautions we've tried to put in place at Mākena and...or in the Mākena area actually, the State of Hawai'i and the Rotary Club worked with us to create an MOU so that we could put more of the yellow tubes, rescue tubes at...in the area. So 17 rescue tubes were put in the Mākena area from One'uli Beach, which is Black Sand Beach, over through Pu'u Olai area, and all the way to Oneloa, which is Big Beach. So we tried to leave something behind that would provide some safety for the beachgoers. And then the incidents, we...we've been down to Mākena...in FY'20, we had 22 incidents down there, so that ran through about the first four months of COVID. And then in FY'21, we're at 14 incidents right now. And these are incidents that have been called in via 911 and that our fire companies had to respond via roadways and occasionally, you know, sometimes Ocean Safety Officers will be coming from our South District to assist in calls down there as well.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Question two, relating to medical personal protective equipment, PPE, and supplies, is...A, is the increased cost of PPE and supplies due to an increase in the cost of the items or an increase in the quantities being purchased; B, how many Jumbo D oxygen cylinders with medical bags will be purchased and where will they be stationed; C, could CARES Act funding be used for PPE supplies and oxygen cylinders?

MR. VENTURA: Okay. So the answer is yes and yes for the first two questions. We've had an increase in costs due to demand. A lot of our PPE has gone up sometimes three times as expensive as when we've bought it in the past, and then additionally, increased use. Obviously due to the pandemic, we've been providing additional PPE and people have been using it more readily, and we've been protecting more people at all incidents rather than the historical use we've had. So yes to that question. As far as the...the Jumbo D bottles, what we're planning on doing is changing over our...our medical service, the way we provide medical service and the equipment that we carry for these calls. So our Ocean Safety Officers have kind of an all-in-one bag, and what we're trying to do is do the same thing on the Fire side. We currently have a cloth bag and a plastic, like, tackle box. We're trying to, you know, modernize it and get it so that we have, you know, one bag that we can get first out in medical calls and response. The amount of them, we want to get it to all 18 fire companies in the County. And as far as the CARES Act funding goes, we were able to use quite a bit of CARES Act funding up until November for our PPE needs. We don't know for sure that this particular change in our operation would fit the requirements of CARES Act funding, but if there is a second round of, you know, government support that this would qualify for, we'd be happy to use it for that.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Okay. Question three, relating to PPE maintenance and Medical Doctor...Director services, A, explain if the PPE maintenance funds will be used for masks and gloves, to repair equipment, or for other purposes; B, is this the first time the County will be using these services, and what entities will be



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providing them; and C, please provide details on what services are currently provided or will be provided by the Medical Director.

MR. VENTURA: Okay. So as far as the PPE maintenance goes, this is maintenance for our bunker gear for firefighting. So historically...well, we have an NFPA 1851 states that our turnouts should be inspected and advance cleaned twice a year. The...we use an ISP, an independent service provider to do that work for us. There's only one in the State of Hawai'i, he's in Honolulu, so we ship out on rotation our gear to be cleaned, inspected, and repaired. To save money, we follow the manufacturer's recommendations on the...the...our SCBA masks and our gloves to clean that ourselves. But as far as the, you know, restitching of Velcro and zippers and repairs to holes in turnout gear, you know, that's above our ability, so we send that out to the ISP to provide that...that annual cleaning and repairs to our equipment. It just gives it more longevity and, you know, hopefully it lasts the full ten years that it's allowed to be used for. And we started this program in FY'21. The company was called Native Hawaiian Veterans, and then it changed to a company called Hawai'i PPE, and they've been a...they've been a, you know, useful and...and great working relationship to have us keep our equipment, you know, clean and get longevity out of it. As far as the Medical Director goes, so Hawai'i Revised Statute requires the Department to have a Medical Director since we have an EMS program. We were extremely fortunate since 2013 to have the services of Libby...Dr. Libby Char given to us pro bono. She's done it as a volunteer service because she had other agencies that she was working with. So if you're watching the news and recognize, she's now the Director of the Department of Health State level, so she has had to forgo her responsibilities with us since then. So we've worked diligently to identify somebody locally to work with who can give us constant, you know, guidance for our EMS Program, and we've...we've gotten somebody who we're really excited about and really wanting to work with. The Medical Director, their responsibility is basically to review our Department's Emergency Medical Service Program, provide the direction where necessary, offer consultation on the issues as they arise, and make recommendations to the Fire Chief on response matters. So not only is that important because it's the law, but it's also, you know, important for us to be getting direct input into our program so we can provide the, you know, appropriate service to the community for our EMS Program.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Question four, which stations are in need of locker improvements? When were the lockers made or last improved upon?

MR. VENTURA: Okay. So I'm looking at a list of stations. Just to kind of summarize this, our lockers that we have, lockers both for our personal protective equipment on the apparatus floor as well as a locker in the locker room where the showers are, we provide that for each member at every station. Kihei, Hāna, Ho'olehua, Kahului, and Nāpili and Kula are the stations we're focusing on right now. On average, we're looking at lockers that are 21 years old, the oldest being 26 and the newest being 15...sorry, the oldest being 30 and the newest being 15. They are made of metal and/or wood, and the ones that we're looking to replace right now are either, you know, in disrepair, they have holes them, or the termites have taken over them and

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they don't...they don't...reduce the integrity of the...lockers need to be changed at this point. So that's kind of the picture of our lockers at our station.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Question five, relating to the additional \$200,000 for "Other Services to increase brushfire assistance to current actual level," A, what do these "other services" entail; B, what is meant by "brushfire assistance to current actual level," and clarify what "current actual level" means; and C, will the services be used for specific geographical areas or Countywide?

MR. VENTURA: Okay. So other...other services for our wildland firefighting include when we need to bring in a second, third, or fourth aircraft to the incident. They also include any of the contractors that we have MOUs with that we work with to provide bulldozer lines to provide perimeters around the fires, as well as water tankers that come in. So any of those types of resources we would use at wildland fires, and we would contract those out. The current level...the actual current level is what we're actually...the point we're actually at in FY'21. So we've...we've spent the amount that we've been allocated this year, and so we're looking at hopefully increasing that for next year. And we understand that, you know, we can't predict wildfires, and so we have to be reasonable about our ask. So although we have a number that has been historically before us, we understand that we'll ask for a little bit less in hopes that there's not as many fires next year, but we have to be realistic and have the, you know, funds available for the equipment. As far as geographically, these will be available Countywide, of course. We also work with Public Works on Moloka'i and Lāna'i, and on Lāna'i we have relationships with some of Pūlama's resources as well.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Awesome. Question six, relating to the five-year contract with...for helicopter service, A, how is the contract structured? For example, is the helicopter on unlimited standby, or are there additional charges per flight; and B, will the proposed appropriation of \$1,122,000 remain the same for the duration of the five-year contract?

MR. VENTURA: Okay. So we are currently in the last three months of our current five-year contract. We have created a new spec that is out to bid right now, and if we get a vendor that does want to bid the job, that contract will start July 1st. The current funding that we are asking for is kind of in alignment with what we paid in the last year of our five-year contract, so we do anticipate the \$1,222,000, able to provide us with an aircraft through contract for the first year of the new five-year contract. As far as what we get from that helicopter contract, it's the helicopter is on standby 24/7 every day of the year from, you know, sun up to sun down basically, due to its capabilities. And there's no charge if it stays on the ground except for our contract costs. And then our...our airtime we pay for Air One is at a disconnected rate, currently our rate is \$572 an hour, but if we did need to contract a second aircraft, third or fourth for a large fire or multiple rescues, which we have had in the past, those will range from \$1,200 an hour to maybe \$1,800 an hour, depending on who the vendor is able to provide us with the service.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Question seven, relating to professional services for reviewing alternate sites for construction of a fire station in Ha'ikū, A, please explain the deletion of the appropriation, including if the review has been cancelled or completed; B, if the review has been completed, when might the Council expect to receive a communication on the results; C, does the Department support the use of the Holokai site favored by the community for a fire station in Ha'ikū; D, should funding be allocated for further assessment or review of the Holokai site?

MR. VENTURA: Okay. So yes, the consultants that we hired to do that work have completed their assessment. We just were in communication with them, as well as the Ha'ikū Community Association. We have set up a Ha'ikū Community Association meeting and presentation to be May 5th, and...so that they can share their findings with the public and the community. The question C about the Holokai site...

MR. THYNE: I'll jump in on that one, Budget Chair Rawlins-Fernandez. I've been, you know, kind of schooling Deputy Chief Ventura up on this because I...as Member Molina knows, I've been involved with this project since roughly 2002, so I worked on this at many different ranks in our Department. And it's...I also have lived in the area for puka 30 years. So I do feel that, you know, even from when we started there was different sites that were looked at, there was different pockets of the community in Ha'ikū that wanted the...obviously everybody wants the fire station...well, most people want a fire station in their backyard because of the services we provide. So it's...it's been, you know, people want it closer to here, closer to there, but when the decision was made to purchase the property, after doing all the evaluation, we...we certainly feel as a Department that operationally, it works for us. We don't know that any other location will be preferential in any way. Majority of our calls are in the Ha'ikū proper area, if you will. We've talked to the...the working group from the community association, we plan to have another meeting with them as well, and we just encouraged them to move forward because we have the support of your body, primarily with Member Molina leading the charge, as well as the Mayor's Office, and so we encouraged them to move forward. And you know, we looked at the Holokai site from day one when we started this. There were several other sites we looked at. And there's reason for...and the assessments that were done backed up the conclusions that we made all those years ago, and so we encourage them to move forward. So kind of segueing into D, we don't know that there's necessarily a need for any further review of the Holokai site. They...the...we found that employing the standpipes that were in the area, that the same water improvements, probably even more extensive water improvements would need to be made at that Holokai site. Not to get in too much detail, but it's also State land, it's not owned by the County like the other property is, so there's a couple of moving parts that would probably increase the cost even more and delay the project quite a bit more without going into too much detail. But we will look forward to releasing the findings of the assessment that was done by our...our consultant to you folks for your review as well. So I'll try to keep it right there. As you can see, I'm pretty passionate about this topic.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chief Thyne. Okay. Question eight, please explain professional services for facility assessment surveys of Wailuku, Pā'ia, Lāhainā, and

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Makawao stations, including the focus, criteria, and rationale for performing the assessments at this time.

MR. THYNE: Yeah, I'll grab that one too, Budget Chair Rawlins-Fernandez. And it just...I'll keep it short by saying that, you know, we as fire fighters, if anybody knows that we fire fighters and we're proud of that fact, but we're not engineers, we're not structural engineers. And so when we...when it comes to, you know, our aging facilities and we have, you know, roughly 25 of them in our inventory, you know, we need to look at things from a perspective of...you know, an engineering perspective, and make real...the right decisions on...for instance our Kahului Station, we have several I-beams on one of our carports for our rescue boat, and some other equipment that has literally puka rust in the I-beams down at the base. And so, you know, we don't know, you know, is it going to hold, is it fine, is it...is a certain amount of wind going to cause it to collapse. I mean, these are concerns that we have, and we want to be good stewards of the taxpayers' dollars, so we feel it's best to have assessments done. We started from our oldest stations moving forward, and then we can determine and make appropriate requests to you folks for CIP and repair and maintenance funds moving forward versus just looking at it from a cosmetic viewpoint. So that's what that's there for. We'll answer it further in writing, but any time you want to talk about it further, we'd be glad to sit with you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chief Thyne. Question nine, relating to the Revolving Fund, explain the basis for the \$20,000 increase in "Services" for the Fire Prevention Program.

MR. VENTURA: So the County is starting their MAPPS program, which is taking place of the KIVA program, the Countywide program for our permitting process. So our Prevention Bureau is involved in that. And maintenance would be any changes that we need done to the software to create better workflow within our Prevention Bureau, we'd be responsible for paying for. So every department who uses the MAPPS program has different needs, and so it's just funding that we would need to provide, you know, upgrades, changes in the way the workflow in the MAPPS programs works, we would be responsible for.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Assistant [sic] Chief. Question ten, please provide rescue water craft hours for each of the three seven- and ten-year-old rescue water crafts.

MR. VENTURA: Okay. So start with the newest one, the 2010 rescue water craft has 407 hours on it right now. The 2013 rescue water craft, one of them has 344 hours on it. The other two, the LCD screen is either inoperable at this time, it's broken, or the ski does not run, so that we're not able to get the hours off that. So those last two are in worse condition than the previous two.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Question 11, what type of trailers come with the replacement rescue water crafts?

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MR. VENTURA: So just for some background here, we...rescue water craft can sit on two types of trailers normally, one that goes on the street and one that goes on the beach. So depending on what our needs are at the time of the purchase, we may purchase a trailer that will be towed behind a pickup truck and would be on the road. But we don't use it on the road daily as much as we would use it from the storage unit on what we call a beach cart down the sand onto the beach and put it in a...a ready position to...to launch. So depending on which is in more need is where we would purchase. And right now, they're similar in price. The beach carts are a little bit more expensive sometimes, it just depends on the kind of supply and how big of a beach cart we need to provide. But we kind of go based on what we need at that point at that particular beach for our trailer.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Question 12, relating to replacement life guards, A, will the replacement towers for Baldwin Beach and Ho'okipa Beach be made out of fiberglass? If not, what material will be...will they be made of? B, does the County own the two abandoned fiberglass towers at Mākena Beach Park? If the replacement towers are going to be made out of fiberglass, can the Mākena Beach towers be used as replacement towers for Baldwin Beach and Ho'okipa Beach? C, provide a summary of the existing conditions of the Baldwin Beach and Ho'okipa Beach towers. D, has either tower been damaged by recent storms? If so, can emergency management funds be used for repairs? E, will the replacement towers be relocated away from the ocean? And F, why is the replacement of lifeguard towers not considered a capital improvement project?

MR. VENTURA: All right. So currently, the prices that we have been able to provide are for fiberglass replacement towers of the towers, the Baldwin and Ho'okipa Beach Parks. We are inclined to try to use that money and try to look for a contractor that could possibly build it out of wood, but we've been told it's going to be more expensive; however, those wooden towers are more easily repairable for us, and they do have a little bit more life, but they do cost more money. So the prices that we've presented are based on a fiberglass price, but if we do get the funding we'll explore the, you know, possibility of finding a contractor that wants to really, really work with us and provide a better, you know, more longevity wooden tower. The two lifeguard towers on Mākena Beach Park are owned by the State and not by us, so in order for us to move those, we would have to create some sort of agreement with them. Based on the current age of those two towers, we might not want to move them because of their fragility and they may fall apart. And in the hopes that when COVID is gone we're able to return services to the Mākena Beach, we'd have to move them right back to the beach. So that's the two Mākena towers. The existing conditions of Baldwin and Mākena Beach towers are not good. They're 11- and 12-year-old fiberglass towers. There's holes in them, cracking, and wear due to vandalism as well. Anything that can rust has rusted. And the...instead of the doors and windows being held up in the, you know, traditional way that they're supposed to be held up, they're being held up by sticks, and they're being propped up. So they're not only, you know, in bad shape, you know, as far as functionality, but they also look really bad. And we know they're a reflection of our Department, so we want to make sure we get those replaced in a timely manner. The recent storms have not had significant factors. The current

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lifeguard towers that we want to (*audio interference*) Towers will be replaced in a very similar area that Baldwin and Ho'okipa currently have them in. The Baldwin one was actually just moved back due to sea level changes and beach erosion, and so it's kind of at a point where we still have a decent vantage point to see the whole beach there in Baldwin, so we would not want to move it back any further . . .(*inaudible*). . . put it near the parking lot. As far as capital improvements, if we do go with the fiberglass models, these are, you know, considered somewhat short-term life, ten...ten years or so, so you know, we didn't feel they would fit into the capital improvement category of something that would last 30 or 40 years.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Question 13, relating to the replacement of County vehicles, does the Department track whether the replaced vehicles are sold, traded in, donated, or disposed of? Are there reports that indicate the selling price of these vehicles, if sold?

MR. VENTURA: So in the past, our Department has not sold vehicles. What we'll do is we'll take an emergency frontline vehicle and after it's served its useful life there, we'll...we'll move it to our relief fleet where it can be used on a need basis. After that, we'll move...we'll move it to either Training or an admin support staff vehicle, and then from that point we recycle it. By that point the vehicle is usually very old and in major disrepair, so we haven't sold any.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that information. Question 14, relating to the automated external defibrillators, AED, A, does the County participate in an AED recycling program? If not, what are the Department's plans for expired AED disposal? B, could the Department work with the Department of Parks and Recreation to procure replacement AEDs that last longer than ten years and cost less than \$2...\$2,000 each?

MR. VENTURA: Okay. So the first question there, if our...when our AEDs' warranty expires, if it's still in a...has any sort of life in it, we do do a buyback with the current vendor. So we are able to, you know, receive some funds for a trade-in. And that's the ZOLL company that we're currently purchasing AEDs through. As far as the...the AEDs that we use versus Parks, I'm honestly not familiar with the exact model that the Parks uses. But to give you some background on our AEDs, our AEDs give us feedback while doing CPR, they have a built-in metronome, they have an LCD screen display that shows us the heart rhythm. Everything is recordable, and it's...so we can take the CPR case after it's concluded, we can download it so that we know how...what the quality of our CPR was. And all that feedback is...is important for us to better our program. And essentially, if we can better our program we, you know, improve survivability of our community. The AEDs that we currently use are...are some of the best for our first responders in our fire industry, and they...they have a very good survivability rate when used properly and with the right training.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Question 15, who provides MAPPS maintenance referenced under professional services?

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MR. VENTURA: So the software company Tyler Technologies, who's developing MAPPS for the County as I mentioned, MAPPS is the permitting software, and currently our Fire Prevention uses it and they work directly with the...the program managers to make maintenance changes and whatnot.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. And question 16, please explain why the Department pays for water delivery charges and who is charging the Department for this service. Is there a more efficient and effective method to provide this service?

MR. VENTURA: So our Department pays the Water Department to maintain...provide maintenance, replacement, and repair of hydrants and standpipes in the County, and we basically pay per hydrant and per standpipe. It is a substantial amount of money. And every time a new neighborhood or subdivision is approved and more hydrants or standpipes are installed, our fees do go up. We are treated by the Water Department as a customer, so until that changes or we can kind of get around that, we have to pay the Water Department for the use of the 7,400 or so water hydrants and standpipes that we utilize.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. The next set of questions is in regards to capital improvement projects. Question one, what are the Department's top three locations for new fire stations?

MR. VENTURA: Okay. So you know, there's a lot of factors that we look into when determining if and when and where we'd like a fire station. But the short and the gist of it is based on our current call volume, as well as the density population in our...our County, areas such as the Waikapu Maui Lani area, as well as South Lāhainā, Launiupoko, Olowalu are where we have our highest call volume stations right now, being Lāhainā and Wailuku. And so additionally, with the growth and the anticipation of, you know, where the homes are going to be built, those are probably our top two priorities. Kihei and Pā'īā fire stations are both located in flood areas, so there's concern with, you know, sea level rise and the floodplain for us to get those stations eventually moved out of those areas into higher locations in...within those districts. And then, of course, the priority for us is Ha'ikū Fire Station because since we already own the...the land, there's been a lot of effort put in by many Administrations to do this, the community does desire it, we do have support for it, and we own the...the lands and the, you know, the plans are being already kind of drawn up, that's a priority for us as well.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Question two, if land is available in Olowalu, does the Department foresee a need for a fire rescue resource center similar to the Nāpili Fire Station? Is it in the Department's plans for the health and safety of our residents?

MR. VENTURA: So as mentioned before, it's kind of a priority area for us, and we would...we would support a public/private partnership with any landowner out there to provide a facility for us to, you know, provide fire and EMS assistance in that, you know, neighborhood or area. As far as AMR goes, you know, we can't tell them when to

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expand or where to put an ambulance, but if it was a public/private partnership that was developed for housing them as well, it's something we'd be totally onboard with.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Question three, please describe any needs for the Kula Fire Station.

MR. VENTURA: So the Kula Fire Station facility right now is in really good shape, no immediate improvements are needed. But due to the growth in the community, there'll...there'll be some additional equipment needs in the future. While...the...the area is very rural, it's a lot of four-wheel drive narrow roads all the way out to the Kahikinui/Kaupo area that they service. So a type one engine isn't always able to get out there; however, we do have a mini apparatus out there, it is aging, and you know, even that vehicle can't always get up some of the areas that are needed. So in the future, we can see some need for equipment out there.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Question four, is the Department planning or desiring to move EMS to the Kula Fire Station?

MR. VENTURA: So I think several, several years ago when AMR wasn't located close to the, you know, busier area of Kula, they...they were...that was the projection, you know, that we...we wanted to support. Since then, AMR has found a...a home in Kula that is well within their response area, and so we don't have any intention to move them into our facility.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Question five, if an alternative site, such as Holokai, is preferred for the Ha'ikū Fire Station, are the proposed CIP funds sufficient for planning and design?

MR. VENTURA: So in our...in our talks here, if...if that is something that needs to be done and the funds can be redirected from one specific, you know, property or direction to shift to another, it would be...there would be some additional funds that need to be added because that property is a little bit behind our currently owned Ha'ikū property. But it's something that could be done if it was approved.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Question six, why is the Makawao Fire Station renovation/addition being proposed in FY'22 Budget when the facilities survey for the station is also included, but has not yet been completed?

MR. VENTURA: And so these are two projects that we believe can be done concurrently. The facility assessment is, as we...Chief Thyne talked about earlier, is something that we would have an engineer go in and do an assessment of the facility. At the same time, we're in the...throughout the process, we are at the point where we haven't even put that job out to bid. The specs for the construction project are nearing completion, but there's still work to be done on the construction side of it before the assessment can hopefully be completed.



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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Okay. And the last two questions are in regards to key activity goals and measures. Question one, relating to the Fire/Rescue Operations Program goal one and three, please explain the statistics differentiating between residents and visitors, including whether a higher number of visitor rescues might justify a potential fee for emergency services, especially if the incident involves trespassing on private land.

MR. VENTURA: So if you look at our total call volume, historically the visitor versus resident rate, we respond to 82 percent residents and 18 percent visitors. In our...if you just look specifically at our helicopter operations and rescues, it is about 50/50, so it does change there. As far as charging for services, you know, our County, as well as the other counties' fire...you know, in the State and the other fire jurisdictions have kind of taken the approach that if we start to charge for services, there might be a delay in people calling 911. And you know, there just may be...the situation maybe get worse. And then eventually when we are called, we're going to put our, you know, responders at, you know, in greater harm's way because we've waited longer, we waited until it's darker or waited until somebody's, you know, not as healthy as they were if they had called immediately. So that's one of our, you know, angles on that, as well as the mechanism to actually collect money would probably require additional and new legislation as well as the mechanism within our own Department to bill people, collect money, and you know, just manage that whole program.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. And the last question, question two relating to Ocean Safety Program goal one to "protect life, property, and environment...through preventive measures," why is the estimated number of preventive actions the same for FY'21 and FY'22, given that visitor numbers are returning to pre-pandemic levels?

MR. VENTURA: So this is basically just based on timing. One kind of background note is that our beaches have not ever shut down, so our, you know, Ocean Safety Officers are just continuing to make contact with every beachgoer, whether tourists are here or not. And then two, it was, like I said, a timing thing. We placed these numbers in our FY'21 Budget in October before the pandemic started, so that was the first number that we're looking at. The second number basically came in October of last year, and we being in hopes that COVID was kind of getting somewhat under control and tourism was going to return and things would return to some normalcy and we'd get visitors back, we anticipated getting the tourists back on island and we would have to make the same amount of contacts with the community and the visitors. So that's why the number stayed the same.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. All right. That completes that portion of the process. We'll now move to the next portion of the process, which is to open up the floor to Members. Members, I'll have five minutes on the clock for each of you. There are five different programs in the Department: Administration, Training, Fire/Rescue Operations, Fire Prevention, and Ocean Safety. And there was one amendment to rates and fees, and that's \$100 triennially fire extinguish...fee for a fire extinguisher inspection. Okay. So you can ask anything in operations, CIPs, or rates and fees. And we'll start with the subject matter Committee Chair, Member Molina, followed by

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Committee Vice-Chair Paltin, and then we'll go to Pro Tem Kama. Okay. Member Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Good morning, Chief Ventura, Chief Thyne, and thank you again for your commitment and advocacy for getting a fire station for Ha'ikū, wherever it may be. Just one quick question. With the upcoming next community meeting, if the community still feels the Holokai site is the one that they want the most, is that something you're still very open to looking into?

MR. THYNE: Hi, Member Molina. Thanks. Good to see you, even though it's virtually. Yes, well, we...we...as we talked before in your office when we could see each other in person, you know, we're open to any site, any fire station. Any time we can serve our community better with more resources and better service, absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay.

MR. THYNE: The concern and caveat to that is again it may take quite a while to get this other property and site up to...if at all even possible. We haven't even...it...it...you know, talked to the State. So --

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah.

MR. THYNE: -- I know you're on a time limit, I'll keep it short.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. No, but yeah, you make a very good point there, it's like depending on what you want it could take longer. So anyway, but thanks. Moving on, for the Members' information in our Program Budget page 47 [sic] under Fire/Rescue expansion requests, the four-wheel-drive truck replacement for 105,000. Now, some in the public may see why so much for a replacement truck. Could you just briefly describe the...the necessary modifications for a vehicle like this, and how it is a very important asset for fire and rescue operations?

MR. VENTURA: So this vehicle is our Battalion Chief vehicle for our Second Battalion. The...we're looking at an F-250 pickup truck with a camper. So the base model for the truck plus the camper, we add lighting, we add our radio system to it, that all is...is what takes an 80,000 or so dollar truck up to about 105,000 once it's all done and built and painted to our spec.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you. And then on page 253 on the Program Budget for Fire Prevention Bureau, slight bump in request for premium pay. Is this related to maybe COVID, and maybe more fire inspections needed and more training? Could you just elaborate on that briefly?

MR. VENTURA: Sure. So we kind of just briefly just touched on this earlier, but a lot of it has to do with our plans review right now, just the fact that construction is...is really booming and happening. We are inundated with, you know, a high level of plans, as

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well as, you know, the...our Prevention Bureau has been, you know, understaffed for years, and we are...we're...we're asking them to do more inspections than they've done in the past with the same amount of people, and so it's creeping into our premium pay as well. In the future, you know, post-COVID, we definitely will...will revisit the need to expand that Bureau.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Thank you, Chief. And lastly, page 60 [sic] on the Program Budget, Ocean Safety equipment request, which I'm happy to support. Have you had any outreach from the visitor industry to maybe provide some funding support? I'm just guessing with a lot of your rescues, what would you say...is it more visitors that are needing help out there, or is it more residents, or what? And I know we have our resident water expert, Councilmember Paltin on there that maybe I could ask that question as well, but can you elaborate on that? Because you know, if...if we're having more visitors that need help out there in the water and wherever, I...I'm hoping that maybe the visitor industry can provide some type of support. Any thoughts on that, Chief?

MR. THYNE: Yeah, Member Molina, thank you. And that is always a request that we...we...it doesn't fall on deaf ears, but we...we definitely make it known to the folks that will listen to us. And one of the groups that's...that's advocated and...and provided some funding is the Hawai'i Tourism Authority. Multiple times in the past we've gotten quite a bit of resources from them. You know, I understand, like everybody else with COVID, they're going to probably take a year or two off because of the funding stream. But we certainly will engage with them. And...and Keith Regan, as you know, formerly with us here in our County is...is involved with them, and so he's been very...you know, we've been in touch from time to time just, you know, trying to check on what it looks like possibly. But I think it's going to probably, as you can anticipate, be a little while. But we'll...we'll continue to advocate for them to provide us that grant funding as they have in the past, definitely, absolutely for sure.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Thank you very much, Chiefs, for your responses. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina. Member Paltin, followed by Pro Tem Kama.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Can you hear me okay?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Is it okay to just give the rudeness disclaimer again? Because of the five --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, yes.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- minute time limit, we might interrupt when we get the answer to the question, but we don't want to be rude. Okay.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You...you got thumbs up.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: My first question would be when you said that there was a typo in the Budget, I just am wondering...so is the funding for four OSO IVs and a Training Captain correct, or is it supposed to be five OSO IVs and a Training Captain?

MR. VENTURA: You know, Councilmember Paltin, I'd have to get back to you on that exact number. When we had to convert the ten half-time positions that were given to us into full-time positions, and then we had to reallocate an OSO I position to OSO IV, it wasn't a perfect, you know, marriage, a clear conversion, so partial positions had to be used to fund the OSO IV position. I could get back to you on that.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Essentially you're saying though, there's a captain for North...two captains for North Shore, one for South Shore, and one for West Maui, and a Training Captain that we know of right now?

MR. VENTURA: That...that is...that is correct, and that is the extent of our...our, you know, captains for Ocean Safety right now. And in the narrative, it kind of clarifies that a little bit more...in our Budget Narrative.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. And of the nine towers or nine beaches that the County has, does each one have a Lieutenant position? As the number seem to have gone from nine to eight, and then the Training Lieutenant as well.

MR. VENTURA: Yeah. So in the last year or so, there was an increase in the Lieutenant position because of the one that we added to training. As far as all the beaches having lieutenants, no, one of the Kama'ole beaches right now does not have a Lieutenant. And yeah, the discussion there was just the proximity of Kam I, Kam II, Kam III being right next to each other that a third Lieutenant wouldn't need to be there. It'd be kind of similar to putting two lieutenants on Ho'okipa, I guess.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. And then when you spoke of Kihei and Pā'ia fire stations being in the flooding area, is that a situation that you don't want to build new fire stations that are within like flooding areas or within the SLR-XA, even if free land is given to you?

MR. THYNE: Yeah. No, we wouldn't...hi, Member Paltin, again. So yeah. No we wouldn't want to do that. In fact, when we had discussions briefly with one of the developers in West Maui, we made sure that the lots that they were looking at donating, basically if their project got approved, would be outside of the inundation zone. It was kind of our own managed retreat, if you will. So yeah, we would definitely not want to build a station in a potential area that would be compromised. I think you guys would be pretty mad at us if we did that.

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VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Thank you. And then the rescue water craft pay that Deputy Chief Ventura stated, that's going to be continuing on into the next fiscal year as is?

MR. VENTURA: Yeah. So right now, we're working with the union on creating a written policy so that everybody is on the same page. But that rescue water craft differential is in the CBA, and will be continued to be paid to the Ocean Safety officers.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. And then the former Lieutenant position at Kama'ole III, is that going to be now an OSO I position?

MR. VENTURA: There's...it's...I...we did not request that position to be filled immediately by an OSO I. It depends on what our future looks like for the Department as far as doing another reorganization within Ocean Safety.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. And for Baldwin and Ho'okipa, how many person towers are you looking at? Like three-man tower, two-man tower?

MR. VENTURA: Yeah. As you well know, if we have a ski there and we want to provide, you know, better service, we want a bigger tower so that in case people do need to leave the beach to go do a rescue operation, we still have people in the tower. So we're looking at, yeah, a larger tower that can accommodate the necessary manpower for that particular beach. So three- and four-man towers, yeah, not small towers.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. Deputy Chief, you did a great job, but Chief Thyne, please don't leave us anytime soon, although Mr. Ventura is more than capable.

MR. THYNE: Thanks, Member Paltin.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'll echo that, Committee Vice-Chair Paltin. Okay. We're going to go to Pro Tem Kama, followed by Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Chief, for coming here. It's always nice to hear from you and all the wonderful things that you and your team are doing. I thank you for taking such great care of our facilities, of our trucks, our cars, all of our equipment. So my question is the...the uniforms that our rescue workers, when they go out to...to put out a fire or something, how often are those uniforms and hats and the gear that they're using, how often are those things changed out or evaluated to ensure that...that it's still worth having around, or you need to order new ones, or improve upon them? You know, and do you go to conferences to learn that here's the latest in uniforms that's even more protective than the ones we had before?

MR. THYNE: Thank you, Pro Tem Kama. And thank you for the kind comments. So basically the short version is, is our personal protective equipment, as Chair Rawlins mentioned...Rawlins-Fernandez mentioned, is...PPE is...roughly ten years is the...the limitation as far as the timeline. So ten years is the lifespan. So when you come in as a recruit, you basically have a ten-year lifespan. It is inspected annually per statute

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or regulation for us, standard I should say, and then it has to have two deep cleanings annually. So regardless of if you wear it or not, it has to be inspected, and it has to be cleaned, deep cleaned. Now, the good thing is, is you've provided us as...as a body, and the Mayor's Office as well, with extractors at our stations for that cleaning. So...but Deputy Chief Ventura mentioned about the deep inspections that are done off-island on O'ahu, those are compliance related as well. And the last part, and I know you're on a timeline, so...is we do have a research and development committee. And any latest, greatest, as you've mentioned, we look at as things come out, as industry brings us types...new types of equipment, we...we field test them and we bring it to our research and development committee and find out if it's going to fit us, and if it's what we should get for our members. So that's the layers that we have in place in regards to PPE.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: And Chief, what is the cost of one of those outfits, do you know?

MR. THYNE: The...the...the piece of structural gear that we've mentioned, as far as the actual garments, not necessarily the helmet and gloves and all of the doodads, but the actual structural coat and jacket is about 1,900, and we are on a contract price with Honolulu Fire Department because we follow their specification as well. So group purchasing.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Pro Tem Kama. And I'm so sorry, Deputy Chief, I was calling you Assistant Chief earlier. My apologies.

MR. VENTURA: Don't worry.

MR. THYNE: Budget Chair Rawlins-Fernandez --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sugimura...

MR. THYNE: -- he's actually glad to hear that because they make more money.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sugimura next, followed by Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. Good job. The presentation had so much information. And I knew that Tamara Paltin, with her past experience, would cover a lot of questions that we had. So real simply, on the yellow tubes that the Kiwanis Club I think has partnered with the community on that, is there any cost passed on to us for replacements? I always wondered, I know in previous terms we had presentations from them, and I think it was Colin Yamamoto from the Fire Department. But do we have any costs?

MR. THYNE: Hi, Member Sugimura. Good to see you. No, there's no cost to our Department. It was just more of a...I think a permission and support thing. It also is

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coordinated with Parks and Rec Director Peters as well. But no cost to the Department.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Fabulous program. So it's been effective from what you're saying. Thank you. Thank you. So on the CIP portions is what I was interested in, so thank you for answering all my questions. Basically about the locations, your top three locations of which you said Launiupoko, you know, and West Maui, Olowalu, as well as in Wailuku, and that you would be interested in possibly doing a private/public partnership like what you did in Nāpili; is that correct? So are you close to even attempting that, or is that just a...is there any help you need from us to make that happen?

MR. THYNE: Member Sugimura, we've...we've been contacted by actually one of your former . . . *(inaudible)*. . . there, if I can use that term loosely, El Cochran, Elle, about Olowalu. She was working with some folks out there. We've also, you know, had conversations, like I said, with one of the developers approached us. We'll welcome any public/private partnership. Like I said, if you ask us, we want a fire station in every community. And as we grow as an island, smart hopefully with your guidance as a body, we're going to need more stations in more locations. But what Deputy Chief Ventura tried to include you in on is we have to consider where the current call volume is, demands for service, as well as communities like Ha'ikū that don't have a station. So anyway, so that's our balance, but we'll welcome any partnership that you folks either hear of or can direct our way, for sure.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. So you don't really have any plans now, but you're interested to join in conversations. Very good.

MR. THYNE: Absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: And I believe that what we learned that this provides better homeowner's insurance, or there's like other...other factors that residents have in terms of a benefit by us expanding your services. So thank you very much. In the Countywide Policy Plan, one of the...the question that I asked about whether the ambulance service would want to move to Kula, it's stated by the community, I'm going to make a correction to it because it says that Fire, you want to have the emergency AMR services at the Kula Fire Station, and there's limited land there. So I'll make that correction. It sounds like what Chief said, it was a possibility until the...the ambulance service did find a home close by, which is actually kind of what, two streets away. And they expressed to the community at a community association meeting that they like...they like to be where they are also, so I'm going to make that correction. Thank you for confirming that. And...and any help you need with getting the four-wheel drives or whatever you need for Kula in my district, please...please let us talk, because yeah, we have kind of rugged territory, and Kahikinui, all of that is very important. But thank you for your good work. I'm impressed. Your dad must be really happy, Chief Ventura, with...with your...I met your dad at one of the functions, and he was like, you know, really proud of...of what you've accomplished. And he was

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a fire fighter when he was with the County. And Chief Thyne, good job. What a good team you've put together. So thank you.

MR. VENTURA: Thank you.

MR. THYNE: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Member Johnson, followed by Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Good afternoon, Chiefs. Let me bring up this big binder here. Okay. So...so the Budget proposal, you know, three-ring binder, it's 800 pages, and it took me a long time to finally get to a page where it talked about income inequality, and that was you guys, one of the few departments that talked about the struggles. On page 228, you said that the cost of living, one of your externals, or one of your factors, one of your external factors is the cost of living outpacing worker income, and substance abuse, stress, and personal relationships distract from job performance. So I want to commend you for again being one of the few divisions [sic] that speak about the workers and the struggles that they go through. So I'm...I'm just going to ask, do you think that worker efficiency is affected by income inequality and the mental health issues due to overwork?

MR. VENTURA: Yeah, I can definitely speak to that. They...you know, over the past decade or so, it's...it's...there's been a big transition in the fire service. What used to be our most common line-of-duty death, which was either vehicle accident responding to an incident or a heart attack, has now unfortunately changed to suicide. And so we have...we...you know, our...our industry and our...our responders bear a large burden responding, you know, continuously to the community and seeing things that...that wear on them. So you know, our administration has put...put forth, you know, whatever tool we can to support, to provide peer support, to provide . . . (inaudible) . . . to provide any type of fitness support to our guys because all that supports, you know, a more rested and well-recovered employee. So you know, and any program that we can afford to do, you know, we're...we're in talks right now with both of our union and our Wellness/Fitness Program, which are run by two fire fighters who are very passionate about, you know, providing these services to our members. And...and so we work with them diligently and bring in...we brought in classes that were sponsored by International Association of Fire Fighters to provide, you know, peer support training and whatnot. We're working on a phone app right now, and then we're also looking at putting out a social media, you know, fitness program so that guys can have access to, you know, feeling better at any point of the day.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. Well, amen to that. I really appreciate your answer and your...your efforts to take care of your working folk. They're our first responders, and they're doing the God's work. So thank you so much, Chief. I have no further questions, Chair. Mahalo.



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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Johnson. Chair Lee, followed by Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Hello, Chief and Deputy. You're doing a great job. Thank you for all you do. And I have no questions. Thank you.

MR. THYNE: Thanks, Chair Lee. Good to see you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You tricked me. I really thought you were going to ask questions this time. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And mahalo to the Department, Chief Thyne and Deputy Ventura...Deputy, for answering our questions. We did have...receive information from CDBG grants, Mr. Pontanilla, that the Hāna pumper was on their . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Does the...does that funding cover the cost of the...that fire engine? And if not...

MR. THYNE: Hi, Member Sinenci. Yeah, so real quick because I know you're on a timeline. Yeah, we put it out to bid so we...you know, like every competitive bid, we hope so. We anticipate it will. In the past...being at this for the past 13 years, I can tell you that sometimes it's not enough, but that's when either we'll come to you folks for a budget amendment or, you know, hopefully we can find it within our program.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you, Chief. And then, you know, we spoke about the defibrillators, the AED, and you guys have some on...on site. For our rural communities on East Maui, like out in Kipahulu and in Keanae, you know, does having a defibrillator out there at the location help to save...save lives? Only because of the distance.

MR. VENTURA: Yeah, certainly. In the EMS world, that's one of the links in chain of survival is early defibrillation. So any time we can put a defibrillator, you know, they've...they've put them in County buildings, in gymnasiums, in schools, in the hotel lobbies. Any time we can have a defibrillator that's accessible to the public that's very easy to use, it's even got, you know, picture diagram so that anybody can almost use it, that would, you know, assist in the survivability of a patient.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Mahalo for that. We'll work with...with getting those out there. Then my next question was, what was the...I didn't see anything in here, but what was the annual budget for operating the rescue helicopter? We use that a lot.

MR. VENTURA: Yeah. So the current contract which is ending, we're looking at one point...about \$1.2 million a year, which includes the aircraft to be available 24/7. The contract is out to bid right now, that will start July 1st. So once that contract comes back we'll have real numbers . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Unfortunately, this process happens before that process. So hopefully we're staying within that same ballpark.

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Mahalo for that status update. And then we have two proposals in this Budget from two separate Members for a LIDAR drone technology, and it's definitely...I believe under the ITS. But should...should we do acquire the...the drone, is this something that the Department can use as far as firebreaks, those types of things?

MR. THYNE: Member Sinenci, absolutely. We actually have written a couple of grant applications to get our own drones. We do have kind of an informal, if you will, handshake agreement with Kaua'i Fire Department, they do have a program. They were able to get a grant a couple years ago. I've actually witnessed it myself on Kaua'i before obviously pre-pandemic. We had a meeting over there, and their fire fighters did a demonstration for the fire chiefs in the State. So we would definitely be hope...hoping to engage. We also have met with PD, MPD, they have a drone. I think they have about three drones, actually. So yeah, we're embracing technology and...and ready to jump onboard with whoever will listen to us with that type of technology.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Great. If I have time for one more question, you know, we...we met with Emergency Management. And one of their issues was getting emergency information out there, and sometimes the Maka'ala program doesn't always get that information out. Is there a way to work with Emergency Management to kind of get some of you guys, whether it be rescues and out to Environmental [sic] Management so they...they can help to share that information to the public?

MR. VENTURA: Yeah, so there's couple different ways that we can definitely help with that. One of our goals is to continue increasing our social media outreach to the community. And as we all know, that's the way news travels fastest these days. You know...you know, Maka'ala is a great tool, we all have it, we all support it, but as I'm listening to many of you talk about it, many visitors, as well as locals, don't even know what Maka'ala means. So the...our...our...our big-time goal with social media would be to eventually be able to put out, you know, up-to-date, kind of minute-by-minute notifications to the public on emergencies that would impact the community. If roads were closed, if we wanted people to avoid this area because of a HAZMAT or a fire, or if we were doing, you know, search in rural areas with aircraft and we didn't want people, you know, in the area. If we could get to a point where we have enough manpower to provide minute by minute, that would be great. Right now we're in the early stages of our social media program, where we just do educational posts as well as post-incident updates. Of course that takes manpower and positions.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: All right. Great. Thank you. Thank you for the opportunity. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Okay. My turn, and I just have two questions. My other questions were already answered. You're doing a wonderful job, mahalo. Okay. First question, many of the proposed salaries are a result of Fire's collective bargaining agreement. Does the Administration have any concern that the County at some point may not be able to sustain those increases? Is there any effort

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by the Administration to discuss such concerns with the union? And if not, is it fair to assume that should the County be unable to sustain those increases for wages, that other areas in Operations or Training would suffer to comply with the collective bargaining agreements? Does the Administration have suggestions or solutions regarding this matter?

MR. THYNE: Well, I'll take the first chunk of that, Chair Rawlins-Fernandez. So we are very soon to go to union arbitration, I believe...well, union...we're in the union negotiations with the HFFA, that's happening. I believe all the unions are from what I heard, so that's that. And I know from the Administration side, usually we're represented by DPS and...and those folks, and they...and they kind of bring in attorneys and lawyers to, you know, discuss the platform of...of revenues within the County and the ability to pay, and things of that nature. We typically don't have those numbers, but we certainly back up, if you will, the representatives from DPS and the attorneys in their discussions. For us on the management side, we just basically try to manage as best we can and be good stewards of the taxpayer dollars and, you know, and trust me when I say that we take every opportunity we can to reduce our spending. When it comes to wages and salaries, it's difficult based on the CBA, but certainly, if there's guidance that needs to be provided from us to some of the folks that negotiate these things, please, we...we are willing and able to listen and...and carry that forward. But we're kind of limited as to what we can, I guess, negotiate, if you will, with the CBA once those...those types of arbitrations happen.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chief. Okay. And then my second question is, will you please confirm that this amount will cover the total cost to completion of the Ho'olehua Fire Station, the \$550,000.

MR. VENTURA: So the...we currently have CIP money in this year's Budget that is insufficient to finish that project. And the numbers that we are estimating for the Ho'olehua Fire Station project are based on two things: One, the numbers given to us by our consultant; and two, the experience we had on Lāna'i with the bids that came in for that project. Not a similar project, but the prices were much higher than anticipated due to just the, you know, construction costs right now. So based on the consultant's recommendation, if we can combine the CIP from this year and what's in our proposed Budget, we're anticipating being able to cover that project based on the consultant's numbers. If the consultant is not correct, then we would have to come for a Budget amendment or ask for...ask for additional funding. As far as that project goes, we should have that project out to bid within the next two months, so we will know shortly.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for that information. What safeguards are in place to ensure the RFP process and the execution of the contract is done efficiently, eliminating the need for additional funds due to rise in cost as a delay? For the Ho'olehua --

MR. VENTURA: So...

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- Fire Station.

MR. VENTURA: For Ho'olehua. Okay. So we...when we looked at doing construction of, you know, expansion or building at one of our stations, we...we looked at what we need to have by Code, what we need to have by NFPA recommendations, and then what we would like to have in the building. The likes are the things that if...if we don't have enough funding, we would remove from the project entirely. As far as, you know, keep...trying to keep the request for bid in check, we will definitely...we want multiple bidders to bid this job so that we know it's a competitive bid so that they all have to do their best to provide the County with the best price to do the project.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. And then the last part of this question...okay. The Ho'olehua Fire Station is listed on two CIP projects on page 690 . . .(timer sounds). . . Oh, shucks. Members, any objections if I finish this question?

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS**

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thanks. Okay. 690 of the Program Budget is 300,000 Countywide along with Hāna, Lāna'i, and Wailea, and on page 695, 550...550,000 for Ho'olehua alone. Both project descriptions state that the funds will be used for renovation, design, and additional construction...or addition or construction. Please explain if this is an error, or why the total cost of the Ho'olehua Fire Station renovations and construction would not be listed in total under one CIP project?

MR. VENTURA: So initially when we started this project, some of the numbers that we were getting as far as guidance were about that \$350,000 range. Since we've gone through the process on Lāna'i, what we thought...what we were told was going to be about 1.2, 1.4 million ended up being 2.2 million, that's why the request for additional funds in CIP for...to support the Ho'olehua project. So that's why we're very confident we're probably not going to be able to accomplish that project with the initial \$350,000, which is why the request for the additional fiscal year funding of 550. And that is the number...the total number that the consultant gave us to stick within that we should be able to accomplish that project on.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Awesome. Thank you. Okay. Members, anyone have a need for follow-up questions? Oh, you are so efficient. You must be hungry. Okay. Okay. So we covered the operating budget, CIP budget, and no one had questions on the certificate of fitness for the fire extinguisher \$100 fee. I don't know if the Department wants to comment on that or not, you don't have to. And then there are grant revenues. Anyone have any questions on the multiple grant revenue that we receive for the Department or the three revolving funds under this Department? Member Paltin?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Just had a question because we're no longer receiving grant revenue funds for Mākena and no longer providing that service. In the past, when the first time they provided the service at Mākena, and then somebody sued, and then the

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County came back after that...after that was straightened out. There's no...we're not at liability right now because the State stopped funding the grant. So if someone were to sue for death or injury, it would be the State, not us, correct?

MR. THYNE: Member Paltin, that's what I was told. We asked that, as well as the other State fire chiefs at our State fire chief meetings asked that question amongst each other because they were also impacted. And basically, we were told that it would be the State's kuleana or they would be responsible because it's their property or...if you will. We were just providing a service and that was no longer an agreement, so that agreement doesn't exist anymore. So that's what we were advised.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. I mean, not that I want anyone to get hurt over there, it's just the way the situation played out. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Okay. No other hands. All right. I think that is everything for this...this Department, Members. Good job. I would like to congratulate Deputy Chief Ventura on leading this year's Budget.

MR. VENTURA: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Excellent work. We look forward to seeing you leading the budget next Budget Session.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh yes, I believe.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And I'll invite the Department to any final thoughts or closing comments.

MR. THYNE: Yes, I would like to say just one brief thing because I know I'm between you and lunch, and thank you for fitting us in. What I would like to say is one thing I realized, and...and this was from Japanese grandmother always trying to tell me to look at the bright side of things. And so with the pandemic has been such a gloom over all of us and a change in lifestyle. And...and what I requested on one...at one moment in time many months ago, but during the middle of this whole pandemic, is there was a lot of things we took for granted. And so the appreciation that we could...you know, the Water Department, when you turn on the faucet, clean water was going to come out. You know, the...the refuse men showed up and took your trash away. And you know, for...for us as the Fire Department, and as chief officers in leadership for our Department, both as the Fire and the Ocean Safety side, you know, we were continuously doing all we could for our membership and...and keeping them safe, and...and keeping them well, and...and it was a constant battle. And so, you know, now we turn it over to you folks with our Budget and saying, now it's your turn to do what you need to do. And so we thank you. And we appreciate your guidance as always. And we thank you for all that you've provided to us and for us and your communities as we get through this. So thank you very much, and God bless you all.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Profound parting words, Chief. Mahalo. And aloha to everyone. Okay. Members, it's 12:54, we can take a break until 2:00 or 2:30. Any preference, Members?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: 2:30.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: 2:15.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We'll compromise...

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I've got to drive to get lunch.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay. Okay. We can do 2:30. All right. So we have up next the Department of Housing and Human Concerns, and I estimated that we would be seeing them at about 3:10. So if we return at 2:30, we'll be 40 minutes ahead of schedule, kind of, and then we may not need to stay too much longer.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, don't say that, you're going to bachi us.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Well, let's...let's shoot to get out of the meeting while the sun's still up. Okay. So it's...Member Paltin, you have a question or comment?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Well, I just...before we get into Housing and Human Concerns, I wanted to disclose that my two kids go to the Boys and Girls Club, and they use MEO transportation. And if anybody wants me to recuse myself because I think they're really great programs, but I'll recuse myself if you guys want me to, I will.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, we don't want you to.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Consensus?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Consensus.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Consensus.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I'm not like trying to increase --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- their money or anything --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- but just disclosing.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your disclosure. Okay. It's 12:55, we'll return at 2:30, and we'll have the Department of Housing and Human Concerns. All right. The

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Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee is now in recess.  
...*(gavel)*...

RECESS: 12:55 p.m.  
RECONVENE: 2:34 p.m.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: ...*(gavel)*... Will the Finance...Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee please return to order. It's 2:34 on April 8th.

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND HUMAN CONCERNS**

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And we're on our second department for...second and final department for today, Department of Housing and Human Concerns. And we have Director Tsuhako and Deputy Director Linda Munsell, as well as Budget Director Yoshimura. Aloha, everyone. So we'll...oh, Director Tsuhako?

MS. TSUHAKE: Hi. Good afternoon, Madam Chair, Members. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Good afternoon. Okay. I don't know if monet means good day or only good morning. That would be a Chair Lee question. Okay, Members. So shall we dive right into the questions? All right. I like that energy, Members. First question, if Council were to ask for an 11 percent cut in programs and activities funded by the General Fund to fully fund the proposed recommendations in the Comprehensive Affordable Housing Plan at \$57 million without increasing real property tax revenue, A, what programs or activities would you cut; and B, what impact would the cuts have on residents?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. So given the uncertainty of the County's financial outlook in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department was charged with crafting a Budget proposal for Fiscal Year '22 that was equal to or less than the 20...Fiscal Year '21 Budget of \$82,294,612. The Mayor's request to the Department was for a pared down Budget proposal that met the basic operational needs of the Department, while also providing for the current level of service to the community. So the Deputy Director and I met with each of our divisions to discuss and review problematic and operational needs, and to discuss any suggestions for addressing community safety net needs that weren't included. The Budget proposal submitted to the Council by the Mayor reflects the many hours of work done at all levels of our department to achieve the objectives articulated by the Mayor. Our Fiscal Year '22 Budget proposal is already 4.9 percent less than that adopted for Fiscal Year '21, and at this juncture, the Department cannot offer any proposed programs or activities for reduction to meet the requested 11 percent threshold. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay. The next set of questions is regarding salaries and wages. One, are the Senior Service Transit Aide II positions and the half-time Senior Service Aide II positions vacant or unfunded?

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MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Those positions are funded and currently in recruitment.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Great. Okay. Question two, are there plans for any of the Department's personnel to carry out the recommendations in the Draft Comprehensive Affordable Housing Plan to identify a parcel of land in the County's portfolio to dedicate as a manufactured housing plant, and use the property to also pilot research and development of locally sourced building materials?

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Administration has yet to plan for Department personnel to carry out the recommendations to identify a parcel of land for a manufactured housing plant, and to research and develop local resource building material. The County has an inventory of County-owned property, but to date the assessments of these properties has been specifically around whether or not these sites are appropriate for affordable housing developments. Other uses, such as the current suggestion, have not been explored. The Department would ask for consideration of possibly working with a vendor or a different County office or Department that has more expertise in the planning business development area or in the manufacturing industry, as these are not within the Department's capacity at this time.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay. Question three, what would the cost for...for additional Department personnel to manage, draft, and issue a Request for Qualifications and following Request for Proposals to implement the recommendations in the Comprehensive Affordable Housing Plan to identify a parcel of land in the County's portfolio to dedicate as a manufactured housing plant, and use the property to also pilot research and development of locally sourced building materials?

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you for that follow up, Madam Chair. If charged with the responsibility to identify County-owned property and develop a manufactured housing plant and research the use of locally sourced building materials, we anticipate that we would need to hire staff with experience equivalent to our Development Project Coordinator. The starting salary for that position would be in the range of \$62,136 annually, plus overhead costs including fringe, equipment, and other costs such as that. Additionally, other costs would be incurred if the Department were to be responsible for the ongoing operations of such a facility. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. The next set of questions are regarding operations and equipment. Question one, what entity will the contracted...will be contracted for technical assistance with updating Department policies?

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Madam Chair. A contractor has not been identified by the Housing Division. The Department is...is unable to RFP for the services without the associated budget funding. So we anticipate that there will be several entities who would be able to provide proposals for the services needed by the Department once the funding is made available.



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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Director. Question two, what entities received contracts for feral animal services?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Awards for the \$750,000 in Fiscal Year 2022 feral animal control have not yet been determined, so the Department will issue an invitation to apply to solicit those applications once the new fiscal year commences.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Question three, what entities received contracts for the Ohana Zone-Kahului Affordable Housing for Homeless Family services?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Department has already contracted with Hale Mahaolu to provide property management for the project, and is in the process of executing contracts with Family Life Center to provide the case management services to the family...families, excuse me, to the families.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Question four, please explain the anticipated travel expense for FY'21 Actual and FY'22 Proposed, which seem high considering the ongoing pandemic.

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you for that question, Madam Chair. The summary budget reference on page 266 of the budget narrative notes an increase of \$12,540 in travel in Fiscal Year '22. This slight increase, it's a 6.4 increase in the Department's overall travel costs were driven by a \$20,450 increase in travel allocation by the Maui County Office on Aging. MCOA is expecting to receive additional State funding of \$175,000 for the ADRC, and thus allocated funds for travel in anticipation of planned in-person comprehensive training on the development of State and area plans on aging. So it's based on the...the receipt of that...the anticipated receipt of grant funding. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Question five, please explain the differences between the First Time Home Buyers Program and the Home Acquisition and Ownership Program.

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. At this time, the First Time Home Buyers Program is the only activity funded through the Home Acquisition and Ownership Revolving Fund. Having the funding through this revolving fund will enable the Department of Housing and Human Concerns to continue to maintain and expand the existing First Time Home Buyers Program, as well as create new programs to meet the needs of Maui County residents. These yet-to-be-created programs will be named in Maui County Code 3.34 once they're established and approved by the Council. Thank you.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Question six, please list the activities and services the Home Acquisition and Ownership Program Revolving Fund will provide.

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. At this time, the revolving fund supports the continuation of the First Time Home Buyers Down Payment Assistance Program, where eligible residents may receive awards of up to 5 percent of the purchase price or \$30,000, whichever is less, to assist with down payment and closing costs. As I explained earlier, it also allows us to develop additional programs and included...include it under that revolving fund. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Please explain why the First Time Home Buyers Program was not made into a revolving fund?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Department determined that the creation of the Home Acquisition and Ownership Program's revolving fund would both support the First Time Home Buyers Program and enable the infrastructure to allow the Department to identify and propose other similar programs to meet housing needs of Maui County residents in the future. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Okay. Question eight, relating to the proposed increase of \$1 million to the Home Acquisition and Ownership Program Revolving Fund, A, with the transfer of funds from the First Time Home Buyers Program, how much revenue will...will be in this fund; and B, if the Council appropriated \$2 million to this fund in FY'22, would the Department be able to distribute the funds?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. So starting with A, how much revenue will be in this fund. Approximately 1.4 million was transferred from the First Time Home Buyers Program. The Department does have clients who are in contract right now and will receive awards from this allocation before the end of this current fiscal year. The number of awards and the amount to be spent may change as additional clients may enter into purchase contracts. Should an additional \$1 million be added for Fiscal Year '22, the Department anticipates approximately 2 to 2.4 million in the fund in Fiscal Year '22. Second question, if the Council appropriated 2 million to this fund in Fiscal Year '22, would the Department be able to distribute the funds. Based on the previous year's closing rate, which we all know was impacted by COVID-19, the Department does not anticipate it will be able to spend an additional \$2 million if the allocation is increased in Fiscal Year '22. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Question nine, the appropriation for the Affordable Rental Housing Program is \$2 million for FY'22. If the Council increased the appropriation to 3 million or 4 million, would there be sufficient need to warrant the increase?

MS. TSUHAKE: And thank you for that question. So this year, the County will receive up to \$40 million in Federal emergency rental assistance to provide rental assistance and utility assistance to households impacted by COVID-19 in 2020 and in 2021. While

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this funding is anticipated to be sufficient to meet the needs of households impacted directly by COVID-19, the County Affordable Rental Housing Program is able to serve households who have a need for rental assistance, but have not been directly impacted by COVID-19. If the Council awarded additional funding to the program, there may be benefits to the community from the funding, but the specific amount that would be sufficient really cannot be determined at this time. As of now, the Department feels that the \$2 million appropriation is sufficient, given the other emergency rental assistance programs that are available this year. If the Council wishes to increase the allocation, the Department does not recommend funding at...beyond the total of \$3 million. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Question ten, relating to the HI COMM Foundation for Housing Affordability Initiatives, A, please describe the initiatives in detail; and B, how will the \$250,000 be used, and will these funds help to purchase land, pay for infrastructure, and result in providing immediate shelter and housing units?

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Madam Chair. The \$250,000 is...is the second year of a two-year matching grant to the Hawai'i Community Foundation. These funds will be used to support the implementation and the execution of several of Maui's housing affordability initiatives. The \$250,000 will be used to...oh, excuse me, the funds will be used for the following activities. Let me list them for you. Increase the pipeline of qualified renters and homebuyers, build political and community support for more housing, grow knowledge base of decision makers on affordable housing issues and opportunities, and...excuse me....enhance existing data collection and reporting capabilities around affordable housing.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Question 11, please identify which, if any, of the seven projects listed under the Affordable Housing Fund have not yet been approved by Council.

MS. TSUHAKO: And thank you, Madam Chair. The Lānaʻi affordable housing project is the County-owned parcel on Lānaʻi. This project is in the planning stages, and the funding could be used for planning, design, engineering, and construction. Second project, Dickenson Street, Lāhainā, I won't...Madam Chair, if it's okay with you, I won't read out the TMK numbers. Those will be provided to the Committee in our transmittal correspondence to you. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Great. Mahalo.

MS. TSUHAKO: Dickenson Street, Lāhainā, this project was referred to Committee in the Council meeting of April 6th, and identified as CC 21-173, Item 11. The \$650,000 in funding requested is for the acquisition of the property. The remainder of the projects were heard at the Affordable Housing Committee in March of 2021. They are Kaiaulu o Halelea Phase 1B, Hale O Piʻikea II, Waiehu Apartments, Na Hale O Maui, and Hale Pilina. We're...we're going to send that in a letter. So we need to make one correction

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in our correspondence, and that will correct an error made on the TMK for the Waiehu Apartments. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Question 12, does the Department anticipate the Senior Fair Program returning to its previous format? Are the increased costs related to adjustments that were needed due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

MS. TSUHAKE: So thank you, Madam Chair. The Maui County Office on Aging anticipates that the event will return to previous format at such a time that gatherings can once again occur. The budgeted amount has not increased since 2019; however, the Division anticipates the need to spend more than in...in the past on supplies to ensure the safety and health of those who attend, and these include items such as those portable freestanding hand sanitizers in the...in the site at the gym to encourage people to keep sanitized hands and not get sick. The proposed realignment of funds for...from travel to miscellaneous other costs is not probably needed.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay. Question 13, please provide a breakdown of all expenses related to the \$50,000 allocated for the Feral Animal Control for F...Fiscal Years '19, '20, and '21.

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. The \$50,000 allocated for Feral Animal Control in Fiscal Year 2019, 2020, and Fiscal Year 2021 have been awarded to the Maui Humane Society. The Maui Humane Society typically uses these funds to address feral cats.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay. Question 14, what is the status of the Kula Ridge housing project?

MS. TSUHAKE: And thank you, Madam Chair. The developer of Kula Ridge, LLC, Clayton Nishikawa, is still attempting to secure financing for a pilot . . .(inaudible). . . to be able to complete the project pursuant to County conditions and requirements. The developer has until February 20th, 2022 to begin construction, or the State Land Use Commission entitlement will be voided at that time.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay. The next set of questions is regarding County grants. The first question is Grants and Disbursements for Food, Shelter, and Safety. A, please provide the breakdown of how Food, Shelter, and Safety Grants are and will be disbursed.

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. So in the Department's correspondence, which we'll send to you...I think will be transmitted later today, this material is actually contained in a table that shows a comparison between the Fiscal Year '21 allocation and the Fiscal Year '22 allocations as proposed. And since I cannot share screens with you, what I'll do is I'll just read out the name of the grantee and...and give you the total. Okay. So the first allocation is for Aloha House for Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for Adults, \$143,000, which is stable from last fiscal year. The Hale Pomaikai, Co-occurring Disorder and Substance Abuse Treatment, funded at \$30,000,

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also same as last year. Malama Na Makua A Keiki, Substance Abuse Treatment for Women, same at 185,643. The Maui Aids Foundation for Maui County's HIV, HCV, and STI Rapid Testing, Prevention, and Counseling Program remains steady at \$140,000. Maui Economic Opportunity, Incorporated Independent Living for Persons with Disabilities remains steady at \$63,200. Mediation Services of Maui for Mediation Services and Conflict Resolution Training remains steady at \$51,000. Moloka'i Community Service Council for Hale Ho'omalu Domestic Violence Shelter, remaining steady at \$65,000. Parents and children together for the Maui Family Peace Center, remaining steady at \$80,000. And the Roman Catholic Church of Hawaii, the Saint Theresa's Hale Kau Kau Program, remaining steady at \$60,000. So in all, the allocation for Food, Shelter, and Safety programs total \$882,843 for Fiscal Year '22, which is flat funding from Fiscal Year '21. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. And then Members, we will get the responses in writing at the end of the day. So if you didn't write it down fast enough, we'll...we'll get that in writing later. Okay. Question two, Grants and Disbursements for Early Childhood, A, as more families are returning to work and seeking childcare, are the proposed appropriations for Early Childhood Programs sufficient, given there is no proposed increase from FY'21 to FY'22?

MS. TSUHAKE: And thank you, Madam Chair. The Early Childhood Resource Coordinator monitors subsidy assistance needs and how those needs are met, as well as the existence of...of gap group families very closely. So State, Federal, and private funding for subsidy assistance is being prioritized, and the program is implementing services that will assist families with applying to those programs. The proposed budget is sufficient at this time to assist the anticipated gap groups that may arise. And we thank you for acknowledging the importance of childcare because it really is a critical piece to getting our economy going and people back to work. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. And B, please provide the breakdown of how Early Childhood Program monies are and will be disbursed.

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. So once again, this information will be provided to you and the Committee in the form of a table in our correspondence. I'll simply read the name of the grantee agency, describe the title of the program, and then give you the amount of funding that they received in Fiscal Year '21 and in Fiscal Year '22 proposed. All right. So...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And Director, I...I know you can't share your screen, but I could share my screen if you would like to do that.

MS. TSUHAKE: I'm not even sure how to work the stuff in the Finance Conference Room, Madam Chair, so sorry, I'm a little bit ignorant about that. I'll...I'll just try my best to not roll through this too fast. So if somebody is particularly interested in these grantees, they'll have a moment to write down the total. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

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MS. TSUHAKE: Imua Family Services, Early Childhood Development Services, Fiscal Year '21, 56,250, funding to remain flat for Fiscal Year '22. Imua Family Services for Teddy Bear Corner on Moloka'i, Fiscal Year '21, \$13,150, remaining steady for Fiscal Year '22. Maui Family Support Services, Early Childhood Programs, including the Maui County Childcare Subsidy and Resource Center Program, funded in Fiscal Year '21 at \$121,043, Fiscal Year '22 proposed, \$176,043, an increase of 55,000. Maui Family Support Services for Early Childhood Family Literacy Program, Fiscal Year '21 funded at \$62,500, remaining steady for Fiscal Year '22. PATCH, People Attentive to Children, LENA Learning Environment Analysis and Literacy Program, funded for \$20,000 in Fiscal Year '21, and remaining steady for Fiscal Year '22. And finally, PATCH for Childcare Provider Sustainability and Recruitment, \$22,500 in Fiscal Year '21, and remaining steady for Fiscal Year '22. In total, aggregate, the funding distributed in Fiscal Year 2021 was \$295,443, and the proposed amount for Fiscal Year 2022 is \$350,443. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Question three, Grants and Disbursements for Health, Human Services and Education, A, why has the Food Security and [sic] Unsheltered Persons grant adopted in FY'21 been cut for FY'22? Will funds for this purpose come from a different source?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. The funding for Fiscal Year '21 for the Food Security for Unsheltered Persons, we weren't aware that it was to be an ongoing funding request, we...the Department assumed that it was a one-year funding in response to the COVID pandemic. Much of the Fiscal Year '21 funding was used to build programmatic capacity for the organizations who are able to pursue the County grant agreements with the expectation that once those organizational capacities had been built, ongoing funding from the County was not going to be requested. The Department has additional funding requests under the homeless programs for arising needs, which could be used to address food security in the future, and we'd be open to accepting those applications. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Three B, please provide the breakdown of how Homeless Program monies are and will be disbursed.

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. So Family Life Center for Case Management, Fiscal Year 2021, \$180,000, remaining constant. Family Life Center for Homeless Outreach, funded at \$140,000 in Fiscal Year '21, remaining constant. Ka Hale A Ke Ola Homeless Resource Centers for Central and West Side operations and a Step-up Program, funded in Fiscal Year '21 for \$652,000, remaining constant. Ka Hale A Ke Ola Homeless Resource Centers for Ka La Hiki Ola Mobile Hygiene Unit Program, funded in Fiscal Year '21 for \$202,806, remaining constant. The Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i, Holistic Legal Services for Maui's Most Vulnerable Population, \$70,000 in Fiscal Year '21, remaining constant. Share Your Mana, Chilis on Wheels, and Common Ground Collective for Food Security for Unsheltered Persons, funded in Fiscal Year 2021 at \$100,000, and that funding was...was determined to be divided equally among the three grantees. There's no allocation for that for Fiscal Year '22.

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Lokahi Pacific for their Teens on Call-Homeless Site Cleanup Program, funded at \$50,000 in Fiscal Year 2021, and \$50,000 in Fiscal Year 2022. Additionally, they're...the Department requested an additional \$250,000 to be added to the homeless allocation, which would bring our request in Fiscal Year 2022 to \$1,769,806. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Three C, please provide the breakdown of how Frail and Elderly Services monies are and will be disbursed.

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Hale Mahaolu Personal Care, Homemaker, Chore, and In-Home Respite Program, \$500,000. Lānaʻi Kinaole Personal Care, Homemaker, Chore, In-Home...excuse me, let me just start that again. So let me just compare. Excuse me. So Hale Mahaolu for Personal Care, Homemaker, Chore, In-Home Respite, \$500,000 in Fiscal Year '21, and \$500,000 in Fiscal Year 2022. Lānaʻi Kinaole Personal Care, Homemaker, Chore, and In-Home Respite Program, \$25,000. The...this agency is likely going to receive some additional Federal funds, so we have not allocated for them in Fiscal Year 2022. Hoʻokele Caregivers Maui, Personal Care, Homemaker, Chore, In-Home Respite, \$50,000, and that amount remains constant for Fiscal Year 2022. Hale Kau Kau for meals to homebound in Kihei, funded at \$40,000 in Fiscal Year 2021, and there is no allocation for them in Fiscal Year 2022. Mom's Meals for meals to the homebound in areas in which Kaunoa cannot deliver or for seniors with specific dietary restrictions, that is funded in Fiscal Year 2021 at \$246,739. In Fiscal Year 2022, the allocation is expected to be 150,739 because again, this agency is expected to receive additional Federal or State funding due to their services and the agency's ability to serve geographically isolated locations. There is one additional grantee for Fiscal Year '22 proposed budget, and that is the Maui Food Technology Center, which is the Food Truck Voucher Program for seniors to reduce food insecurity. And the projected funding for that program in Fiscal Year '22 is \$96,000. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Director. Okay. Question four, Grants and Disbursements for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, A, please provide the breakdown of how Substance Abuse Program monies are and will be disbursed.

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Aloha House for Medically Monitored Substance Abuse Detox, funded in Fiscal Year 2021 at \$125,000, remains constant for Fiscal Year '22. The Community Clinics of Maui Substance Abuse Treatment Program, funded at \$60,000, remaining constant. Ka Hale Pomaikaʻi Sober Housing & Culture Based Treatment on Molokaʻi, funded at \$63,000, remaining constant. Maui Family Support Services for Teen Voices-Teen Services Program, funded at \$40,499, remaining constant. Maui Youth and Family Services for Substance Abuse Treatment for Adolescents, funded at \$62,500, remaining constant. Mental Health Kokua Homeless Outreach for Mental Health Empowerment & Psychosocial Rehab, funded at \$95,000, remains constant. Ohana Makamae Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services, funded at \$50,050, remains constant. Lokahi Pacific Hoʻoulu Na Kamaliʻi Program, funded at \$100,010...\$110,000, excuse me, remaining constant. And there is an additional \$150,000 that has yet to be determined. So the total allocation

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requested in Fiscal Year 2022 remains consistent at 759...excuse me, \$756,049. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Question five, Grants and Disbursements for Youth Centers and Programs, A, please provide the breakdown of how Youth Program monies are and will be disbursed.

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: One moment. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: How many more questions are there?

MS. TSUHAKE: I think two or three.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, that's all? Okay. Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No, for County grants, one more, and then there's grant funding with one, and then Key Activity Goals & Measures with one. So three more...three more questions.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Are you having too much fun yet?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Are we supposed to be committing all this to memory?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, there's a quiz after.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Okay. Director?

MS. TSUHAKE: I hope the Chair is not trying to tell me that I'm really boring. Shall I try to spice it up a little bit? Maybe, yeah? Thank you for your question. The funding for Grants and Disbursements for Youth Programs is allocated for Lokahi Pacific Teen on...Teens on Call Program, and their funding remains constant from Fiscal Year '21 to '22 at \$94,177.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay. Second-to-the-last question on grant funding, one, what new or ongoing services or programs will the Aging and Disability Resource Center expansion cover?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. So the Department also update the title of the grant, so this is not really an expansion. The funding received via this grant is applied to various operational costs, such as salaries, supplies, equipment, furnishings, and



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software. So it was our error in not changing the title of the grant. There is no expansion.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. And then the last question, Key Activity Goals & Measures, one, relating to the Human Concerns Program Goal 1: Build the capacity of Maui's non-profit and community organizations to effectively engage volunteers by sharing best practices in volunteer management and resources. Measure 2 states, Offer group volunteer leadership trainings including best practices in volunteer management. The goals are set at 30 percent for the trainees, who report that the training added to their skills and knowledge sufficiently to enhance their ability to volunteer...in volunteer management, and 10 percent for the trainees to report that they have applied some of the skills and knowledge they gained from the training to their volunteer management program. Are these considered high success rates? Has the Department developed an improvement plan to achieve better results?

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Madam Chair. The...these are actually new performance measures that were developed by the Volunteer Center in order to move towards a more outcome-based budgeting process. So it's our first year using these measures, these percentages, and we believe that the...that there are...reasonable success rates because we haven't tried these before. So what we're trying to do is we're...we had to change the way volunteer training was offered due to COVID. And so Wendy has transitioned into doing more video-based training with smaller groups of...of cohorts who recruit, retain, and recognize volunteers. So part of what these measures are, are...so for the total number of...of people who are trained in a training, we do an immediate survey to see if people found the training beneficial. And then there's a follow-up done in three...two months, saying, you know, did you...were you...have you been able to actually implement the skills and the techniques and concepts that you learned in this training into your work with volunteers. And then looking at a further dive down to look at well, at least 10 percent can...of those people can identify one particular skill that they've actually implemented in order to impact their Volunteer...Volunteer Recruitment, Retention, and Recognition Program. So we're...we're taking little bites of this to try and see what types of activities are actually found to be supportive for agencies to recruit and retain more volunteers because we need them, and also looking at how is the County's program going to adapt to better support and...and teach those agencies the best practices around volunteer management. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay. Members...

MS. TSUHAKO: Madam Chair? Madam Chair? May I...may I just ask one...just one large ask of the Committee at this point in time before we go into your questions? So recently, the Department received a letter...a notification letter from the Department of Education that informed us that starting in June of this year, the price of their DOE meals will go up by about 8.3 percent per meal. So Kaunoa, which provides many...you know, I think they've done 1,000 meals a day during the course of the...this pandemic, is going to have to pay more money to pay for those DOE meals that are then delivered to the homebound seniors. So in terms of our Budget detail,

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it's on page 8-27 in our Budget, the index code is 914358B, and the title is Meals Program. Given the unexpected increase in prices notified to...notified by the Department of Education, the Department is going respectfully request the consideration for a \$115,000 increase in that...in that...in the Budget to accommodate the additional costs that we're going to have to pay to the DOE.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: 115?

MS. TSUHAKE: Yeah, 115,000. Thank you. Thank you for your consideration.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Director. Okay, Members. We'll go to...we'll open up the floor for questions, put five minutes on the clock, and we'll start with our...oh. Oh, okay. So there's the...there's two subject matter Committee Chairs, I don't know who to go first. There's the Housing Program and Human Concerns Program, so...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I'll defer while I get my paperwork together.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. We'll go ladies first. Pro Tem Kama, and then Member Johnson. So Pro Tem Kama, as the Human Concerns subject matter Committee Chair, and then Member Johnson is the Housing Committee Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Chair, I don't have any questions on the human concerns side.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, I'm sorry. You can ask anything in the Department. I'm sorry, I wasn't clear. I was just...for this Department, there are two subject matter Committee Chairs.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Right.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I forgot to think about that before I was going to call on someone. So --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Oh, okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- but you can ask...

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: No, but I don't have any questions for the Department, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay. Mahalo, Pro Tem Kama. Okay. That was really quick. Member Johnson? You have five minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you. Okay. So thank you for all of that information, it was a lot to...a lot to put down. I wanted to talk about the...as far as the funding goes for Maui Food Bank, do you guys have any plans to increase the services on...on the...or increase the funding on the islands, Moloka'i and Lāna'i specifically?

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MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Member Johnson. I don't believe the Food Bank has approached the Department for any...any request in terms of increasing funding for food on Moloka'i or on Lāna'i. I believe that there are already various partnerships in place on each of those islands to...to distribute food. I don't know if it's done especially regularly, but I think the...the community-wide networks for different partnerships between the faith community and farmers, for example, has...have already been established in COVID. So...but the Department did not receive a request from Food Bank for additional allocation.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you. I wanted to speak to you in regards to the community housing plan report. They were talking about how important it was for your Department to expand. Can you speak on positions are...of expansion, would you...are...do you think you have the capacity to expand with your present staffing? Or because of the upcoming report, are you ready to take on more work?

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Member Johnson. The...you know, it's really challenging because as I said in my opening, the Mayor asked us to come in with a flat budget and...and we've...and the Administration has been very conservative in filling vacant positions as well. We don't...we don't have any vacant positions in Housing that are unfilled. But I think in order to...to fully...if the Department was solely responsible for implementing all of the actions in the Housing Plan as proposed, we would definitely need to have much more staffing than we do now, and staffing of a different expertise than maybe we have the capacity for right now. I'm not prepared at this moment to, you know, give you a list of certain positions or whatever that would be needed, but certainly, the existing staff is not able to do what their current responsibilities are, and then sort of be diverted to do additional tasks as well.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you. So would it be fair to say that you would be looking for outsourcing through nonprofits or other...other means to get the job done?

MS. TSUHAKO: I...and thank you, Member Johnson. I think that response really...it really depends on what the task is, right? I mean, I think there's certain functions that by our collective bargaining responsibilities cannot be outsourced without getting into some trouble. But I think it just...it really does depend on what the task is. So I think there's certain...there's certain functions that can be...it can be procured, certain services that can be procured for and could be done by other entities, and there are some that might be considered actually within the purview of civil servants, and it must be handled within the...the Department itself.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So there's certain...I wouldn't call them roadblocks, but either certain protocol that you have to follow, like you can't outsource some things because union rules, but you can outsource other things. So okay, I understand. All right. Thank you. I have no further questions, Chair. Thank you, Directors.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Johnson. We'll go to Committee Vice-Chair Paltin, followed by Member Sinenci.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. The Director answered all the questions I had on paper thoroughly and completely. Good job.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair Lee is very impressed. See, we invested...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Actually shocked.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, oh, sorry, I used the wrong word. We invested the time upfront, and...and we're saving time now in the middle. Okay. Member Sinenci, followed by Member Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And I just had some simple questions of clarification. So for I believe last year, we had...you mentioned 100,000 for Share Your Mana, Chili [sic] on Wheels, and Common Ground Collective. And so I see that Common Ground Collective has some funding, but did you mention the purpose for not funding the other ones?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Councilmember Sinenci. I'm not quite sure I understand your question. What...the Department...the Department did not renew the funding for those three agencies that were listed in the proviso. We executed a contract with Common Ground Collective and are, I think, very, very close to executing a final agreement with Chilis on Wheels. And we don't anticipate that Share Your Mana will be able to execute a contract for Fiscal Year 2021, I mean, just based on some of the statements made publicly by that agency. So what I said was that if those agencies require or feel like they need additional funding going into Fiscal Year '22 for the purpose of feeding the unsheltered, then the Department has an allocation from which we can draw and issue contracts. So the contracts that were just executed will run from this...from this time of 2021 until next year of 2022 for a full year I believe, and so we'll give the agencies ample time to spend down that funding.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. Thank you, Director. And then, you know, we were looking at...at expanding the...the fleet of...of mobile hygiene units, but we found that a lot of them is it's hard to maintain, you would need additional...for maintenance, for a driver, for just the upkeep of the hygiene units. Is there room for...it looks like one of the main priorities is getting water to some of our homeless population. Is there any room anywhere for, you know, looking at some kind of water wagon that would transport water to...to some of the camps that do not have access to...to drinking water?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Councilmember. The Department...the Department has not considered water wagons per se. We have some idea of how much mobile hygiene units cost to purchase and then to operate. And I think you're absolutely correct that the cost of operating and maintaining them is way higher than anybody first anticipated when we had discussions about those. I know that there have been

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requests made from different agencies asking for water to be brought to various homeless encampments, and we're very fortunate that our partners at the Food Bank and at Feed My Sheep have responded to those needs and actually delivered water to those places. So, much of the...I think much of that charitable response to homeless encampments has been answered by our community partners. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you for that, Director. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Member Molina, followed by Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Good afternoon, Director Tsuhako and Director Munsell. First I'd like to...your responses to the Home Acquisition and Ownership Program and First Time Home Buyers Fund was interesting because one of my budget proposals is to add another million to that specific program. But based on what I...I've heard from you, it seems like, you know, you're going to have a difficult time distributing the funding. I know the Mayor is already putting in a million, and I was looking at putting in another million. But would you say now the greater need is for rental assistance versus First Time Home Buyers Fund or Home Acquisition and Ownership Programs? And then I'm going to add the...the Councilmember Paltin disclaimer, because we're under a clock, so if I got to cut you off, Lori, it's not...it's not to be rude, it's just that, you know, I want to try and get in as much as questions and responses from you with the time left. So go ahead and respond to my first question.

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Councilmember Molina. I won't hold it against you. So I...I...I do believe that your analysis that you just provided is accurate. The need seems to be for more rental assistance than it would be for assistance with down payment. But what we found is that the inventory of homes available for purchase is a little...is going down, and that because of the pandemic, many people...even those who've been...remained employed over the past year, are having some difficulty or, you know, having some trepidation about signing on to a 30-year mortgage. So I think that the...the demand for first-time homebuyers assistance may be going down incrementally based on these...the insecurity of our financial situation. But definitely there is a need for rental assistance. and the Federal funds that are coming from the Treasury, the \$40 million will definitely be helpful in addressing that. But like we said earlier, those are tied to applications being able...applicants being able to prove there's a direct relationship between their financial situation and COVID. So having the County-funded Rental Assistance Program kind of provides a cushion for those who cannot prove a direct relationship between their finances and COVID, but also need the assistance. So I...I think that those are good programmatic responses to community needs. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. So...so...so adding another million to that, it wouldn't cause you any difficulty to administer and get out those funds versus trying to get...administer funds from the Home Acquisition Program? It'd be a lot more easier?

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Because I guess you do have pass-through agencies that are doing that for you as well under your affordable rental assistance programs; am I correct?

MS. TSUHAKO: You are absolutely correct, sir. So we have four partner agencies, Women Helping Women, MEO, Family Life Center, and Ka Hale A Ke Ola that have remained consistence for many, many years, and have been distributing those funds for many years. They do an excellent job, they coordinate their work to avoid duplication, and we have a lot of confidence that they'll continue to be able to do that service for the County.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Well, thank you for your responses. And as you know, Director, we kind of grew up in some very humble means ourselves, where our families operated small businesses, but we lived in the back of the small businesses in very cramped quarters, so we certainly can connect with people who are, you know, struggling with housing. So...but anyway, back in the good old days of Makawao, yeah, Lori? But anyway...Madam Chair, so at some later point, are you going to allow us to modify our budget proposals? Will you allow us to do that at some point during the deliberations or decision-making process?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina, for the question. Yeah, when your proposal comes up, if there's any modification that needs to be made, you can...

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, I'm going...I'm going to be looking at modifying this proposal, which is number 72 on the matrix, based on the responses from the Director and where the greater need is for funding. So okay, I thank you for that leeway, Madam Chair. I'm done. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Look, you didn't even have to cut off Director Tsuhako. Okay. All right. Chair Lee, followed by Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Hi, Lori and Ms. Munsell. Okay. I'm going to be asking about, you know, the pallet homes and the homeless. Have you been able to move people on from the pallet homes that...off of Waiale?

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Madam Chair, for your question. The answer is a resounding yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, very good.

MS. TSUHAKO: Thanks...thanks to the hard work and partnership of Family Life Center, which took over management of the pallet home shelter project in October of last year, there's been, I think, more than 12 people who were in the pallet homes who've been transitioned into permanent housing. In fact...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Stop. Okay. Thank you.

MS. TSUHAKO: Yeah.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: That answers that, very good.

MS. TSUHAKEO: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So that means you put 12 other families in the pallet homes from off the streets?

MS. TSUHAKEO: I...I don't know how many more were...were switched in and out, but I think that the...they've taken people off the streets to take them there, to the pallet homes, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. Yeah. Because that was the whole purpose of that. So you know, it's like we were thinking that, you know, like the people who are parked in...along Kanahā Beach Park, is...is it...do you need more, let's say, counselors to go out and--because you've always talked about wraparound services--to go out and explain to people over and over and over again what the services are, and encourage them, you know, to...to find jobs or to just move forward? Is that the area that's needed? Or...or let's say, maybe counselors with Family Life Center or some...one of the nonprofits. Is there a big need? Because that's the way you start encouraging people to take the first and second and third steps.

MS. TSUHAKEO: Thank you, Madam Chair. The...I think that our homeless outreach has a very wide and far reach. I would need to consult with Ms. Cummings about whether if she could expand her capacity if...if she had more funding to hire more people. I know that Maude is very conservative about not just taking money for the sake of taking money, but making sure that she has all of the infrastructure necessary to support that staffing and do it in a coordinated way. I'll repeat myself over stuff that I said in the...in the Human Concerns and Parks meeting, as well as in the Affordable Housing Committee, is that we have a system of care. We need to shore up that system of care so that the messages being given to those who are unsheltered are consistent. So if there's an agency that's doing charitable work, that know people really well, our hope is that they...they connect that homeless individual with the housing resources so that it's not housing resource people coming in and going oh, having people say oh, no, like I no like talk to you because, you know, somebody told me...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. But Lori...Lori...Lori, we do...we do need inventory, right? We do need inventory. And...and although the pallet homes got off to a rough start, it seems to be, you know, doing well now, progressing, especially with Family Life Center taking over the management of it. So that's what I mean. And you know, because we've been down to Kanahā, we know that...some of them are not ready, but some of them are. And the...the problem is, they don't have water, they don't have restrooms, they don't have, you know, showers, and all of that. So that...that presents a huge problem down there, as well as every other place. But the thing about the population down there is that they're pretty organized, you know, they...they...they stick together for safety, and...but they just don't have the services they need. So I'm...I'm just hoping that whatever resources that you need, whether it's for your office or for other

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nonprofits, to...to keep moving the people forward. You know, let us know, let us know what you need. Because we don't want to be giving you funding for things you don't need, and that could, you know, that could happen. So I just want to say, you know, if...if there's something that we're missing, it's better for us to redirect funds to where the funds are needed. And that's where we are now, we need...we really are relying on your input. Thank you. And never mind about the flat budget because we have a vision, as well as the Mayor. Thank you. Done. . . .(timer sounds). . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Perfect timing. Okay. Member King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Aloha, Housing and Human Concerns divisions. I...I...I wanted to start off by asking, why is it that Hale Kau Kau did not receive funding again this year? You mentioned that they were not funded this year. It was like 40,000...40,000 last year, and this is for their home meal delivery.

MS. TSUHAKO: And thank you, Member King, for your question. I...I think that the Hale Kau Kau allocation was...has been moved to...maybe to the homeless...to the homeless allocation. I'm not positive, but I can definitely check on that for you and...and get back to you on that.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Okay. That would be fine if it got moved. Appreciate that. And no, I wanted to kind of talk about the homeless allocations and the whole...are you aware of the Housing Secretary...the Federal Housing Secretary Marcia Fudge, who just unveiled nearly \$5 billion in new grants to states and local governments? And actually, that was in today's paper in *The Washington Post*. It...it actually...that article has a link to how much money is going to...exactly to various states and cities and counties. And in the Hawai'i section, it shows \$11.1 million-plus going to Honolulu, and then there's around 6.4 million that says not yet entitled, so I'm assuming that's for all the neighbor islands. And I just wanted to...to make you aware of that if you're not, because that sounds like direct funding to the neighbor islands that we should be going after for...and it says for rental assistance, development of affordable housing, and other services to help people experiencing or on the verge of homelessness. So we should get our share of that 6.4 million, when you break it up among the neighbor islands. And I just hope that we can...my...my...my overall question is that, and how much are we tracking the American Rescue Plan to see...because a lot of the stuff that's being funded through your Department seems like it could come from the American Rescue Plan funds, whether it's our direct funding to our County, or some of the State funding that the State's going to get. So are you...do you...are you in regular talks with the State about that money, and the Federal Government about the money that's coming directly to Maui?

MS. TSUHAKO: And thank you, Councilmember King. I...I received the...the press release about Director Fudge's announcement from HUD this morning as well. Most of the time when...when money comes through HUD, it goes through the State and then is distributed that way. So the Department has representation at the State level when it comes to the Federal funding that goes to the neighbor island communities from HUD. So we'll be there in those discussions when it comes time to allocate those funds.



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COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

MS. TSUHAKE: Other...other sources of Federal funding, the Department is not as involved with, but I...the press release from Secretary Fudge was forwarded to me by Deputy Managing Director Josiah this morning. And so I'm guessing that our Managing Director's Office and the Mayor's Office have been working with those Federal resources to...to ensure that Maui County's needs are known and...and try to get them addressed through that Federal funding.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. I just want...I wanted you to be aware too that the 6.4 million, it looks like it's for all the counties except Honolulu, so you know, make sure we get our fair share of that. So let's see, the other...yeah, I was going to ask you as far as the going forward with...with some of these programs that didn't get funded this year, like Share Your Mana. Is that...are these types of funds something that they can apply for directly, or do they still have to go through the...would it still have to be allocated in order for them to apply for...allocated in a specific fund? But can they...can they apply for...if they can get capacity...one of your Share Your Mana's problems was they didn't have capacity to apply for the grants. And so if they can get that capacity, then...and we don't have anything line itemed, is there...are...there are...I'm hoping there are monies in there, in the...your...your Human Concerns Division that could be applied for.

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Councilmember King. So there is...I asked for an increase in the homeless allocation for \$250,000 for next fiscal year. So there are funds...or if...if approved, there will be funds in there, and agencies can then make a request of the Department to get funded in Fiscal Year '22. The...the bulk of the funding...the increased funding was intended to support a hybrid homeless program on Moloka'i. I think we had maybe one or two testifiers this morning who were talking about . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . their experience of...of unsheltered homeless on Moloka'i. Sorry. Madam Chair, may I complete my response?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You may.

MS. TSUHAKE: So we're working with...we're working with Family Life Center to develop a hybrid program that's a combination of both outreach to these unsheltered people, as well as the housing component on Moloka'i. And we're hoping that as we get that program ramped up, that some of the concerns that were expressed this morning by the testifier would be alleviated and the community will feel better, and we can address some of the need of the homeless people there. So the bulk of that funding is set aside for that purpose, but I think there'll be enough that if agencies would like to have more, they can make a request of the Department.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. And hopefully that's where this new funding, if it comes in from the Federal Government, will go into that to increase that pot of money. All right. Thank you, Chair.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member King. Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. So nice seeing you, Lori and Linda, Directors. I...I wanted to ask about...because of COVID, my question is COVID related and what's happening with different projects, and one is Project Graduation. We've been hearing that there may be graduation. I...and what is the Department going to do? I think it's an MEO grant, which would need to be directed by you.

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Councilmember Sugimura. I really do hope we have graduation this year. Project Graduation is a program that is implemented by MEO Youth Services, and I believe that they've already had some planning meeting and made the...the funding available to the different high schools. I took an inquiry from Councilmember Sinenci's Office about two weeks ago about Hāna School possibly seeking some funding for their Project Graduation activities. So I encourage them to do that, even though I think the application deadline has passed. So I know that...that MEO is willing to work with the high schools who would like to plan and fund the program for their graduates, and I...I really encourage that to happen because, you know, it's been a hard year not...not only for us adults, but also for those students. So I would like for them to have a...a graduation of some sort to celebrate that milestone. Thank you for asking.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: That's very encouraging. So one of the programs that actually came up that we're...is related is the permanent housing...permanent supportive housing that Family Life Center helps administer. And I wonder if some of the funding that we're talking about, you know, first-time homebuyers or the rental assistance, can be used for that. I know it's...by your emails that you sent to us after that Affordable Housing Committee last year, you said it was funded, but with HUD and State funding. But is...is that being covered with some of the programs that we have in our budget?

MS. TSUHAKE: Councilmember, no, the County doesn't necessarily fund permanent supportive housing. So permanent supportive housing is a program that's geared toward those who are chronically homeless, so have been homeless for one year or longer and have a certified disability. So it...it combines both the housing...the rent for someone's housing, as well as the service components. So this program that I described earlier that we're going to try on Moloka'i, the hybrid program, is actually going to be a permanent supportive housing program combined with homeless outreach. And those programs require ongoing funding because you cannot do a year-by-year program where you're paying for somebody's rent, right? I mean, that's very insecure. So that's a lesson we learned that the State when we did Housing First pilot programs, it...it doesn't work because people...if you don't have guaranteed funding, you've got to find somewhere else to put them. So it's something that we'll try on Moloka'i, we'll see. We...we think we have two years' worth of funding so we can keep people...stay within the house for a while, maybe overcome some of the time obstacles. I'll give you an example. Some of the people who are unsheltered on Moloka'i right now and who would qualify for permanent supportive housing might be able to transition into Section 8, but because of some past terminations from Section 8,

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they're barred for three years. So if we can help them maintain their rent for...to cover those three-year disbarment, eventually we would hope that they could get on to Section 8, and then they can maintain themselves with that housing subsidy without the County subsidizing that.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So very good. It doesn't sound like something we can help you with then. Thank you.

MS. TSUHAKE: I think...I think that Moloka'i would be a good pilot project for us to look at, Councilmember --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good.

MS. TSUHAKE: -- and we'll see how that goes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: One last question. So this is on the feral animal funds that are in there, and you answered the question that the \$50,000 have been going to the Humane Society for the cat spay/neuter program. So in...in my budget priority, I basically split that \$750,000 and divided it by three inhabited islands, the same way we had done with this year's grant money of a million. So do you have extra funds to give to the Humane Society for that program if...if they...are they expecting the 50,000 to go to them for their cat program?

MS. TSUHAKE: I...I think that they are because we proposed that in the Budget, Councilmember. I...I would...I don't know how to make a distinguishment between the Feral Animal Control Program and that funding. But the...the Humane Society has been doing a lot of work...you know, I think we've had several conversations with them about the...the . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . trap and release program, where they spay or neuter the animals and then release them back into their colonies. But I think...

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. Real...excuse me, Lori, real fast. Because under there, it has item number four, it says spay/neuter programs, and there's 100,000 there, which is in addition to the...well, it looks like it's 750 total in the Budget. I wonder if that 100,000 would take care of the Humane Society. Look...look at the Budget, page 11 and 12...I mean the bill, the actual bill.

MS. TSUHAKE: Councilmember, can we respond to your question in writing --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. TSUHAKE: -- please?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. I think I got everybody. Did I miss anyone? Okay. I'm going to go, my turn. Okay. I just have a few questions. Okay. In the Budget Details, Director, on page 8-10, there's a request for a \$20,000 expansion for technical assistance. In the previous year, so in FY'20, there was \$100,000 allocated to conduct a parcel study, or to...for a new and existing parcel study. And then there was 80,000 allocated in FY'21 in pursuit of those selected parcels. The FY'20 actual shows that only \$1,056 was expended. Does that mean that the parcel study was not conducted? Under Professional Services, sorry. Budget Details, Page 8-10, under Professional Services.

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair.

MS. MUNSELL: Thank you. Thank you for that question. So last year, a couple of things happened. I think that the money that was allocated to that actually ended up being doubled. We had asked for some funding for a parcel study, and then in addition to that, Council added some additional funding. So when we were looking at parcels, we actually recruited some assistance from the Planning Department, who assisted us in looking at parcels that might actually work for housing, and there were a couple of those parcels that were identified. There is a parcel that is over by Wailea behind the Fire Station, which we have looked at in partnership with a developer now. There is also the parcel that is surrounding the Kihei Police Station . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sorry, Deputy Director Munsell, I remember having the discussions about the potential parcels. My question right now is, was the parcel study conducted, or was an...was the informal selection of County-owned parcels just what happened in its place?

MS. MUNSELL: Yeah. Again, our capacity to do, like, RFPs and other things like that is very limited. This year, our focus has been working on the dorm project and trying to get that project going and renovated. We expect that that project is going to be finished here very shortly, and then we'll move on to other additional projects, so...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Well, Deputy Director Munsell. Sorry, I have a limited time. I only have two minutes left. Okay. So I guess I never really followed up. It wasn't something that I put in as my priority, I think. I'm pretty sure it wasn't. But it was...I remember it being put in in 2019, and then 2021...oh, sorry, 2020, we talked about it. But...so it's just like an informal selection of parcels, but a study itself never happened in the last two years. Okay. For the Program Budget, Page 289, 291, 294, and 332, there are program descriptions for the following: MEO, Moloka'i Summer Program, Suicide Prevention for Moloka'i, and Feral Animal Control, where the program description is not included in the Program Budget. So if we could add that. And I can...and then a follow up on the submitted questions, on County Grants question 2B, for the Maui Family Support Services, there was an increase of...so all the other grants were pretty much a constant, so just...it was flat. But there was a \$55,000 increase for Maui Family Support Services. So I was just wondering what that was.

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MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you for your question, Madam Chair. The \$55,000 increase to Maui Family Support Services is a direct result of that agency assuming responsibility for a physical early childhood resource center. So the County Staff and Maui Family Support Staff are collocated at the yellow house on Napua Street, and they were asked to leave that house. And so Maui Family Support Services assumed responsibility for maintaining that lending library and all of the early childhood resource materials for the community. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . So they were able to rent a building on Wells Street, where all of that material was transferred. So there's a free-standing early resource center that's not combined anymore with our resource coordinator.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for that explanation, Director. All right. Members, anyone have follow-up questions? Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Really quickly because two questions, and I only have two minutes. But I wanted to ask Linda Munsell...and thank you for being here. Thank you for all the work you're doing on housing. I really appreciate you. But I just wanted to ask you how closely you've been working with Jeff Gilbreath on the Affordable Housing Plan, and do you support overall his plan?

MS. MUNSELL: Councilmember King. Thank you so much for the question. We have been consulted by Jeff Gilbreath and his team in terms of how we inventory and other things. We haven't heard the full program yet. We don't know what the final result of that is, so I can't tell you at this point what the level of support is. Certainly he has got some ideas that are very good and that should be considered. And it'll just depend on what that full package is, and try to prioritize those items because it appears that it should be . . .*(inaudible)*. . . His proposal was going to be a relatively expensive in the whole.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Yeah, I agree but, you know, we're hoping for some Federal funding as well. But just good to know that you're open to the ideas that are coming out of the plan, so thank you for that. And then the other question I have for Lori Tzuhako is, if you do...I just did a quick back of the napkin calculation for that 6.4 million for the Biden Plan, and it looks like our portion of that could be around 2.5 million, maybe a little bit more. So where would that go if we receive that? Would that go into a particular grant pot of money, or how would you put that into your Budget?

MS. TSUHAKO: It would depend...Councilmember King, it would depend on how the money is earmarked. So for...I'll give you an example. So when money comes from HUD for certain purposes, it gets routed to certain programs, like Emergency Solutions Grant. If it's an ESG Grant, it would go directly to service providers in the community. It won't necessarily come to the County for administration because the State administers those funds. So it really depends on how it's packaged by HUD and . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . transmitted to the State.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Fair enough. All right. Thank you for that answer. Thank you, Chair.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member King. Chair Lee, followed by Member Paltin. Chair Lee, followed by Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Lori, do we still receive about 1.4 million in HOME Funds annually?

MS. TSUHAKE: Yes.

MS. MUNSELL: Thank you for the question, Chair Lee. We receive HOME Funds on a three-year rotational basis. So it would've been \$3 million in last year's Budget, and we won't receive another allocation for two more...three more years.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, okay.

MS. MUNSELL: We do have Administrative Funds...yeah, we do have Administrative Funds that we will be utilizing over the three years to help support the program, but it's a one-time allocation.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Didn't we use that for our First Time Homebuyers Program? No?

MS. MUNSELL: No. No.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Okay, then. I also have some questions on the CARES Act funding. I'm going over the reports, it seems like your Department was used for a number of a wide variety of pass-through payments, like...well, some unusual ones were...I thought were, you know, ice machines and all kinds of things like that. And so I was wondering, did you end up with a whole lot of carryover savings as a result?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Council Chair Lee. The Department didn't achieve any savings from those expenditures. So what happened with some of the CARES Act, as you described the purchase of the ice machines and things, were really geared toward trying to expand our ability to store food, like, if there's a hurricane or something and people needed to have ice to store food to prevent it from spoiling. Having our County facility, mainly the Lānaʻi Senior Center, have that capacity to offer that ice to people for storage. So some of the CARES Act funding went to those purchases of that kind of equipment, but most of it was pass-through to agencies to, like, the Food Bank and Feed my Sheep for the actual procurement and purchase of food for distribution to the community.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. I saw one unusual one to Maui Mediation Services.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .(inaudible). . .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: . . .(inaudible). . . before.

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MS. TSUHAKO: Yeah, that was specifically to allow mediation services to offer free services to . . .(timer sounds). . . those tenants and landlords. You know, there was the eviction moratorium still actually in effect. But then there's...you know, there's tension between landlords and tenants when tenants cannot pay their rent. And so we were...we offered that grant to Mediation Services at their request so that they could provide that assistance to landlords and tenants to reduce the tension between the two and work out some payment agreements, even within the scope of the eviction moratorium.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Is that issue --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sorry, my --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- ongoing?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- timer went off.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Pardon me? Oh, did the two years...two minutes expire?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. That's all right. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. I can ask if there's questions again. Okay. Member Paltin, followed by Member Sugimura.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I just...thank you, Director Tzuhako. Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to follow up. Does Section 8 Housing have a limit at how long you can have it when you're saying, like, some folks cannot take Section 8 for three years, and then afterwards they could, if we support rental housing for so long, then they could go get to Section 8. Like, why would they not take it right away?

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Member Paltin. Some people get terminated from the program for a variety of different reasons. So once they get terminated from the program, they're barred from participating for three years. So the thing is that if somebody gets barred from Section 8 for three years, but we're able to support them with rental subsidies until they could pass that three-year disbarment period, and then they could reapply for Section 8.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Paltin. Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So continuing with Chair Lee's question about Maui Mediation Services, because I took great interest in their rental assistance program, what I learned, I want to add to the story, is that Mediation Services is part of the Judiciary's system for how to resolve eviction moratoriums. So the current

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eviction...Lori, please correct me...is not...our moratorium ends in June unless if the President or whoever, Governor, extends it, but Mediation Services, according to Judiciary, is then the mediation service that would happen with the landlord and the tenant before the eviction can happen. So my question to you, Lori, is, will they be needing more money once the moratorium is lifted?

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Councilmember. They may. We...the Department hasn't received a request from the agency for more funding but, you know, it may require more funding for that. I think the CARES Act funding that the Department was a pass-through for wasn't all used. And that could've just been a matter of timing, or maybe not having enough time to promote the program as well as it could've been. But the spending limit on those CARES Act funding were so tight that I think that was a challenge for the agency as well. But they get --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MS. TSUHAKO: -- funded through the Judiciary...yeah, they get funding through the Judiciary as well to do some of that work, maybe the work that would go to District Court for adjudication and settlement and things like that. So the Judiciary tries to divert them from court through mediation instead.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I think there's a bill at Legislature, they're trying to make it mandatory for the mediation. So more to come. Thank you. Good question, Chair Lee.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I was just commenting on the Maui Video...or Video Services that I believe some of the attorneys just donate their time. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Okay. Members, any other questions, follow-up questions? Chair Lee, did you want to follow up?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No. Thank you, Member Sugimura finished it up for me. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: She covered it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Sounds good. Okay. I have two follow-up questions. All right. One on Budget Details, Page 8-10 and 8-11, with the transfer of the \$2 million to the Home Acquisition Ownership Program Revolving Fund from the First Time Homebuyers line item, on Page 50 of the Special Purpose Revenue on the Budget Bill, it shows \$1,476,274, which is the current balance, and one million anticipated revenue, for a total of \$2,476,274. With the \$2 million transfer...so would the \$2



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million transfer be included in that amount, or would the amount be an additional 2 million for \$4 million? If I should restate my question.

MS. TSUHAKE: Okay. Begging your indulgence for just one second, Madam Chair. Yeah. Yes, please. Budget Director Yoshimura is here with us, and she's going to answer that question for me.

MS. YOSHIMURA: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Budget Director.

MS. YOSHIMURA: On Page 8-11 of the Budget Details, under the First Time Homebuyers Program, \$2 million. For Fiscal Year '21, we deleted the Fiscal Year '22 because the Home Acquisition Revolving Fund was created at the end of Fiscal Year '20. We now have an appropriation to transfer a million dollars from the General Fund to the Home Acquisition Fund, and for the purpose of the First Time Homebuyers Program. So once it's in that fund, the monies won't lapse on June 30th, and the Department can continue with providing down payment assistance to our new homeowners, or potential homeowners.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. And then my last follow-up question is...so we have all these grants, and there isn't...so in an effort to increase transparency for the public . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . a thought was to have the funded line item for the different line item grants to have their applications in an attached appendix for the Members to be able to review, and for the public to be able to review, so that there's increased transparency. So you can either provide feedback or...

MS. TSUHAKE: So...I'm sorry, Madam Chair. So then the request would be for the Department to submit the grant applications to the Council, and have that published during...I mean, during this time when the Council is deliberating about actually the...wow, granting fund to line item grantees and to these special allocation funds? Is that what the suggestion is?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. From the previous Fiscal Year...so FY'21, along with any grant reporting that was funded in the FY'22 Budget.

MS. TSUHAKE: Oh. I don't have any objection to that. I think sometimes...like, I'll just give you an example. Sometimes when we do a procurement, for example, for service, agencies might send in information that is so specific, might be protected...I mean, they might consider it protected information, like total sources of funding or something like that. I'm not really sure. But I...as a Director, I wouldn't have any objections to giving that information over to the Council or to have that published. I mean, I think if somebody's interested, they can ask for it also. It's part of our public file, so I don't see that as being a real challenge for us, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Director. Okay, Members. I don't see any other hands, so that concludes that portion of our process. And we'll go to the next

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portion of our process, which is...oh, and so for the...there's no CIPs, and there hasn't been any proposed changes to the Rates and Fees from the Mayor. So we'll go to the Members' priorities. And we'll go in the order that they appear on the matrix, starting with number 14, Member Paltin. I have three minutes on the clock for you.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, wait. Let me...my computer, I got to log in because it fell asleep.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. It's for \$500,000 for the Affordable Rental Housing Program.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Aloha, Director --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- Tsuhako. My proposal is number 14 on the priority matrices. And you know, I just had a feeling that maybe not all the rental problems was COVID-related, so I wanted to put an extra 500,000 into the Rental Assistance Program. You know, if...I'm welcoming Member Molina onboard to jump in and double that if he wants to. And that's my proposal, and if you have any feedback on that.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You're getting 400...

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Member...thank you, Member Paltin. Yeah, I think we kind of discussed that a little bit earlier, that the increased assistance for those who need rental assistance, but maybe who cannot meet the threshold of providing a direct link between their income and COVID would be helpful to the community.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Consensus, Members?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We go to questions first.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, sorry.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member...okay. And then Member Molina's priority is number 72, and that's for the Home Acquisition and Ownership Program, though. It's for a different one.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: He can come with me if he wants.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Members, questions for Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Consensus.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Pro Tem Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So Member Paltin, for your program, is it only for the rent, or are you including the down payment in this also?

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VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: This one is just rental assistance and, you know, given all the money that's going to rental assistance that's COVID-related, we still got some folks out there that are having rental problems that aren't COVID-related.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. That's only rent, but not down payment. Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Pro Tem Kama. Members, any other questions for Member Paltin or for the Department? Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. This is actually for the Department. So if...so we have the Rental Assistance Funding, and if we're using it for COVID-related rental problems, wouldn't that come out of either the CARES Act or the American Rescue Plan?

MS. TSUHAKE: Yeah. Thank you, Member King. The \$40 million that I described earlier actually is sourced from the U.S. Treasury. We're about ten days away from rolling that out, but it has...the recipients of those have to prove a relationship between COVID and their ability to pay rent. So --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

MS. TSUHAKE: -- the benefit is that County Funds don't have that eligibility requirement, and so it could be somebody who's simply having a hard time and not directly COVID-related.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. So what do we have in the County funds that should be going directly to people for non-COVID related?

MS. TSUHAKE: Yeah, it's...the request is for \$2 million.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. So we have 2 million, so...can you use 2.5 million for the non-COVID related?

MS. TSUHAKE: I believe we can. We...you know, the reason that we put in the 2 million is because we thought it was sufficient, given the other sources of Federal funding that are coming into the community. In addition to this U.S. Treasury Fund, CDBG has funding that made available, so we thought that 2 million was sufficient. But if the body chooses to increase that, I think that there's...there'll probably be the need in the community for more help, especially as the eviction moratorium begin to lapse.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. All right. Thank you. Thank you, Chair. . . .(timer sounds). . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member King. Any other questions, Members? Okay. Member King.

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: Sorry, I just thought of another question. Member Paltin, what you're asking Member Molina if he wanted to jump in, is this...you have similar requests?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Well, she had said in her presentation that they could handle up to 3 million, but not for the Home Ownership and Acquisition Program because of the small amount of revenue and people's uncertainty with jobs. So I mentioned that if he wants to come over with me and bring it up to the 3 million she can handle instead of the Home Ownership --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- Program, that's cool with me.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. All right. I thought maybe you had this...all right. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. So Member Molina's proposal is for the Home Acquisition and Ownership Program. Okay. Okay, Members. So it's for 500,000. Consensus?

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICE CONSENSUS**

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: That was fun.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The next priority item is Member Kama's, and that's number 15 on the matrix. Pro Tem Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So this idea was something we talked about last year too, about putting a separate savings account for those who want to go to home ownership, and it helps them to save money. It's a matching program that at the end, when they're ready to actually purchase their home, they've got a little nest egg to be able to add to their down payment. So it's called an individual development account. It's usually handled through a nonprofit. Hawaiian Community Assets does it, and there are other nonprofits. Hale Mahaolu was thinking about doing it, I'm not sure if they are going to. And I think...and another organization on Maui I know was talking about wanting to do it too. So it's just about helping our people to be able to save money, and that's having that money being matched so that they can have their down payment and get ready to buy their home. So this is my priority.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Pro Tem Kama. Okay, Department, any feedback on Pro Tem Kama's proposal?

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MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Member Kama, for your suggestion and your advocacy for this. The Department is...we understand the importance of having an individual development account program available. The County has never administered one in the past. As Councilmember said, there are other agencies who have a longer term expertise in this area. If we were to begin this project, I think it would have to be a multi-year project because it would take longer for...longer than one year for a family to actually get the education and the support and be able to do the savings along that line. So we'd look at a span of like a program development for maybe two or three years. I can see this being offered as a pilot program. It...I don't know who in our Housing Division would have the responsibility of administering this, even if we were to procure it to a different agency to handle all of the individual applicants and participants in the program. But in general, the Department supports the concept, and I think that it's a good...it'd be a good pilot project to try.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay. I see a question from Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. I just want to...it also is one of my priorities. So if you go to number 73 on the matrix, I fleshed it out a little bit more. So I actually have a write-up about a two-year pilot program for the first time...no, I'm sorry, for individual development accounts, and it would engage qualified buyers to participate in a two-year program to build equity, homebuying education, financial literacy, and social responsibility. So qualified buyers would participate in this, put down over a period of two years \$5,000, which will be matched five to one, which means the County portion would be \$25,000 if they meet all of the aspects of the program, of which...take the financial literacy class, give back, help with programs like Hale Mahaolu...I'm sorry, with Hale O Maui or Habitat, things like that, programs like that, but to give back to the community so there's some social good in it. And taking the \$250,000 from the...what was the name of that fund? Not the...the program we were just talking about, sorry.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Home . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, 250 this year, and then my write-up says then the Council would have to appropriate of course, for next year for this program to go. I also think that I'm saying up to 20 participants in this trial program, just to see if it will fly. And I think it has to be RFP'd out from the...like what Lori was just saying, from the Department. And . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . I'm sorry, 73. I also had an ordinance, which is Maui County Code 3.34, which I want to amend it to add in it the use of the IDA or incentivize programs to be part of this...for this fund.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sugimura. Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We're on Pro Tem Kama's proposal.

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COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So did you have any questions for her?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, I don't have any questions. I think it just adds to what she's doing, so...sorry about that.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Chair Lee, followed by Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So if Member Kama withdraws her proposal, does she get to pick another one because of the duplication?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So Members have alternates, and you will submit your final ten priority proposals, five new funding and five existing funding items, on the 15th, so next Thursday. So to answer your question, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh. So Member Kama should think about that.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Do you have any questions? Okay, Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Thank you, Chair. I do have a question. So if we go with the 250, Lori, do...would we...would you also need an additional staffer to administer this program? Or would you want to RFP it out to an existing nonprofit that's already doing similar work? What's your preference?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Member King. We would have to refer this to a different service provider because our housing Staff does not have the capacity right now to administer and...I mean, there's so many steps in that process that I'm just imagining what a load that would be. So it really makes more sense to me that...procure it out to some agency that already has the infrastructure, they can do the financial part, they can do the management of the actual, you know, member contribution and --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

MS. TSUHAKE: -- ensure that the matching funds are there.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah. No, I assumed you didn't have the capacity, but I just thought, you know, if you wanted to keep it in-house, then you would need a staffer to actually...you know, you'd need to hire someone qualified to administer this kind of program which...I'm sure there's people out there that are qualified. We have a lot of really qualified people in our community, but it would get...it would happen...seems like it would happen faster if you put out an RFP and one of the nonprofits who's already doing this kind of work picked it up and would basically be doing this for the County, right? Okay. Was that the intention, Councilmember Kama, was to have it be...go out for --

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COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes. The intent --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- an RFP?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: -- was to be able to allow her to go outside of the County and some nonprofit to administer.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Because I really support...I really think we have to do this concept. I think we...I really support it, and I want to see it happen. But if it had to go through the Department and they had to hire somebody and then train them, it could take a year before that happens, so I like the idea of putting it out to RFP. Okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member King. Members, any other questions? Okay. I have a couple questions. Okay. So my first question is a clarifying one. And I think Member King did ask it, and Member Kama answered it. So just to confirm one more time, Member Kama, you're thinking about having the County do the IDA in-house with your original proposal, and not having an outside entity do the IDA?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: No, the in...the IDA was to have an outside entity actually administer the IDA, and not get it all caught up and hung up within the Department.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So that was your proposal. Okay. Okay, that was my question. Mahalo. Oh, okay. Okay. One more question. So Pro Tem Kama, you're thinking about using General Funds for the 250?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Affordable Housing.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I think my thought was that we could've probably taken it out from the Affordable Housing Fund.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So Affordable Housing Fund or the Home Acquisition and Ownership Program Revolving Fund. But your --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes, that's the one.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- preference was the Affordable Housing Fund?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: That was my preference, yes. But I'm not choosy. Wherever we can get it, I'm okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay. Okay. Mahalo, Pro Tem Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: You're welcome, Chair.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . support your proposal. Okay, Members, I'm going to ask for consensus. Oh, okay. Is that consensus?

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICE CONSENSUS**

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And that's consensus from the Affordable Housing Fund?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Chair, can we ask the Department which fund they would want it to come out of?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Director?

MS. TSUHAKE: Yeah. Thank you, Madam Chair. So the only caution that I would offer to the body is that the Affordable Housing Fund has very strict definitions on what the applicable uses are, and I'm not sure that the current language allows for a use such as this. So I'll just give you an example. Like we tried to use...we tried to get some money for admin fees out of the fund and weren't able to because the language is so restrictive. So I think we would need to go back to the language around the Affordable Housing Fund and ask for Corp. Counsel to help us with guidance about whether this proposal could be funded through the Affordable Housing Fund.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So would it be better to put it in the Home Acquisition Fund...get it out of there?

MS. TSUHAKE: Yeah . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Or we could amend the Affordable Housing Fund.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: But if we could take out the Home Acquisition Fund, you don't have to do an amendment.

MS. TSUHAKE: That would be correct, Member King. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Sounds like the easiest way.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. I'm going to repeat what the decision is. Hmm. Okay. So Member Kama's proposal is for \$250,000 out of the Home Acquisition and Ownership Program Revolving Fund, and that is the same proposal as Member Sugimura. Member Sugimura has additional details to hers. And so I don't know if Members want to vote on Member Sugimura's and Member Kama's at the same time, or...Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: We're both thinking alike, and that you are correct, I've taken it a little bit further in that I have a proposed amendment to Maui County Code 3.34 to add the IDA into the purpose, as well as...or incentivize programs in case it



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loses the name IDA for some reason in the future, so that this program can still be administered. So I had proposed legislation, a write up, but...and to use the County of Maui Home Acquisition Ownership Program's Revolving Fund, which is...which was created by Chapter 3.34. So I have specifically targeted that, which is, I guess, what Member Kama is saying also. But I just...I have proposed legislation and a write up for how the program would work.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So perhaps we can vote on Member Kama's proposal because it's broader, and then that way we don't have to go too in depth on the details since there is a proposed bill to amend 3.34 of the Code, and we can take up that discussion at that time. How does that sound, Members?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Is that okay, Tasha?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes. Absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Consensus, Members?

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICE CONSENSUS**

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And the next proposal is number 16, and it's also from Pro Tem Kama. Okay. Pro Tem Kama, would you like to present your proposal? Oh, you're on mute.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Sorry, I hit the wrong button. Okay, so this is...oh, wait, I lost it again. It keeps disappearing from my screen, my notes. Okay, here we go. Sorry. Okay, I got it. Okay. So this is about the trans-oriented grants. I don't know, I must be hitting the wrong button. I'm sorry, Chair, but I keep --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's the one, Pro Tem Kama.

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

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So it's the \$500,000 for the --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Trans-oriented development.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- corridors.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes. So my thought was, as we are doing the corridor, that I want to be able to incentivize developments along that corridor that if there was

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anything that was needed that we didn't think about as people are starting to develop that, whether they're developers, or contractors, or just putting in a new bus stop or things like that, that we'd have some monies to be able to help as we are doing this corridor. I kind of feel really excited about this corridor, and I can envision in my mind what it's going to look like, how beautiful it's going to be, and how nice it's going to be in terms of that it's going to be almost like a walking community because when you look at the aesthetics that it's going to have and the way the plan is laid out, then you would be proud to be able to walk this community from Wailuku to Kahului. So I wanted to be able to put some money there so that we could be able to develop whatever is needed within that corridor from the Wailuku to the bus hubs. So that was my proposal.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Pro Tem Kama. Department, feedback on Pro Tem Kama's proposal?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Member Kama, for that suggestion. You know, I'm not exactly sure how this fits with Housing and Human Concerns. I think the idea of incentivizing development within the corridor is a good thing, and I think in the meetings that have been convened over the past couple years to develop and to discuss the development of the corridor and how we can parlay development on top of the existing infrastructure and things like that, it's been a very, very, I think, encouraging discussion, like Member Kama said. But I'm not really sure about how this fits with the Department, if we're...are we going to offer incentive store housing development? Or are we going to offer incentives for any kind of development? So I'm not...I'm not really sure where this fits in, and so it's...sort of make it...makes it very challenging for me to have a real definitive position about this additional funding. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, I love this idea. And I think it fits more with who's driving this, is Pam Eaton with Planning, and then there's all the different departments involved. But I'm not too sure...it's not really Housing, which I think that's where Housing and Human Concerns has come in, and there's Parks involved and different departments. But I think Pam Eaton from Planning Department is kind of driving this. So it depends on the intention of Member Kama for what the 500,000 would be used for...and what kind of development, I guess.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Pro Tem Kama, did you want to respond to Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I was looking at things like electrical charging stations that we're going to need around the corridor. I was looking at things like bus stops, bus passes, I mean...because this is like a competitive grant, right? That's what this is, actually. It's a competitive grant. So then people would apply because this is what they'd like to be able to see. This is what they'd like to do in the corridor. And it wasn't just for the Ka'ahumanu Corridor either because the West Side is going to have a corridor too,

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doing a similar type of things too, as it relates to housing. And the thing of the corridor was to be able to create more housing to create the corridor, but then you also have to have density. And with density comes less traffic, right? And so that's what, in my head, I was thinking about in terms of housing. Corridor means more walking, more higher density, more people, more housing. And I was thinking about this corridor right here with the bus hub and with the new housing development that's going on out here on Ka'ahumanu Highway, and how all of that relates to how this corridor's going to look like from Wailuku to Kahului. Is that helpful?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. . . *(timer sounds)*. . . Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, thank you, Chair. Yeah, I was just thinking this sounds...I agree with Member Sugimura. This sounds like a Planning Department issue because they're the ones that are kind of designing these plans and oriented corridor. So can we move this --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- like we did with the other things, and revisit it under the Planning Department? And also, the other question I had was who would be receiving these grants? Because we already have monies that go to developers through the Affordable Housing Fund, and the bus stops are put in by the Transportation Department, and they received \$7 million in the CARES Act funding. So who were you thinking that you would...that would apply for these grants?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Nobody in particular I had in mind.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member King. Okay. Are there any other questions from the other Members? I saw Member Sugimura's hand up, but I just wanted to give the other Members an opportunity first. Okay, Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I think the project is just really starting, you know, with the money that we got from the State, as well as our matching. And so I really think...I think we need to ask Planning, you know, what they envision, and how can this help them. But I say we move it to when we have Planning or...I don't even think it's OED. Planning or Parks taking a big role in this, I think. Or to another Department.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I'm okay with that, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura and Pro Tem Kama. Okay. I have...I don't have any questions. I guess I have a couple thoughts on this proposal. I don't have any objections to moving it to when we take up Planning, to discuss this with that Department. In the last two years of being on the Council, I've learned that putting money into the Budget doesn't necessarily result in the outcome that you may

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intend. And without having someone ready to take action and apply for that funding, and report on the funding, and do the work that you envision when putting the funding into the Budget for what you're...you know, what you would like to see for your community. If someone in the community isn't ready to apply for that funding, then that money may just end up sitting there. And that's what happened to a couple of grants in my first year on the Council. And so I think that it's well-intended, just as my allocations were well-intended, but I'm not confident that if there's any projects ready to apply for the funding that anyone will apply for it. So those are my thoughts on this proposal, but I can move it to the Planning Department, and we can ask the Planning Department for their thoughts on it.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay? Mahalo, Pro Tem Kama. Member Sinenci, you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, thank you, Chair. I'm supportive of moving it to the Planning only because I believe they have Ms. Eaton there, and they have done some work about complete streets. And you know, I was, like Member Kama, maybe envisioning...on the corridor, a lot of people have asked for more shade as you walk. So I don't know if people that want to grow trees or plant trees along there, or even Mr. Kalanikau, he does the signage of the ahupua'as, you know, so those types of things maybe. I'm not sure if it would be open to these types of groups.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Okay. So we will move it to...Member Paltin. Not moving it to Member Paltin, we'll move it to Planning Department, but Member Paltin raised her hand. So Member Paltin, you have a question?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: No, I just...you know, I don't...I just...my comments were...would be I don't know if I would be able to give consensus on this, you know, that last year kind of our directive was to focus on the shovel-ready projects because of the pandemic. And I don't think this is a shovel-ready issue, as well as when we look at the corridor, and Ms. Eaton talks to us, it's in the terms of us, the County, getting the grants, not us, the County, giving out grants. Like there's monies that the Planning Department has gotten through grants for these types of things. And so I think we should be applying for money instead of giving out money that doesn't have, like, a specific timeline and need. I think to just put out money at this point would be premature.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Seeing no other questions, we'll move this to the Planning Department as was requested by the majority of Members, although I'm leaning toward the comments that Member Paltin stated as well. Okay? So it's 4:45, and we have been going at this for two hours and 15 minutes, Members. Good job. I think all the exercise is getting the blood flowing has been helping us with our stamina. I will call for . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . a brief recess for our afternoon break, and then --

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- we have...oh. Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, I just wondered if I could just do...mine looks like the next one. Because I have a Kihei meeting to go to at 5:30 on the North South Collector Road, and I wonder if everybody would be willing to just go through one more item?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Any objections, Members?

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS**

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Appreciate it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: We cannot hear you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member King, you're muted.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I pushed that button three times. Okay. Sorry about that. Chair, do you want me just to dive right in?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes, please proceed. Please proceed.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Can you hear me?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: What happened?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Can you hear me now?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I think you're frozen, Kelly.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: It's not moving.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. So I'm not frozen.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah, Kelly's frozen.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Now she's gone.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, no. Okay. I think the universe wants us to take a recess.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I agree with you, the universe is taking control.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Oh, okay. Member King, because I...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, sorry. Of course I froze up right when I'm trying to talk. Sorry about that. Do you mind if I go ahead, or do you guys want to take a break and I can come back to this later? I won't be here after 5:30, is the problem. But I'm happy to take a break until 5:00 if that's what you want to do.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We're just going to take a ten-minute break.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Just our afternoon recess.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Then I'll have...it shouldn't take more than half an hour when we come back.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, I think so. I think it'll be good. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thanks, everybody.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, Members. So we'll take a recess until 5:00. It's 4:48 on April 8th, and the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee is now in recess. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 4:48 p.m.

RECONVENE: 5:02 p.m.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Will the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee please return to order. It's 5:02 on April 8th, and we are on the stretches portion of our agenda. DJ Pajimola, will you please bump that music for us? This one's dedicated to the Department.

(exercising)

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Is the Department stretching? Director, Deputy Director. There we go. Yes. You just want to have fun. That's all you really want to do. Okay. Mahalo, DJ Pajimola.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Member Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Madam Chair, Madam Chair. I propose a rule, all Councilmembers got to participate. No picture taking or Facebook. I haven't consented to my permission on Facebook. . . . *(laughter)* . . . Nah, nah, nah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Consensus.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Was that . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: *Akakū* is videotaping you, my Facebook post is nothing. . . . *(laughter)* . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. Yes, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Member King, you ready now? I think your network issues have been resolved, and then you just have to hit that unmute button one more time.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. I think I'm going to start timing. It seems like every hour on the hour or something the network's going out. I'm going to start timing it. All right. Thank you. Okay. So for the item, the next item, I don't have the matrix in front of me, but I do have my notes on it. So the proposal looks like it would be...from what we heard from the Department, it would be a position that would be about 62,000 for the full-time to fund the cost for an additional Staff to issue the RFQ and RFP to implement the recommendations of the Comprehensive Affordable Housing Plan. So this is one of the recommendations which specifically would identify County-owned land for placement of a manufactured housing plant, and to pilot research and development of locally sourced materials. And so the purpose of this is to support lower housing construction costs, use of local building materials, and new industry and career opportunities. And we had a presentation in the CARE Committee last month where we had an organization that was seeking to do this over here, so I believe there's...there are other organizations that may be responding to such an RFP. But it would be...to answer the Department's question, it would not be to ask the Department or the County to implement the actual facility, it would be to find a developer who wants to create this facility. And they did say that...when they come to us, they did say that the one thing would be they would be asking from the County might be land to do this on. So this was one of the recommendations in the Comprehensive Affordable Housing Plan, and it also responds from the community to

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the calls to explore innovative housing solutions and green building materials like Hempcrete and bamboo. In the March 23rd draft recommendation Councilmember study guide submitted by Jeff Gilbreath, page 17, the HCA team recommended the County identify a parcel of land in its portfolio to designate as a manufactured housing plant and use of property to also pilot research and development of locally sourced building materials to help reduce costs and prices on our local families. My Staff contacted Mr. Gilbreath regarding the recommendation, and after consulting with his team, he provided the following action steps. One, DHHC could hire a new staff member and dedicate a portion of their time to implement this recommendation. DHHC would draft and issue a request for qualifications to solicit vendors qualified to develop and manage a package home and manufactured housing plant on the County's base yard property. We would recommend an additional request for qualifications to solicit vendors qualified for research and development of locally sourced building materials on site as well. DHHC will review the RFQ submissions to create a pool of qualified vendors, and then draft a request for proposals to solicit vendors qualified for the Housing Plan for Research and Development of locally sourced building materials to propose how they would work with the County to use the County-owned lands for these purposes, which may include...which may include funding from the County. I'm not asking for that funding in this proposal. And DHHC would review the RFP submissions to identify vendors and negotiate the award. Mr. Gilbreath also stated that his team identified a parcel of County-owned land that could be used for this purpose, which they said could be the Mā'alaea side of Waiko Road, since the County of Maui bought 100 acres here for Central Maui Base Yard and there is still no base yard there, so it's mostly raw land. So that's my proposal. And I have a...I don't have a firm line cost there, but it would probably be...I'm thinking eight months of a one year...it would take at least three months to find this person. And so if it's a \$62,000 plus fringe benefits, it would still be under \$100,000 for this additional staff. And I think this is probably one of many expansion positions that are recommended in the Housing Plan.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member King. And then for the record, and I've...I only caught this myself now. So the Comprehensive Affordable Housing Plan that we've been referring to from Monday is not...is a draft.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Right.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It hasn't...we've been referring to it as a plan, but it hasn't been finalized, and it hasn't been adopted by Council. And so I just want to correct for the record that it's not a finalized and adopted plan yet.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Right.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And so it's not...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No, I understand that.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm not only talking to you, Member King.



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COUNCILMEMBER KING: Right.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I've been reading Pro Tem Kama's question since Monday that refers to the Comprehensive Affordable Housing Plan, and I...it just dawned on me now that it's...I haven't been saying draft. And so in the future, I will be calling it draft plan. And so if we can all do our best to refer to it as a draft plan and draft recommendations because it hasn't been finalized, and it hasn't been adopted.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. So just --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So I'll ask . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- everywhere I said...everywhere I said Housing Plan, just insert the word draft in front of.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Perfect.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: And this is also one of the items that we explored in the CARE Committee with, you know, the affordable green housing manufacturer.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member King. Feedback from the Department?

MS. TSUHAKE: Yeah. Thank you, Madam Chair. And thank you, Member King. I think I gave you earlier the...sort of the basis for salaries for a Program Specialist. I just want to make sure that we understand that the...it took the Department, I guess, more than two years of recruitment to be able to hire our current development person. And I think two years...he'll make two years in September, I believe. So we're fortunate to have him. But it took a long time for the recruitment. So I think we have to be realistic about how easy it will be to necessarily hire somebody with really specific skills. The other comment that I have to make is sort of a more larger comment about whether the...whether this item is only related to the Department of Housing and Human Concerns. Because it's a plan...the plan is to manufacture housing. So I think the real driver, the real issue, if I had to describe it in a little bit more detail, is more about the economic development of that process. So I would just offer that as a comment to this body that, you know, I think that the Department probably could get the capacity to draft a RFP, but we'd have to have a lot of help from other colleagues maybe within the County to be able to address all of the breadth of what the project really is because it's not just about housing, yeah? So thank you for that opportunity.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay, Members. Any questions for the Department or Member King? Member Sinenci, followed by Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Madam Chair, for the opportunity. And my question for Member King was, could this manager be somehow connected to the industry?

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: Sure. I mean --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- there are a lot of people...if we could find somebody connected to that industry that could...I mean, we do...we actually have one prefab company on Maui. They don't make homes here, but they order them to, you know, arrive on Maui. And there are others connected to that industry that I believe would qualify. So...and it's a position that, you know, if OED wanted to hire somebody to create an RFQ, and then the RFQ, the inquiries that come in indicate that maybe the RFP needs to go out from Planning or OED or something, you know, it could be somebody that moves to a different department. But I just think it's something that we need to seriously look at. And the expansion doesn't have to be...this expansion position doesn't necessarily have to be related to the Affordable Housing Plan, but exploring other building materials is something that we really need to do. And maybe this is a position for OED, maybe that's where it belongs, rather than the Housing Department.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. I mean, I personally support the idea. I remember when the Spenser Homes were created pretty much at each homesite, they just came down, dropped off all the walls and all the trusses already made, and then they built it right onsite. However, it was made at a different location, and then just dropped off at the site for them to just put it all together again. So yeah, I'm supportive if that's, you know, that process to, you know, for faster timing. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So the...you're correct, it's a draft Comprehensive Affordable Housing Plan. And so at this time, I find it difficult to make decisions based upon a plan that we even haven't heard the final plan, and that's going to come in June. I'm not even sure if the Department has been, you know, included in this affordable...draft affordable...Comprehensive Affordable Housing Plan. It doesn't sound like it when this was presented. So I think the Department...I think Linda Munsell was present for the presentation of the draft plan, but chose not to comment. I think there's still a lot more that we need to see. I believe that Mr. Gilbreath is having these continuing on with the community meetings, and I look forward to learning more about his final plan and how he has possibly integrated it with discussions with the departments because we all have to work together. And I think we're all in this together. So at this time, I cannot...I cannot concur with doing this until we hear the final Comprehensive Affordable Housing Plan from Mr. Gilbreath. That's my general thought. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. My apologies, Member Paltin. You were supposed to have been after Member Sinenci. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Sorry about that.

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VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: No problem. I don't have a question. I won't be able to give consensus because we haven't gotten the necessary information that we're entitled to for the last three years. And it's hard to add positions when we're not given the full information that we need to have. Like, we can't take in the scope of, like, what each position costs. And like, you know, it's just really frustrating, like, the added scrutiny we have to be doing because we don't get given the information that we're entitled to. So that's kind of a passionate issue for me, but that's my comments.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: You're not asking for information from me, you're asking for more information from the Department?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah. It's difficult to make any kind of decision on this EP positions when we're not given information on the totality of what your salary is and...you know, the first year I had the previous year's Budget Details to, like, see things and to know that, you know, Councilmembers are entitled to those Budget Details. But for the past three years, we've been held out on, you know. And it's really irritating that the people elected us here to represent them, and we're not getting the information that previous Councils have gotten, and we're treated like we can't handle confidential information. Like, what is Executive Session about? So, I mean, nothing against you, Member King. That's just...it's been a...three years that we've been kind of dealing with this. So...irritating.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. And then I'll...regarding your . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . comments...because I know it wasn't a question. But I believe Budget Director Yoshimura, you said this Friday we would get that information?

MS. YOSHIMURA: Yes. Chair, yes, we...I did say that we will have it ready for you by tomorrow.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MS. YOSHIMURA: So we will be going with Council Services to get the documents to OCS, and I guess you folks would have to pick it up from them.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And so do you know if it will be in the morning or in the afternoon?

MS. YOSHIMURA: Well, I'll try to get it in tomorrow morning. Depends on what time we get out of here today. It's actually on my desk for review, so...and our transmittal, so...yeah. We'll try to get it as early as we can tomorrow.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Budget Director. Okay. Members, any other questions on Member King's proposal for Member King or for the Department? Okay. Seeing no other questions, I'll mark this as a revisit. And we will bring it up during decisions week. Okay?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Thank you, Chair.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member King. You have ten minutes to get to your other meeting now. You're welcome.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I do, and thank you so much. I really appreciate everybody, and good luck with all the rest of today.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, it looks...we have about 20 more proposals to go over --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- so it looks like we may be here...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Well, you might be here when I get done, so I'll check back in.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. We'll see you later.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Don't forget your exercises in between.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . . *(laughter)* . . . Mahalo. Okay. Member Johnson is next with the priority number 18. Okay. Member Johnson, you have three minutes on the clock.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Greetings, Members. So this proposal that I have is 1.5 million, it's...yeah, that's the one, grant to build the Aloha House 12-bed residential dorms to provide enhanced access and support services homeless individuals with behavior, health, and substance abuse. So this is...this is kind of like a theme of mine for the provisos that I've put forward, is helping out people who fall through the cracks. And we all know about the struggles of drug addiction and where it is leading to. I had many meetings with over 30 people. I've met with the police force, I've met with the Prosecuting Attorney, I did seven site visits, I did...I shadowed the people with boots on the ground, and they all were telling me that the root causes is where we need to address these issues on homelessness. So the proposal I have is 1.5 million for 12 beds. And those 12 beds will help over 70 people per year. So I think that the plan is to increase the capacity, right? So the...across the board is the idea of they need more capacity. And I just want to make a correction that it's 1.15 million, my mistake. So that's really where I'm coming from. I know I don't have much time, but it's really kind of the idea of helping out the people who fall through the cracks, going through and being proactive instead of reactive, and, you know, I did my kuleana, I did. I talked to everybody who's involved in this, and this is what it kept coming back to me. So that's my proposal, I'm asking for your support. I'm asking you for your consensus. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Johnson. Okay, Members, sorry. I've been meaning to do this with all the proposals. And if you can remember, that would be

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helpful too. So this is Member Johnson's Countywide priority, Countywide priority. It's for additional funds. It would be on page 291 of the Program Budget, if it was in the Budget, under Grants and Disbursements for Health, Human Services, and Education, an increase of 1.15 million. Okay?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I also wanted to just add that it is...I didn't know...on Granicus, I've put up all the research I've done. It's in the last of the line on Granicus. Thank you...for the Members.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Johnson. Okay. Department, do you have any feedback for Member Johnson or for us?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Member Johnson. So if this funding is to be granted, I think the...one of the testifiers earlier this morning from Aloha House described the agency receiving Affordable Housing Funds last year to purchase two homes. And I think one is already purchased, and one is on the verge of being purchased. So this proposal is talking about developing an additional 12 residential beds. So my concern from the Department's point of view would be that if the Department were to fund the construction and the operation...the operational needs for that residential treatment expansion capacity, that those beds be dedicated to people who are homeless and who are suffering from co-occurring disorders. So in other words, the 12 beds would be restricted to people who are verified homeless people. So in other words, the agency couldn't put people in there who don't have that qualification. If the description of the program is for specifically addressing these homeless people and trying to end their homelessness, the other requirement the Department would impose upon the agency is that they begin and establish working relationships with other homeless providers so that those people who are in treatment can then be referred to the housing resources that are held by other agencies. Because we heard earlier this morning, I think when Jelena testified and Scott testified that people have gone into treatment, returned to the community, and haven't had the support they needed to not relapse, and that that becomes the cycle for many people, and it's very discouraging and it's traumatic. We all understand that. So those would be my comments as the Department, that we would need to restrict the use of those additional beds if this funding and the expansion of beds at the residential treatment were to come to pass. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay, Members. Questions for Member Johnson? Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Member Johnson, do we have an idea if Aloha House purchased the property already?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I think in her testimony, they said they did one, right? That was my...she said they did a walkthrough, yeah? You talking about the homes that they're...they purchased, or this project, this 12 bed?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, this project.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh, okay. I'm sorry. No, they have not purchased anything yet. This is the proposal.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. I think the...definitely the construction monies are premature. And depending on where they settle on the location, you know, building a house in this town is not that easy. So I don't know if it's going to be close to the ocean, be in the SMA or, you know, have other issues.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: That's...you know, I wish we had more detailed information, you know, that we can make a decision on.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair, if I may respond to that? Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah, so the...it's going to be on their campus, and the price was comparable because they just finished a building that's their executive building. It's a big, large, beautiful building. So it's...they have the land, it's all set up, it's just going to be right next to the campus that they already have on.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I think it's also on Granicus, once again, if you want to look at it. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So it's Upcountry, it's not on the shoreline?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No, it's Upcountry.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. Still, I think if anything, design monies would come first, and then later on construction. Okay. Thank you, that's...those are my comments.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Okay. Members, any other questions for Member Johnson or the Department on the proposal? Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Just was wondering if a resource person was available for this item?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member...

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: We asked Jeff Cunningham to be a resource.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Staff, were you able to get Mr. Cunningham's contact information?

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MS. MILNER: No, Chair. He did not provide his contact information.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Johnson, were you in touch with Mr. Cunningham as a resource person?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No, but I can try to find his number and give him a call.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I guess --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- this would be for the Department in that case. And just going over your matrices for Aloha House, it's at a 60 percent score, I guess, the only comments listed were that sometimes their paperwork has minor corrections, or is late or something. And I just was wondering, you know, the capacity. This is quite a bit more than their usual grants. And I was wondering if we could get some more feedback than that, just that one line about the capacity of them to handle this type of project, given previous scores in your matrices.

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Certainly...yeah, I don't have the grants report card with me right now, but certainly if the agency score was 60, that means that there have been issues in the past about reporting or accuracy and things of that nature. So . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . my hope is that if the agency is granted any additional funds, that they will heed the Department's request to improve their performance so that the grant given to them will be well spent, and will be well accounted for. The Department stands available to offer technical assistance . . .*(inaudible)*. . . we've made that offer to all of the grantees, and we do do our best to help those grantees perform better. And that, you know, it's an expectation of ours, and I don't think that that bar is set too high. I think our expectation is fair, and I think what we expect from grantees is fair, considering that we're giving them taxpayer money to provide their services. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. I saw that Mr. Cunningham joined the call. Member Paltin, did you want to ask Mr. Cunningham a question?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Cunningham.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Sorry.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Cunningham? I see his name on the list, so I don't know if...

MR. CUNNINGHAM: Can you hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, now we can hear you. Okay.

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MR. CUNNINGHAM: Okay. Do you want me to put on my video too, or is that something you do?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes, please.

MR. CUNNINGHAM: Okay. There we are.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for joining us.

MR. CUNNINGHAM: Yeah, we've been monitoring...we've been monitoring the discussion.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. I just was wondering, you know, on the shovel-readiness of your project and, you know, your 60 percent matrices rating, and some of the things that Ms. Tsuhako had mentioned, if you can provide us any additional insights.

MR. CUNNINGHAM: Yeah. Well, as I mentioned this morning about the shovel-readiness issue, contractors will probably tell you that they can do something within 12 months...you know, they can get all the planning done, all the construction done. My experience is that that rarely, if ever, happens. So I think it's probably true that I would tend to agree with Councilmember Lee and her assessment that appropriating all of the money for construction might be premature.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: And is working with...oh.

MR. CUNNINGHAM: And I guess the operating funds is a separate issue, right?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah. Is working with the Homeless Alliance an issue? Can you still provide the services --

MR. CUNNINGHAM: No --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- if they're not...

MR. CUNNINGHAM: -- it's not an issue. And we do...maybe not so much right now on a . . .(timer sounds). . . formal basis, but we do with people in our organization historically have been very involved with that. And obviously, any success that we have in doing this would be reliant upon our ability to interface with the Maui Police Department, which we have excellent relationships with, with Mental Health Kokua, you know, with...and with the various homeless service providers. So yeah, that's not a problem at all. You know, I would be remiss if I did not say that we--we, meaning not just me, but a lot of the nonprofit organizations I'm aware of--the contract with the County has some real issues and concerns about the methodology that was used to arrive at those evaluation ratings. And so I know that there's been a letter out, I did see a letter, requesting for a discussion with the Department about how that was done



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and so forth, you know, because there might have been some...we're concerned about the possibility of some subjectivity to that. We feel, at Aloha House and Malama Family Recovery Center and Maui Youth and Family Services, that we're doing a very credible job and addressing very important needs in the community . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . we're doing our best. Sometimes with difficulty and limited resources to address all of the accountability concerns that Government agencies impose upon us. But we're committed to making sure we do the best we possibly can in those regards, and I believe, according to my Staff, we've made some real progress, especially recently in that area.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Cunningham. Mahalo, Member Paltin. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Jud --

MR. CUNNINGHAM: Yes?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- is the location you're talking about near the new admin building or by the dorm below?

MR. CUNNINGHAM: No. Because of the way we laid out the property up here, and I know you've been up here and you've seen it, we put in a new driveway with some additional parking. And what it's done is it's created some additional open area land that could be used for this particular building on the Aloha House site.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I see. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Mr. Cunningham, for your really passion to help the community. I just wanted to know...so how soon...what you just described, how quickly would you need the...I think Gabe has designated \$950,000 for construction, permitting, site work?

MR. CUNNINGHAM: Well, you know, let's say the...optimally the planning process took six months, you know, to get a permit. Then it would be the remaining six months in the year that we could begin on the construction.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: You're ready to start tomorrow or...if you got the money July 1, I guess, you'd be ready to start?

MR. CUNNINGHAM: With the planning process. With the planning process. The first step would be to hire an architect to design the building, and then work on the permitting. And work through those...whatever issues there might be.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So a brand new project?

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MR. CUNNINGHAM: I would estimate roughly that that would take six months. And so I don't think we would be able to start construction until...it would have to go out to bid, and then select a contractor, and begin during the second six months. I think it is optimistic to think that we would be able to complete that within one Fiscal Year, Fiscal Year '22. I don't think --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. CUNNINGHAM: -- we could do that. I don't think anybody could do that --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: . . . *(laughter)* . . .

MR. CUNNINGHAM: -- unless you really fast tracked it.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: You have the land, is what you're saying?

MR. CUNNINGHAM: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. CUNNINGHAM: Yeah. So a lot of...you know, we're not starting from scratch.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Pro Tem Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So Jud, I wanted to ask, I forgot. So the...so these beds, they're not gender specific, right? It's just if you...or is it? Because it's residential, right? So would it have to be gender specific?

MR. CUNNINGHAM: Well...

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: And would it be all men or for all women?

MR. CUNNINGHAM: No.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Or half, half?

MR. CUNNINGHAM: No, our residential treatment program is coed, but the dorms are unisex. In other words, you know, we'd have men and...and we don't have men and women in the same dorms. Well, there is an exception. There are two exceptions to that. One of them is our crises residential program, where it is up to eight men and women, but we have two staff around the clock...nurse and mental health worker around the clock on site with those eight people. And then similar on our...in our detox program. It's also, what do you call it, coed. And that's a six-bed facility currently. But all the --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay.

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MR. CUNNINGHAM: -- rest of the dorms for people in regular substance abuse treatment are either men or women, but not both. . . .(inaudible). . .

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So here...so in the proposal, Councilmember Johnson describes a 12-bed residential dorm. So is...does that mean it's 12 individual rooms, or is it just six rooms and two beds to a room?

MR. CUNNINGHAM: The latter, yes. Double occupancy.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Okay. Useful. Thank you. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Johnson.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Pro Tem Kama. Okay, Members. Any other questions? Seeing none, I'll ask for consensus on the \$1.15 million on the proposal.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Consensus.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Any objections?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Revisit.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Revisit.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Revisit?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Revisit.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay. Mahalo, Members. Mahalo, Mr. Cunningham, for serving as a resource for the Council Committee.

MR. CUNNINGHAM: Happy to. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

MR. CUNNINGHAM: Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. The next item that we have is from Member Kama. It's priority number 19, it's a Countywide priority additional funding. It would be on page 293 of your Program Budget, Grant Subsidy. Okay? Pro Tem Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So this is just an additional \$250,000 for our unsheltered population for the Administration to administer...or the Department of Human Concerns. So I just wanted to increase the Budget by 250,000.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Pro Tem Kama. Department, feedback on the proposal?

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MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Madam Chair. And thank you, Member Kama. You know, I mentioned earlier that the Department had suggested an increase of 250,000, and I honestly think that we might be at the point where we don't have the capacity to spend money in a planful, and thoughtful, and coordinated way around homelessness. So I'd be very cautious about increasing an allocation where, you know, we don't know that there's other agencies wanting to come into Maui to do increased outreach. We don't know that...we didn't receive any requests from any agencies that wanted funding to increase the baseline services of homeless outreach, health and services, et cetera. So I think it's all good to have money to be able to fund those things when those requests come in, but I'd be really cautious about simply saying, yeah, give me more money, and not being able to assure you and the taxpayers that the Department can use that money in a planful and coordinated way to address the need. So I don't want to seem that I'm ungrateful, but I want to be honest with you that I don't want to just spend money because it's there. I want it to have a purpose and to be planned so that what we pay for makes sense. So no sense spend money and not get anything back, or dump money in something that's totally opposite of what our larger planning tells us we need to do, yeah. So please understand that that's a conundrum for the Department.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Director. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes, thank you. I understand what the Director is saying, but in light of the fact that we're going to have a whole...a new Homeless Commission, they may come up with some very good ideas and strategies that require funding. So because of that, I can see us putting aside monies for that purpose...for something that we don't know of right now, but they may come up with some great ideas. And if there are no ideas or any need for the money, it can go back to savings. So it's really not going to be a waste. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Okay. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Yeah. I just wanted to concur with Chair Lee. I think if we give them some fodder for some of their ideas, then it'd be more productive for them. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Members, any other questions for Pro Tem Kama or the Department on the proposal? Member Paltin, followed by Member Johnson.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Director Tsuhako, you said that when you folks, the Mayor, had put in 250 extra in anticipation because of the COVID and whatnot already; is that correct?

MS. TSUHAKO: Yes, Member Kama [sic], the Department requested the \$250,000 increase in the homeless allocation.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: What did you think that would be used for? You didn't have a set idea in mind for that 250?

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MS. TSUHAKO: Member Paltin, thank you. We actually were...we are planning to develop a program for Moloka'i to address their unsheltered homelessness. That's the hybrid program that I spoke of earlier where we're combining the actual functions of homeless outreach with the provision of rental housing subsidy to keep people stabilized, like, take them off the street and put them into housing. And we're working with Family Life Center to do that program development right now. And part of the reason for asking for the \$250,000 increase in the homeless allocation was to be able to fund that program for another year, to keep those people stably in housing rather than fret about not being able to help...not being able to maintain them in housing once they were housed. . . .(timer sounds). . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'll come back to you, Member Paltin for a follow up. Okay. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. That was my question by Councilmember Tamara. And so I have no questions. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Johnson. Okay. Members that haven't spoken yet? Okay. Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. And to follow up, did you envision that hybrid Moloka'i program taking up the whole 250? How much did you anticipate for that program?

MS. TSUHAKO: Yeah. We weren't really positive about...we think the 250,000 would be more than enough to cover that. The allocation also has a little bit more space for additional requests from community agencies, but I think it's going to cost us less than 250,000 to run that pilot on Moloka'i.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Paltin, you're on mute.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, sorry. In that case, since majority funding has already been designated for Moloka'i Hybrid Program, I would concur with Chair Lee and support this because of the Commission on Healing Solutions for the Homeless. They may identify, you know, some small things that make big differences. And if it can have some means right out of the gate, then it would be a lot of hope for all of us.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Okay. Seeing no other questions, I have a question. Okay. The homeless programs. Since we're talking about the Healing Solutions Commission, I didn't...I guess I wanted to ensure that the Department has adequate staffing to staff the commission. I didn't see any proposals for . . .(timer sounds). . . additional staff or anything.

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Department did not make any requests for expansion positions. So the Department will be providing the Commission with clerical assistance to do the basic function of the Commission, which is the recordation, the invitations, and setting up of the video meetings and things of that

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nature. Right now, we're waiting on guidance from Corporation Counsel about whether the Commission can become...being without having a set of rules attached to the convening, or whether we have to wait for the rules to be propagated [sic] and then convene the Commission. So I've spoken with Ms. DesJardins about that, and we're awaiting a final set of guidance from Corp. Counsel about which comes first, the convening or the propagation [sic] of the rules.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Promulgation.

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Okay. So the answer to my question is yes, you have adequate staffing?

MS. TSUHAKE: Yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, great. All right. So I am leaning, you know, toward consensus on the proposal, but I think I would like to revisit. Well, I guess I can't ask for consensus if I'm the one that would be objecting. Do you want me to call for consensus anyway and see, you know...consensus?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I have a general question, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay, I have a general question. In this process, in light of the fact that we are in a pandemic, and we still have people who are not working, and we're going through a Budget, which is very important, and everything we add, we're going to have to somehow to either delete from someplace else or kind of balance the Budget. So I'm a little bit hesitant about adding on a lot of things because what we're talking about is raising taxes in order to balance it. Unless if during decision making we're going to be cutting, you know, a lot of programs that we're not talking about now. So the discussion is maybe premature about how we're going to balance the Budget, but if we just keep on adding things, unless if we hear that there's some money that, you know, is not spoken for or something, I'm feeling very uncomfortable about adding projects without knowing how we're going pay for it. We're talking about taxes. So I would like to revisit, Chair. And I just wanted to make that statement because we really are sitting in the middle of a pandemic with people still not working. We have serious work that we're doing for the County, and we need to balance the Budget. So that's...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. I was going to wait until decisions week, but I guess I can propose what my process would be for additional funding for our priority proposals. Because it's not necessarily raising taxes. So . . .(timer sounds). . . for each Member, and I was going to write it out so that it's organized, but you're going to get more of a kind of scatterbrained proposal now because it's not written out. Okay. So each Member will present or submit their ten

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items on...by April 15th, their top ten, and it will have a total associated to it. So if there's an additional \$1 million associated with your priorities, then when we get to decisions week, each Member will be responsible for figuring out how they will either reduce where they're going to reduce. And if a Member finds somewhere to reduce in the Budget to get funding, if that was, you know, \$100,000, and five Members vote on it, then those five Members will get an equal portion, so \$20,000 toward their proposal. At the end, if you have a million dollars' worth of new funded priorities, and you've reduced the Budget by \$500,000, then when we get to RPT and that discussion, we'll...you can propose where to get that \$500,000 for your priorities. So if it's adding one cent to one of the classifications and the tiers to get that 500,000, then that's how we'll...that's the process I was going to propose. And that way, it's fair to try to keep everyone on the same page and equal, so that one Member isn't making out with, you know, \$10 million worth of priority proposals, and another Member has only \$100,000 worth of priority proposals. Because if you're going to request more new funding, then it's more of a burden on you to figure out where to get that funding from. So that is my proposed process. And you don't have to vote on it now. You can think about it. We can massage it and make it something that is amenable to everyone, but that was something that I had thought about proposing so that it's fair for all the Members. Member Paltin, I see your hand up.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I like it. I was wondering about the...you know, the funds. Like special funds. I was thinking of my April 15th alternate proposal, one kind of looking at the SMA funds, which haven't been used to date, and it's, like, kind of just this pot that's sitting on the side, or there's also that...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Huh?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So the SMA is about 200,000, and the Moku'ula one has very specific restrictions to it. So you would just have to know what the restrictions and conditions are for these special funds. As long as you're staying within the balance available, then you wouldn't need to...it's not changing the balance of the --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: The General Fund.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- Budget. Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Well, if you're adding on to Highway Fund, then you'll have to find something to reduce in order to fund your priority if it's funded by the Highway Fund. You know, so it would just have to stay within the balance of whatever fund that you're looking at. Okay.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Fun with funds.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Fun with funds. I thought I saw another hand. Okay, Member Molina, followed by Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah. Thank you, Madam Chair. And I guess you let the cat out of the bag, yeah. But that's okay. It's like last year and, you know, if we can come up with a Budget that's even, you know, leaner than the originally proposed Budget by the Administration like we did last year, then I guess we're...you know, it's better for us and...while at the same time addressing our community's highest priorities. But yeah, you know, it's...I guess...welcome to the Budget process, Gabe. You know, like as the old adage goes, when I first got on the Council, where you add, you got to look at areas where you're going to cut, yeah? So it's not easy. And just something to add to what you're recommending, Chair. If you're going to cut something that could affect your colleagues', one or more of your colleagues' district, it might be good to sit down and talk story first about that so...you know, if it does come down to that. Or Madam Chair, as you said, when we look at the Real Property Tax revenues then, you have to make a tough decision. Do you want to raise property taxes to fund your project? So that's something...you know, stuff that you really got to wrestle with and think about. Do you want to raise it on the homeowners? Do you want to raise it on the businesses? And so forth. Just all part of the fun. But thanks for informing us early on, Chair. And, you know, with regards to this particular proposal, you know, you're the Chair. If you feel that a review is needed, you know, I'm okay. Because I'm kind of on the fence with this as well, but so be it. We'll follow you, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your support, and for your sage advice to Member Johnson. Member Sugimura, followed by Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah. So explain to me your process again about your example of if it's \$100...\$100,000 and five Members...is there sharing of that? I think I misunderstood that. Could you please explain that?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I will write it out, but...okay. So let's say there's...that the Department is proposing to buy a toilet for \$100,000, and we're like, what? A gold-plated toilet for \$100,000? I don't think we need that, Department. So we're going to cut that from your Budget. So \$100,000, and let's say it's...okay, let's make it easy math. So 90,000, and we all say we're going to cut this gold plated toilet out of the Department's budget. So each Member will get a equal amount from that. So if it's \$90,000 --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- every Member will get \$10,000 toward their priority proposal total.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Got it?



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COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, I got it. So conversely then, and we all nine of us vote to add, we all have to...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: That doesn't make sense. Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Yes, this is a very interesting format for a new guy like myself. I totally am surprised at this, and my mind's going all kinds of what does that mean? What does that mean? But let me just lay it like this. The taxes on the rich are too low, just plain and simple, I'm sorry to say it. Larry Ellison pays \$2 million for property taxes for a whole island on Lānaʻi. The Shops at Wailea pays \$2 million property tax for a shopping center. And they ain't selling plate lunches out of Shops at Wailea. It's not for folks...the working class on these islands. So I think there's room to wiggle. So I'm not afraid. I'm coming into this Budget, I'm not afraid. That's all I want to say. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Johnson. So I just...I guess...a little bit of additional advice. When we adjust the rates, I know...I agree with you. But when you adjust the rates, there's some people who are in that...some properties that are in that category that you may not intend to increase the rates on. And there's no way to get the properties that you'd like to charge more without affecting other properties. So just to understand how our Real Property Tax rates work. Okay. I think I saw Member Sinenci with his hand up, followed by Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Just for clarification, the ten is still the five priorities that increases the Budget and five provisos, yeah?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yep. Conditions that do not touch the balance of the Budget.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I think I missed the train on this one, but I had some bills ready for the upcoming TIG that we didn't have, and I didn't submit them by 12:00 today. Is that out the door already? Like, in terms of...I had a PAF on Vacancy Tax, you know, because we have so many buildings that are just vacant that...you know, like are chronically vacant, and it kind of creates a blight on our society. Like...you know, I mean, when you go to like O'ahu, all the homeless are sleeping in front of the vacant doors, and it's...like it doesn't make any sense. Like, we have this vacant building, but the people are outside. Even, like, you know the, like, the parking lots, you know, in...in West Maui. Nobody can afford the rents for the building, so they have, like, selling in the parking lots on Wednesdays and Saturdays. It's like you have these

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empty buildings with people that don't have shelter, people selling stuff out in the elements, and it just kind of...like, every time I see it, it's like, what a backward society we're living in. You know, like, people have to sleep outside, but there's these vacant buildings. People have to sell outside, but there's these vacant buildings. And they serve no purpose --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, Member Paltin. You don't have to go in depth, but thank you for stalling for me while I call Staff. Okay. So Ms. Milner, you...you can owe her big time later. Ms. Milner, will you speak to the deadline that Member Paltin is asking about?

MS. MILNER: Yes. Member Paltin, I think you're speaking about the deadline to post for tomorrow's Council meeting. If these are for consideration under BFED-1, those can be direct-referred to the Committee, which has a little more time. Technically, the calendar deadline was yesterday for that, to give us time to get everything together, but if you could get it to us by end of day tomorrow, we can make it happen.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: End of day today would be preferred, since the deadline was yesterday, but you know, our OCS Staff, they're...they're so flexible. But you know, they work, like, late into the night to accommodate us. So if you can please be gentle on them and get it to them today.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I think we can, because they were ready to go. We were just holding onto it for TIG, so --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- I'll...hopefully people are watching me on TV and getting that ready.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: By people, meaning Councilmember Paltin's Staff. Okay. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Okay, Members, any other questions on the proposed process? And I'll get that to you all in writing. Okay. So we're going to revisit Member Kama's proposal. Okay. The next priority proposal is from Member Sinenci, and it is number...priority number 20. It's a district priority, proposing additional funds. It would be on page 293 of the Program Budget, and it would be a grant. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And yes, Members, this would be under the County Grant Subsidy Detail, and my...for my district, I'm asking to increase the budget for Maui Adult Daycare Center for senior citizens and disabled from 383,440 to 400,440 for the cost of a...a van that's been...the cost share of a...of a van from the Department of Transportation. The van would be to shuttle seniors, our kūpuna, to and from the center for programs, activities, workshops like lomi lomi and acupuncture. The van will also help to travel to Central Maui for kūpuna shopping, picking up food boxes, and gathering of arts and crafts...arts and craft supplies. So again, the 17,000...20 percent of 75,000 is 15,000, and 2,000 for insurance. Thank you, Chair.

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COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Consensus.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Mahalo for your --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Consensus.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- eagerness, Member Molina and Chair Lee. Okay, so there's no questions. I guess all of our questions were answered in the testimony this morning, huh? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, that was --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. I guess we don't need feedback from the Department.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I have one question.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh --

MS. TSUHAKE: So thank you...thank you, Madam Chair. Just one comment, and that is that the...the grantee, Maui Adult Daycare Center, did not make the request to the Department for increased funding, so I haven't seen any of the application or the justification for funding. Based on Suzanne's testimony from this morning, it seems like the...because the funds are for matching purposes for a grant that was provided through the State Department of Transportation, the Department has no objection. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Member Sugimura, question?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, you know, I forgot to ask Suzanne this one...is it a one time, or would she be...is it a recurring request?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: One...once.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: One time.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Okay, Members. Consensus? Or any objections? Consensus.

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICE CONSENSUS**

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All right. I have consensus. Okay. The next proposal is from Pro Tem Kama, it's priority number 21. Countywide, additional funds. It would be on 2...page 293 on the Program Budget for a grant. Pro Tem Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So again, this is just giving \$500,000 to expand the bed space and wraparound services for those mental health challenges, and so my thought at the time was to see if Maui Mental Health Kōkua would be able to take on this project to expand their...their...their...their space up there in Wailuku.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Pro Tem Kama. Okay, comments from the Department?

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Member Kama. Again, this is another grantee who has not provided the Department with a narrative for the use of the funds, or given us some metrics about how many additional beds might be provided with the funding. So I'm a little bit reluctant to...to support it outright. I do agree that our community could use additional support services when it comes to those who have mental health, and especially those with mental health and co-occurring disorders. And I think that, you know, some of the drop-in programs that Mental Health Kōkua has provided for the community have really helped the...the homeless who might have been hanging out in the stretch of...of Central Avenue and the other one, Main Street, I guess...Market Street, that area around Market Street, that there's been a place for them to drop-in to and receive services. But as I said, I don't know what the metrics are for how much the funding will actually translate into additional bed space or additional staffing. So I'm...I'm not able at this time to strongly support it because I don't know those things. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay, Members. Questions for Pro Tem Kama or the Department on the proposal? Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So the...the matrix that we got from the Department shows Mental Health Kōkua, their percent of maximum score as 53 percent and 57 percent. I wonder if we can get back to them, or if...if, you know, we could revisit this and talk to them about their capacity. Their current grant is 95,000 and 173,000, and those are the two that's on this matrix. We can revisit. That's a lot of money. Maybe it's needed, you know.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I think revisit.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Revisit.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Mahalo, Chair Lee and Member Molina. We'll mark it as a revisit. I have a question for Pro Tem Kama. So the 500,000, was it to any specific organization for any specific items?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Nothing specific, Chair.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, okay. Okay. Mahalo, Pro Tem Kama. Okay. Next priority proposal is from Member Sugimura. It's priority number 22. It's Countywide. It's for additional funding. It would be on page 294 of the Program Budget, for grants and disbursements for health and human services and education. Okay. Okay. Raise property taxes? Okay. Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, that's a hard decision, right? So every single one of these, it costs money. So as you heard, Mr. Morris was testifying, and one of his board members. I did talk to him, and I did say that, you know, whatever funding he's asking us for, that they go out and also look for. And they're...they're pretty good at that. So they would get other partners, this is not a sole ask from us. And...and he...they explained what it's for, and it's really to help families, you know, through their programs, underprivileged families and, you know, healthy living and, you know, their mission. So this is 150,000 ask.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Comments from the Department. Director, did you have any comments?

MS. TSUHAKO: Oh, I'm sorry, Madam Chair.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: You're on mute. Oh, okay. Go ahead.

MS. TSUHAKO: Okay. Thank you. The Department did not receive any information from the YMCA about their request, so we have...you know, I...I...I think I talked to Member Sugimura last week about it. But I don't have any...any other additional information. So I will say that the YMCA was a really important partner with us last summer, when we were trying to develop some alternative programs for child care and child services, when the initial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic hit our community. But I've had no...no contact with Mr. Morris or anybody from his board to discuss a request for additional funding.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay, Members. Any questions for Member Sugimura or the Department on the proposal? Okay, I...I guess I have a quick, quick question. So the YMCA, that's marked as a Countywide proposal, but they don't service Lānaʻi, and it's questionable of...of whether they're going to service Molokaʻi. And so it's more of a Maui Island proposal, and not so much Countywide. Those...those are my comments.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Wrong category. Sorry about that.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. Okay. Okay. Members, consensus or revisit? Members?

. . . *(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Do we need a dance again?

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COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Your call, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Recommendation.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Recommend...she already gave her recommendation.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay, you know what? I'm just going to mark it as a re...revisit for now. I'm not getting --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Any more questions you may have, and I can go...I can ask.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sounds good. Mahalo, Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Everybody wants to go to dinner.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, okay. All right. Maybe we can speed this up. We have about 10 more...no, 15 more. Okay. Member Johnson is the next person with a priority proposal. Number 23 on the matrix. It's a Countywide proposal, it's for additional funding, would be on page 294 of the Program Budget, Grants and Disbursements for Substance Abuse Programs. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmembers, for letting me bend your ear on this very important issue. Again, it goes with the idea of the theme that I'm going for, trying to help the people who are falling through cracks. This...this...these positions are out...are all about outreach, and we all...when I...when I was walking around talking to homeless people, they...it's hard for them to trust somebody who they've never met. So you got to reach the streets, as they say, right? You got to go out there, and you got to earn their trust, and you got to help them with even the manini stuff. And these...these salaried positions, I think will affect that. We got to go out and...and get those people the services they need. They...we...I...I think that that's a big part of this, is that aloha...Aloha House will...will be on the front, in the streets, getting the people who...who need it, and bringing them into the fold to give them the services. So that's why I think this is a very important funding for Aloha House, and I...I hope you guys rise in support and I can get your consensus. We also have Malia on the call if you have questions, but...and there's also stuff in Granicus for you if you want to look at that. Thank you.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Johnson. Okay. Department, any comments?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I spoke with Councilmember Johnson and Mr. Fitz (*phonetic*) last week about the proposal that Aloha House had provided the Councilmember's office. They shared that with me. My concerns are of...have been spoken before. It's about the coordination of this service and making sure that it's integrated with the existing service system, so that we're not duplicating efforts, and that we're not circumventing the homeless system by...by placing people in...in housing that are at...are...in a way that's contrary to our coordinated entry process. So again, I'd like to just emphasize that if this program is geared toward ending homelessness, this program has to be coordinated with the housing resource unless, with this increase of \$380,000, the Aloha House is allocating some funding to pay for housing subsidies for these folks after they are treated. I don't see that in here, but certainly, the coordination has to be there. Aloha House has to agree to participate with our data collection so that we can report, much like we did to the Affordable Housing Committee, about how many people were housed in the last Fiscal Year or the last calendar year. So those are things that we'll work out with them in the...in the development of any grant, if this body deems this funding appropriate. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay, Members. Any questions for Member Johnson or our resource...resource personnel? Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I wanted to clarify, are these positions going to be County civil service, or we're hiring employees...we're...we're funding the hiring of Aloha House employees?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes, Chair. Yes. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Yes, it's the latter. We're...they're not civil service.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: And the fringe expenses are based on their calculation of fringe expenses, not County fringe expenses?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That's correct.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Do you know what the actual salaries would be?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair. No, I do not, but I know if you want to ask Malia, she is here on the call, and I think she might know the exact number.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, yes, I'd like to do that.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Bohlin? Oh, we see a colorful square. A colorful square that's changing colors.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Happened to one of the testifiers the other day.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Okay, Ms. Bohlin? Okay. Perhaps maybe if you log out and log back in, that's how we figured it out the last time. Oh, okay, I'm going to mute you . . . *(inaudible)*. . . Okay. All right. Ms. Bohlin, if you can...oh, okay, I see you may have joined the call again. Okay. Ms. Bohlin? . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . Okay, while we figure that out, do you have any other questions, Member Paltin? Or actually, the timer went. We'll...we'll...we'll come back to you, and we'll see if any of the other Members have questions. And then hopefully, Ms. Bohlin will be able to log out and then log back in, and we'll be able to connect and get the audio working. Members, any other questions for our Member Johnson? Okay, seeing none. Okay, it looks like Ms. Bohlin signed in again, and she's unmuted on our end. All right. Okay. So we will mark this as a revisit tonight. We'll...we'll come back to it after we can establish connection with Ms. Bohlin. It's... it's...oh, Chair Lee...Chair Lee, you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: If you...if you reestablish connection with Ms. Bohlin, could you ask her...that \$380,000 is for one year. What happens the subsequent years, okay?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Sounds good. Okay, Members. It's...it's almost 6:30, and so we...we've been on since 2:30. So if we would like to either, you know, break for dinner, we can do a...a shorter break. We can either do, like, a half hour or an hour, and then that way we're not here too late.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I wasn't planning to keep you here late yet, not until...not until Decisions Week. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So how many more do we have to go, and can we just power through and finish it rather than taking a break? I'm not...the quantity of...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: 14.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: A lot.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: If you want to power through 14, we can.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I do.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I...I...I...I would want to make sure that Staff is okay --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, yes.



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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- and the Department is okay. Member Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Madam Chair, I'd prefer a break because I know some of us get stamina and power to go, but we got to be mindful of our Staff.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: You know, I...I'm very sensitive to that. We got to make sure our Staff get some time off. They got to do the dictation and running around, and can get pretty tough on them, you know? So anyway, I would prefer half hour, 45 minutes, whatever you deem, but we...we should give everybody a break. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, I agree. Mahalo, Member Molina. Okay, how about we...we'll break to...to 7:00? How's that sound? We'll do a half hour. Okay. Okay. So it's 6:27, and then, hopefully, we can reestablish connection with Ms. Bohlin, and then we can get back to Member Johnson's proposal. All right. So Members, we'll do a recess to 7:00. It's 6:27 on April 8th, and the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee is now in recess. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 6:27 p.m.  
RECONVENE: 7:01 p.m.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Will the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee please return to order. Okay. I hope everyone enjoyed their 30-minute break; got a little bit of snack and took care of any bio needs. We have a new DJ in the house for us. DJ Milner?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Are you on?

MS. MILNER: Ready, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Department, are you ready too? . . .*(laughing)*. . . I know Chair Lee's ready.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You betcha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Hi, Makena.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hi.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You're going to work out with us, okay?

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UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. DJ Milner, hit it. Is it playing?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No.

*(exercising)*

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All right, Members. Working hard for the money. All right. Okay. Okay. Mahalo for...for that, Members. Now we're up. Better than coffee, yeah? We are on Member Johnson's proposal, and I think we have established connection with Ms. Bohlin. And this is a Countywide proposal, additional funding. Oh, okay. Oh, we're using Mr. Cunningham's video. Excellent. And this is a Countywide proposal because Aloha House also serves Moloka'i and Lāna'i. They've had clients from the other islands. Okay. Member Paltin, I know you had questions. Having dinner? Okay. It's okay, that's what we do. We multitask. We multitask. So we got Member Paltin with some questions, and Chair Lee with some questions. We'll start with Member Paltin. I have two minutes on the clock for you.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. I was wondering what the salaries for the people were, without the fringe benefits. And also if, you know, sometimes those types of specialized positions are hard to find...to fill. Do you know if there's folks available that would fill those positions?

MS. BOHLIN: That's a very insightful question and comment, and that is something that we've addressed and...when we were putting this plan together. And we're looking at possibly utilizing some of our existing staff that we might shift over into some of these roles, and then hire in some newer people that are...can be trained up into those positions. So it might be a little bit of a shifting around. Because that was a concern for us. You know, these are specialized. And to answer the question about the salary rate, these are all with about a 25 percent fringe rate, so you can deduct that from, for example, the \$75,000, that would be closer to 60,000, and...and going on down the line. So it's about 25 percent. And I think someone else asked, or maybe you did, if it was for one year. And we're considering this as a pilot project, and we'd like to then grow it and evaluate it at the end of the year, and see what else...adjustments we might make at that time.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Paltin. And I think Ms. Bohlin was efficient in answering Member...Chair Lee's question as well. Chair Lee, did you have any follow-up questions?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes. Ms. Bohlin, how many people do you think you'll be able...how many more people do you think you'll be able to assist with this new...this new project, the demo project, pilot project?

MS. BOHLIN: Right. You know, we were looking at that, and that's one of the questions that we have, because...and you'll see, one of the items listed is a...a new database to start

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tracking some of this. And what we're seeing, is we're not trying to circumvent any of the services that are out there already, but instead, we're looking to fill in the pukas, because there's so many places. And remember, we're talking about people with substance use and behavioral health issues specifically within the homeless realm. And so there are so many places they fall through the gaps. And so we really want to be able to provide this care coordination, where we kind of hold their hand through coming in and in our program. So long story short, we feel that this will reduce their recidivism, and we'll be able to keep people in the program, and then off the streets in the long term, rather than...some...some people do come back to us several times, you know? And they end up homeless because they're not able to kick their substance abuse habit. And so in this way, we hope to really, more strongly assist those folks. So in...in a year, Aloha House serves about 6,000 people on Maui through our programs, and so that's through mental health services, as well as substance abuse services. So I can't...we tried to put our finger on how many more people this would help. We think it's more like keeping people from dropping through and then coming back to us at another . . . *(inaudible)*. . . so improving the quality of care.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Jud knows I always ask this question about sustainability and diversifying revenue, so . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . that...that's the reason why I asked that question. Because you cannot rely only on the County, you have to go to other sources. Thank you.

MS. BOHLIN: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Okay, Members. Any additional questions? Okay. I have a question. So for these positions, are they 12 months...salary?

MS. BOHLIN: Yeah, we're looking at a one-year time.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So you're confident that you'll be able to hire, come July 1st?

MS. BOHLIN: Yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, because you're going to be moving existing people...existing employees into these positions.

MS. BOHLIN: In some cases, if it's relevant if...and appropriate for them, yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Because generally, our policy is...because it takes time to do the...you know, the paperwork and advertise, that we fund new positions at...for eight months. So --

MS. BOHLIN: Oh, okay.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- that we have that time to advertise for the position, and it's not excess funding, I guess.

MS. BOHLIN: Yeah, I see. So it doesn't outlast a year, is what you're saying? Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Um-hum.

MS. BOHLIN: Yeah, I think it'll be relatively quick, but we can make some adjustments if that's necessary too.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And then the... the database software, what...what software are you looking at?

MS. BOHLIN: You know, we have an IT consultant that we've talked to who's going to present us with something. We don't have something identified yet specifically, but he's gone through several examples for us on things that might work. And that's really important. We --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MS. BOHLIN: Yeah, go ahead.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. So the estimated 5,500 may not be the total cost of the software and licenses.

MS. BOHLIN: Right. We don't know for sure, but we feel that's a very strong guess...guesstimate or estimate. Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Those are all my questions.

MS. BOHLIN: All right. Thank you. Thanks for your patience.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Members, any last questions for Ms. Bohlin? Okay, seeing none. Well, thank you so much for joining us again and serving as our resource personnel, answering our questions.

MS. BOHLIN: Absolutely. Thank you for the opportunity. Have a good night.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Have a good night. Okay, Members. I guess I will...I think I should ask if there's any need for a revisit.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, I think so.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes, revisit.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And I think moving forward, I'll...I'll just be asking for...if there's any one that wants to revisit, instead of asking for a consensus. Okay. And

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then so having this part of the process, I'm going to try to speed it up a little bit. So the purpose of this process is to try to get feedback from the Departments while they're with us, and then to get questions from the Members so that the proposer of the priority can, you know, get that additional information so that when we get to decisions week, we can, you know, confidently vote one way or another. So I'll...I'll try to speed up the process. Okay. The next two items...oh...oh, okay, I'm going to...okay, if Members have no objections, I'd like to skip the next two because Member Sugimura left the Wailuku building to go home, and she's going to reconnect with us when she arrives. So the next proposal...priority proposal is hers. So I'm going to go to Member Molina. Oh, and...and the one after that is mine, but they're...they're connected, so I...I would like for us to discuss them together. Okay. The one...the proposal after that is from Member Molina, and that is number 65 on your list, on your matrix. And it's a Countywide, it's a new funding...well, it...it would add to revenue or...well, it would add to the Budget total, and it would be in Appendix A, Part II, on page 46 and 47, in Special Purpose Revenues. Okay. Member Molina, you have three minutes on the clock.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Very simple, the proposal is, as you mentioned in the Budget bill, is to increase the Affordable Housing Fund appropriation from four percent to five percent of real property tax, for an increase of approximately 3,714,020, for a total appropriation of approximately 18,566,000. We've continued to contribute generously to the Affordable Housing Fund over the years, and the fund has certainly been a very important mechanism to assist numerous affordable housing projects. And we've heard from Mr. Gilbreath that to build infrastructure and secure land, we need to appropriate as much as \$57 million in the fund. As I mentioned before, I would like to support the appropriation, but I am hesitant to do so because of the uncertainty of tax revenue and the slow recovery of our economy. Maybe sometime down the road we can increase the funding to that very large amount, but for now, I think we need to take baby steps. I thank the Mayor for offering a four percent RPT appropriation for the Affordable Housing Fund in his Budget, but I'd like to see if we can take it just a little farther to provide us the resources to expand our assistance to affordable housing projects. So that's it, Madam Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina. Okay. Department, any comments?

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Madam Chair. And thank you, Member Molina. You know, in reviewing this priority, which is on page 16, I wasn't...I wasn't really clear about the description, which reads...let me read the last part of it. We should use the additional funds to secure the mean shelter for families in need. So I...I wondered if that's a...Member Molina, if that was like a...should I take that literally, like, you were proposing an increase in these funds to...to be able to create more shelter, or just to address, like, overall housing for the community?

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COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Well, primarily just to provide more affordable housing opportunities that, you know, developers can tap into to augment their projects or offset their costs. That would be the primary purpose.

MS. TSUHAKE: Oh, okay. Thank you. Thank you for that clarification. I...yeah, like...like you mentioned yourself, I'm not really sure how increasing the appropriation by one percent would...would really...I think it would be beneficial, but I don't know all of the implications of actually what the tax collections would be, and how it might impact our ability to do other necessary projects. You know, you're going to hear over the next few weeks from other departments who are responsible for infrastructure and all those things. So I'd like to reserve...reserve any further comment for later in the process, Madam Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay, Members. Any questions for Member Molina or for the Department? Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: My question is for Director Tsuhako or possibly if Corp. Counsel is on the line, wondering if Affordable Housing Fund can be used for Department of Hawaiian Homelands projects.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Director, or Corporation Counsel?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair and Member Paltin. I...I would like to just defer, I'm not sure which Deputy Corp. Counsel's on the phone right now, but my recollection is that maybe it's Ms. --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Toshikiyo. Aloha, Ms. Toshikiyo.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Hi.

MS. TSUHAKE: Can I punt the ball to you please?

MS. TOSHIKIYO: You can, and that's actually something I would have to get back to you about. And I can check with Ms. DesJardin. I'm not as familiar with the Affordable Housing Fund. I do know that...I...I think that's a really good question because we do want to be careful, to make sure that it fits within the purpose of the fund.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah, I...I just wanted to know because, you know, we...we do fund a lot for, like, people in general, and to...get down . . . *(dog sounds)*. . . sorry, this dog. Never mind.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for getting back to us on that question, Ms. Toshikiyo. Okay, Member Molina. . . *(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, thank you, Madam...maybe to help cut through the chase and keep things moving, I...I know this is a significant amount, and the Mayor's already put in one percent, so I...I'm not adverse to coming back for review on this,

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and that way we can get affirmation from Corporation Counsel as to if it could be used for Hawaiian Homes projects. I...I believe it can, because as long as the project is affordable, so...but of course, I...I'm not a lawyer, but I'd rather, you know, we wait until we hear back from Corporation Counsel to confirm that. So yeah, if you want to just move along, we can just have this for review at a later point.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina. I'm pretty sure you're correct, but we can get the confirmation from Corporation Counsel during decisions week when we revisit. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Increasing it to five percent would add 3.7 million to the Affordable Housing Fund; is that correct?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Approximately. It's...it depends on how much RPT revenue we would collect.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you for that. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Okay, any other questions for Member Molina? Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Councilmember Molina, I...I love your proposal here, and I look forward to hearing about it in decision week, but I figured I'd ask you real quick. Are you adverse to a six percent?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: I'll go with if the majority of you want to do that, then I'm open to it. But it's also important to see what the impacts it...it could have on other County services as well, to be fair. But...but yeah, but nothing like thinking outside of the box, Councilmember Johnson. And you...you're certainly quite bold.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right. I gotcha. Okay. Mahalo. Thank you for that answer.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I have no further questions.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Johnson. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you for the opportunity, Chair. I just wanted to add that if...if we do...the County does receive infrastructure from the...from Federal Government, it would be coming through this particular funding source, yeah? Through the Special Purpose Revenues, as stated by Chair Lee.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm not sure which funding you're talking about. So this is the Affordable Housing Fund, and the Affordable --

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- Housing.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. All right. I was thinking of the...the Federal Government's Infrastructure bill, should that come in. Would that come through the Special Purpose?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It...it would be --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I would say --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm sorry, Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Appendix A. It would be Special Funds. The Special Funds, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. Thank you for that.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Okay, another other questions for the Department or Member Molina? If not, we've marked it as a revisit, and we'll take it up during decisions week. The next three proposals are from Member Johnson, and I think they kind of go together, so it's number 66, number 67 and 68. And they're...66 is Countywide, 67 is Countywide, and 68 would be District. They're...66 is new funding, and 67 and 68 would be conditional proposals. And it would be from the Affordable Housing Fund. Okay. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Aloha, good evening Councilmembers. Let's speak about the number one concern, 78 percent of our developers are concerned about the cost of infrastructure. That has been the biggest roadblock for these folks building affordable homes. We hear it loud and clear. So let's talk about investing in our people, investing in our community. And I think a large, robust fund like this is...is the way you do it. I mean, we talk about the price of Lānaʻi infrastructure being 10 million, and then the cost of the North South Kihei Collector Road being 10 million. Boom, you have two projects that are...are just trying so hard, and we got...every district needs projects. So that's why I get it; it's expensive. But this is what people come to us time and time again. This is what's on their minds. And I think if the infrastructures come...funds come down from the Fed, Councilmember Shane Sinenci was just speaking about them, the Federal funds that are coming...if...if those infrastructures come down from the Feds, we can use this fund right here, and you can finance it in a way that all of a sudden, that 5 million becomes 10 million. You can go...we all know what Doug Bigley does with his magical finance hands. So that's...that's...it's like matching funds. So I think that that is



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a...if...if you...if you listen to the people's voice, this is what they've been talking about, and I think...I don't know if you want me to continue on to the Lānaʻi one, or we can wait, but whatever's good for you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Will you propose your priorities, what they are? So you've done the rationale, but if you . . . *(inaudible)*. . . what the...what your proposals are.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: To increase 20 million to the Affordable Housing Fund, and then for the Affordable Housing Fund, the 20 million goes to infrastructure. And then the Lānaʻi one...but did you say you wanted to hold off on that one? I...the Lānaʻi one is the \$5 million for Lānaʻi, and that will begin that infrastructure program. Now again, Doug...we all know Doug Bigley. He has reached out to me, and he's...he said that he would...he would be willing to work on the Lānaʻi project and rent-to-own, and all these beautiful ideas. We all know he's working Lāhainā, we know he's working Big Island, so those are my proposals. A 20 million...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yep.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And then I see Member Sugimura has joined us. Member Sugimura, I have skipped both of our proposals, and we'll come back to it after Member Johnson. Okay. I'll ask for comments from the Department on the three proposals.

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I...I don't know where the increase in funding is going to come from. Is the proposal for a General Fund to be allocated for this purpose, Councilmember Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: You're asking me where the --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Councilmember Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay --

MS. TSUHAKE: Is this general funds that you're proposing?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: It'll be from the Affordable Housing Fund.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Where...where...where will the 20 million into the Affordable Housing Fund come from?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh, well, that's...that's...I understand the question now. It's going to be Real Property Tax. We can look at short-term rentals, we can look at the...the taxes the hotels pay, we can talk about the lowest property taxes in the nation as is this state. So there's money.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So General . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: General Fund.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: General Fund.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: General Fund.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

MS. TSUHAKEO: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: General Fund, Director.

MS. TSUHAKEO: Thank you. Thank you for helping me with that, Chair. Thank you. I think that the...the need for a supportive infrastructure directly related to development of affordable housing is really an important...I...I have to...I have some concerns about...about general funds being allocated...additional general funds being allocated for the Affordable Housing Fund for this purpose. I...I am not personally aware of Federal funds coming down for infrastructure projects and such, but I think that the...the County's Infrastructure Department has a mechanism to either apply for, or you know, plan for the application for these funds. So I don't feel prepared to speak for them in terms of how those funds would be used for infrastructure, and whether they could be dedicated solely to assisting with the development of affordable housing. I'm sorry, I'm not very helpful about this...this area, and perhaps we would be able to provide the Council a little bit more feedback in a written response over the next few days. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Ms. Toshikiyo?

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Hi. Yes, I'm looking at the use of the fund, and I...I did speak briefly to Ms. DesJardin earlier, and she seems to believe that we could use it for public infrastructure, but there is a concern about whether it can be limited to the 100 percent affordable housing. So that may require a revision of the Code.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Toshikiyo. Okay, Member Sugimura, I saw your hand up.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Just for clarification --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Just for clarification, I just want to know what number we are on the matrix, since I came midway?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sure, no problem. It's number 66, 67 and 68.

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COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You're welcome. Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Chair and Member Johnson. You know I...I...I like the idea. The issue that I think I have is, if we're planning on leveraging Federal funds or State funds, then anybody in the United States can come and live in these houses? Is that the way it is? For Council or Department.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Paltin, clarification on your question. Use of this funds on fee-simple property, or DHHL property?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Fee-simple. Or, I mean, because...so what the...he wants to put 20 million into the Affordable Housing Fund for infrastructure, and if we leverage Federal funds or State...if we only used County funds, then we can limit it to our residents. But if we're taking these funds and anticipating doubling or tripling it, and leveraging State or Federal funds, then anywhere...USA is going to be like hey, Maui, 20 million for infrastructure, who doesn't want to move into some affordable housing on Maui? That's...that's my concern, and I'd like the Department or Corp. Counsel to say that's a valid concern, or if we don't got nothing to worry about from continental invasion.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I think you're a little too late for that, but Director?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Further.

MS. MUNSELL: Councilmember Paltin, thank you so much for that...that question. I'm not sure that there's a difference between affordable housing funds versus Federal funding. I mean, the State of Hawai'i is part of the United States, and so there are laws associated with the freedom to travel and freedom to live. I'll defer the technicalities to the Corporation Counsel, however they want to comment on that.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Deputy Director. Ms. Toshikiyo.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Yes, and I...I would concur with what Deputy Director has just stated regarding cautioning against residency requirements, and I would kind of look...if you want more information, I can certainly look into that further.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: So then I guess my follow up would be, who are we building these houses for? Because everybody in this pandemic is buying houses sight unseen, the folks that can afford it, and now, I mean, I'm sure this will make Maui Now or CNN, and now the folks that are affordable are going to be moving here too, and further moving us out. Like, I don't know if I mentioned to you folks, somebody wanted a homeowner exemption, they hadn't even lived here two seven...270 days, and they were on the affordable list, and they got an affordable home in Kahoma Villages. So just saying. I'm not...I'm going to be a revisitor [sic].

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Paltin. Chair Lee, followed by Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I need a clarification from Linda Munsell. Deputy? My understanding is the 2.96 Workforce Housing, you need to be a resident for one year and working. And then the only way someone from the mainland or else...you know, someplace, can come and apply for a house under the Workforce Housing Bill is if no one else buys, you know...in other words, the developer doesn't...is not able to sell the homes, so then it goes to the open market; is that correct?

MS. MUNSELL: Thank you, Chair Lee, for the...the question. So there is a definition of residence in the Workforce Housing policy 2.96, and a resident does mean that a person who meets one of the following criteria: They do have to be employed by the County, retired from employment, and a full-time student. And of course, it goes on from there. There are some criteria, but that doesn't mean that a person who was living in California yesterday could not move here based on a job, and they are, at that point, then considered a resident. What we can't do is say that you have to have been a resident for six months, or you've have to have been a resident for one year. So there's no time requirement that we are allowed to put on this. But yeah, there are specific requirements or State definitions of residents for Workforce Housing units. When you do have Federal funds, there is some other...you can prioritize. You can do a prioritization, but that becomes more problematic. So again, dicing that through, Corporation Counsel would have to provide the very specific guidelines for that. I would not feel comfortable providing that at this point.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Member Sugimura, followed by Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So yeah, clarification of use of funds and eligibility. So if we use our County taxpayer dollars, which is what the, you know, affordable housing general fund comes from, or Federal or State funds, so you're saying that we cannot restrict who can or cannot buy; is that correct?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: If it's on fee-simple property. If it's on DHHL property, yes, we can.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. So if it's on --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Deputy Director . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MS. MUNSELL: Pardon? Is there...is that a question for me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: If you wanted to add to anything.

MS. MUNSELL: Yeah.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: If you wanted to.

MS. MUNSELL: Yeah. I guess I'm, yeah, have nothing...nothing additional to add to that. But you know...

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Member Sinenci, and then Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair, for the opportunity, and mahalo for...for the conversation. I think, you know, this Council has always looked towards getting affordable homes for our residents here, where we've seen a mass exodus up to the mainland because there's nothing really affordable for our...our families and our local residents. My question was, with this kind of money, 20 million, is it more feasible to look at bond funding? I know we...we talked about last year, putting...going to bond funding and...and keeping some of the cash on hand. Is this...is this something that this can apply to, Deputy Director?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sinenci --

MS. TSUHAKE: Madam...Madam Chair, Budget Director Yoshimura can respond to Member Sinenci's question.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Budget Director.

MS. YOSHIMURA: Councilmember Sinenci, if we plan on granting the monies to a developer or to, say, someone other than the County, bond funds cannot be used. Bond funds can only be used for our own projects.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. All right. Thank you for that clarification. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. I...I...I really understand the body's concern. I...I...I appreciate it. I want to kind of come back to what Councilmember Paltin was saying. So if you guys remember, Doug Bigley's project in...in Kihei, he said the way he did it was, we only had...the only way to apply for this...for this...affordable housing was in person, pick up the application. And that kind of forced people that...they were not applying from the mainland, and they're not going to fly just to get an application and then maybe you're picked out of one of a thousand, right? Because that's how tough...that's how shortage...we're in a crisis, that's how much we're in a crisis. So we...so the way they...they went that route, is hey, I live here, I going to walk down to

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the office, I'll pick up the application, and that's...that's one way. But...so I just wanted to address that. The last thing I wanted to say, is I...I...when we bundled the three priorities, I forgot...I...I made a mistake. The Lānaʻi project is using the 2...2 million already in...in the budget. I'm just pumping up to 5 million because everyone keeps telling me that this...the cost of the infrastructure is killing that project. And...and Ikaika 'Ohana has mentioned well, if we get that money, we can do that financial plan. We'll...we'll...we'll cover the...the infrastructure costs. So that's totally separate. I just wanted to clarify that. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that clarification, Member Johnson. Any other questions for Member Johnson? All right. Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I just had a comment. You know, like, when we're...we're doing it project by project, it's...it's kind of a little bit more palatable, and people listen to the project and watch it get its approvals, and then they start to think like, oh, I'm going to be on that, I'm going to be watching it. But if it's not a specific project then, you know, it's...it's a little bit more sketchy to me. Not like sketchy in a bad way, but like, you know, I'm apprehensive. Like if you look at even Hale Mahaolu, like, they have a waitlist full of folks from the mainland that just wait until an opening comes. Who doesn't want to retire in Hawai'i, Maui, you know? So I just...it's a...it's a serious concern, especially to my community, that, you know, they vet it and they know the developer that they're going to be working with. You know, Bigley, Ikaika 'Ohana had quite a bit of meetings over here. They gained people's trust. I mean, they even didn't have any opposition testifiers to building on ceded lands, you know? So it's like I feel a little bit more comfortable with that type of vetting process than just, like, 20 million to infrastructure, you know, and...and not knowing who developers we're dealing with and what their process is. So I just wanted to clarify that, that my support of Bigley when they first walked in my office, I was like hell, no, you know? And they just kept coming and coming, so just nothing personal there.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Okay. Chair Lee? Is that...okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I'm thinking that...well, as far as I'm concerned, I think there's a lot of merit to these proposals, but I'd prefer if we revisited it because it involves a huge amount of money, and we have to find out if we have that money, you know?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Okay, and oh...sorry. Okay. We marked it as a revisit. We'll...we can go back to...oh, any last questions or comments before we move on? Okay. The...the next item is...the next two items is from myself and Member Sugimura. And it's priority number 24, and it's Countywide, conditional proposal, page 331 in the Program Budget, and mine is a district conditional proposal on the same page. And then (*audio interference*) is for the (*audio interference*) Control Feral Animal Program...no, Feral Animal Control. Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. So my proposal is to use the Feral Animal Control \$750,000 that's in the Budget and under Animal Management Program, and to basically do the same thing that we did with the \$1 million, which is split it equally

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amongst the inhabited islands. I think that's the way it was written in the Budget. So my proposal is 250 each for Maui, Moloka'i and Lāna'i, and I would imagine the Department would then put it out to bid, as they did with the \$1 million, and see what comes in for the...for the feral animal control. So that's my proposal, Members.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo Member Sugimura. Okay. Guess I'll keep it...I'll just do them together. We'll try to expedite it. Okay. And so my proposal is number 25, and it...it...it can go with Member Sugimura's proposal or not, either way. It doesn't conflict. It would be for \$150,000 for a full-time person to work on Axis deer management on Moloka'i as a specialist on feral animal control here. It would be for Axis deer...Moloka'i Axis Deer Management in the Feral Animal Control. Okay. And the purpose for this is, after going through the first round of funding...grant funding for the feral animal management and assessment, I worked a lot with the different communities on Moloka'i. And I learned that there's actually a lot of management plans from the large landowners, and there's a lack of communication and coordination between the large landowners and the community and the different groups working on things. So the missing component in Axis deer management on Moloka'i I feel is that communication and coordination piece. And MoMISC, so MISC for Moloka'i, would be able to do this work. They've done this work before, and it would be for salary and operations for this position. Okay. So those are our proposals. I'll ask for comments from the Department, and then questions from the Members. Director?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Department has...so you know, I think I said this before, but the Department really lacks capacity in the area of feral animal control, because this is not an area of expertise for us. It...it isn't. Yeah, trying to...trying to subsume this program has been really challenging for our Grants Management Staff. I...I don't have any objection to the funding being allocated equally for the three islands. I...I'm not sure about the full-time Axis deer managing specialist, whether that would be...if Madam Chair is suggesting that that be a County...a County position? No? Okay. So if...if...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It would be under a nonprofit, yeah.

MS. TSUHAKE: Yeah, if it's intended to be funded out of an allocation made for Moloka'i Island, I...a thing...thing to keep in mind is that the Department intends to do another request invitation for application, the...the same process we used in Fiscal Year '21. So if, for example, one of the agencies that bid on Moloka'i and had this position identified in their budget was last elected, then I don't know how the Department would then control the...the winning proposal having this function within it. So that would be my only...it's an Administrative caution, but it's my only concern about how that would be arranged if...if we don't, you know, have total control over which agencies bid when...when...when the procurement is done.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay, Members. Questions for Member Sugimura, or myself, or the Department? Okay. Member Paltin, followed by Member Sinenci, and I'll give everyone who hasn't spoken an opportunity to ask their

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questions. If it asks a question of either Member Sugimura, you're...you're welcome to answer, of course. Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, I just was wondering what happens on Moloka'i after the one year? Is it like a one-year contract?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: And did you have, like, a...a position description or criteria of, like, minimum qualifications on who could apply for that?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, and I can get that to you...to the Committee.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. That's all my questions.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Member Paltin. Member Sinenci, followed by Member Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. And yeah, just clarification. So your 150,000 would come out of the 250,000 that Member Sugimura would be divvying up?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. If her proposal passes and my proposal passes, that's what it would look like.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Member Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah. Thank you, Madam Chair, but Member Sinenci asked my...the question that I had, so I just wanted to get clarity on that. So I can...I can...I can support a consensus on this...for me, anyway.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina. Okay. Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So I have a question for the Department based upon what the Director just said in her opening, is that it sounds like the Feral Animal, this...this grant, you would rather it not be in your Department?

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Member Sugimura. If there was another place to deposit this with more expertise on this topic, that would be my preference. You know, we deal with the reality that it is here in the proposal, but I...I...you know, I know more about feral animal control than I ever wanted to know.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

MS. TSUHAKO: Okay. And that goes also for my Grants Management Staff, which really have to stretch to...to do this. So just...just to give you a really brief idea of how



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challenging it is, is that we're trying to work with people to come up with performance measures that make sense to us, who are not animal control specialist people, but that might make sense to the...to the proposer because they're doing this work all the time. So you know, it makes that process of working on the performance measures much more challenging than if you had somebody who had some expertise in the area, and could look at the proposal with...with...with that expertise and go oh, okay, that makes sense. I understand why you're doing this in order to achieve better control over the feral animals, right? So that...that's my concern, is that we...you know, it...it's a big stretch for us. Very big stretch. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Can I ask another question...the Department? So would it be better then, like in OED, Office of Economic Development? Just because...versus working with all the, you know, the human-type grants versus this, which has been a challenge?

MS. TSUHAKO: Yeah, our...so thank you, Councilmember. Our...our Department has worked with...with the statutory requirements for animal control, which is done through our contract with the Maui Humane Society, has been like that for many, many, many years. So you know, our exposures to the animal control element has been in the realm of what is statutorily required by the State. And so it...it functions as a contract with the Humane Society to address the State requirements, right?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Um-hum.

MS. TSUHAKO: So this program, I think, up until last...oh, up until this current fiscal year was in...or the issues around feral animals were in OED. And I...I haven't spoken with Ms. Inamasu about whether she feels that her Staff . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . has the capacity to reassume their responsibility for the program or not, but I can tell you that that's not the...it's not the best fit for this Department.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. I...I hear you loud and clear.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, I...Chair, so tomorrow OED is coming before us. I don't know if we'll have time to talk to them about this or no, it can be another conversation, but maybe we can revisit this, and then have Office of Economic Development look at it. What is your thought?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We can...we can revisit. I've marked it as a revisit. I would object to putting it under Economic Development because that modifies the deer anyway. And that's not something that I would...I...we're...and...and that was actually the purpose. Member...former Member Hokama put it under Human Concerns and not in Economic Development because it was more about animal control and not about making money. So that was...I supported that effort last year. I hear the Director. And we can try to find somewhere that perhaps may be more appropriate,

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maybe in something like food security or environmental protection and food security. But I...yeah. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I think it'd be great in the upcoming Agricultural Department, but that's next year.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Johnson. That would be a little scary for me too, because then it becomes a pest to the Ag and not, you know, food security. But I marked it as revisit. And we have one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight more. And Member Johnson, you're up next.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: This is the --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Number 69, that's a Countywide conditional proposal. It would be on page 46 and 47 of Appendix A, Part 2, special purpose revenue, Affordable Housing Fund. And that's the 500,000. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So this is in regards to our new Healthy Solutions and Healing for the Homelessness Committee [sic], that we want them to come up with ideas that...that are going to help our...our houselessness folks. And we want to give them some money to implement their ideas. Of course, this is -- you know, everybody's going to ask, but all their proposals are going to come to the Council, so we'll have final say in it. But this...this is 500,000 for...again, it's a crisis. It's an emergency. We need to do something. So that's why I'm trying to...hope you guys will support this for our...our...our new Commission. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Johnson. Okay. Department comments.

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Member Johnson. We...the comments that the Department has around this proposal, mostly around about how any project that's recommended by the Commission would...would come before you. I mean, my...my thought is that some of the proposals that are generated by the Commission may not have applicability under the Affordable Housing Fund. You know, because if you think about it, most of the...the...the discussions that have gone on in the past year by member...people who've been subsequently appointed to the Committee have been around services rather than about housing. And so I don't know if there's...if there's necessarily a connection between the two. And I...I worry about setting aside \$500,000 for projects to give the...to give the Commission the impression that they can propose projects out of affordable...using Affordable Housing funds that are not related to housing, obviously. So I...I...I'm not sure that setting aside that amount of money would actually be prudent to consider at this time.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you...Chair, if I may.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Johnson. . . .(timer sounds). . .

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So thank you for your concern, Director Tsuhako. I...I have full confidence in the Commission that we...we have gotten on board to tackle this issue. And we could just tell them straight up, it's...it's...this is the parameters. This is what you got to follow. And then, I'm sure they'll come to the Council with these kinds of ideas that would allow them to use those funds. If you give them the parameters, then they're going to...they're going to follow because they're all on this as a...as an unpaid commission. So they want to help. I don't...I...I mean, I...I appreciate your concern. I...I understand it. We spoke with OCS, and OCS said, yeah, this...this could work. So I...I think that's...you know, I...I believe in the...in the new commission we created. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Johnson. Okay --

MS. TSUHAKE: Madam --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- Members, questions...

MS. TSUHAKE: Oh, Madam Chair. So...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Director.

MS. TSUHAKE: Deputy Director just reminded me that there's a...there's a procurement process that's used every year for Affordable Housing funds. So I guess if the commission had a project, they could make an application . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . during that period, and that...that proposal would be evaluated against all the other requests for funding in that year. And then money could be appropriated as part of the Affordable Housing Fund plan that the Department prepares.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Director. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well, generally, the way things work, the Commission would make recommendations to the Department. And once the Council allocates and appropriates a certain amount of funding, usually...and it...it's allocated to a department, we don't have the authority to continually review, you know, applications for that funding. That now is in the realm of the Department, no longer with the Council. So once we give that appropriation away, it's no longer within our jurisdiction to approve or disapprove.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair...could we write it in to make it so it...we would have the authority?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm sorry. Member Johnson, what is your question?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well, if we...if we wrote it in...in there instead of --

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Wrote what in?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Pardon me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Wrote what in and where?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well, Chair Lee is saying that we don't have...you know, once it's out, then...then the...then the Department will control it. Can we write it in to say this money has to go through to the Council, or you can't do that? That's what I'm...I'm just asking.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, I see. Yeah. So this becomes part of the Mayor's Operating Budget.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Um-hum.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And so after we adopt the Budget, then we don't really have power to amend the Operating Budget. And...but for these projects that go into the Affordable Housing Fund, they...they need to have Council approval. And a lot of times they'll come to the Council and present what the project is. And then we get the information then. And Corporation Counsel, please correct me if I misstated anything.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: No.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Miss...Ms. Toshikiyo.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: I agree.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Okay. Member Sinenci, you have questions?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, I just had a question for Member Johnson. Would this position also...oops.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: What happened?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It sounds like he may have dropped his mic.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mic drop.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Sorry. Sorry, my cat hit the...my question was...can you hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes, we can hear you.

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Sorry. Okay. So my question was, would this funds also look at looking for some space or some properties, County properties, that could technically just looking at some alternative areas to address the homeless population?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And that question --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I'm sorry...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- is for Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. How did you see this...I...funds being used for?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Great...oh, thank you, Chair. Thank you for your question, Councilmember Sinenci. Well, I mean, we...we're...it...it...the answer's in...in the title, Healing Solutions. We...they're going to come up with healing solutions. And...and they're going to...these healing solutions are going to cost some money. So instead of just saying, oh, that's a great idea. Thank you, and see you next year. There's 500 Gs sitting there. Like, all right. Let's move on it, and go through the process. I know Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez was mentioning the process. We have one set up. It's just...we're going to have these people come up with a plan, come to us and say, all right. Come back and tell us...when it's funding time, come back and talk to us. So then it just delays. Again, we're in a crisis. People are dying on the street. Our homeless...our homeless issues are a major concern to me. It's my kuleana. I'm trying to take care of them. So let's speed it up. You know, let's...they're going to come to us and ask us for money. I mean, that's...that's what they're kuleana is, the healing solutions on homelessness. So that's why I'm trying to get ahead of the game to help...it's just that simple. So I know there's a bureaucracy involved, and I'm new, I'm the freshman on the Council. But I mean, come on, we're...we're trying to help people who are literally dying in the streets. I don't want to come to them and say, the paperwork's not ready for you. You know, that's...that's just...in my heart, that doesn't seem right to me. So that's...that's where the...I hope that answers you. I think that's the...the...the...the Commission will come up with the answers, and we're going to try to streamline it for them. Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo. Mahalo, Mr. Johnson. Yeah, you know, my memory goes back to that day where we vetted the Commission. And I think every one of this Council chose some...some well thought out candidates. And some...and I too believe in...in some of these commissioners that we chose, so...thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Member Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just for the Department, has the Commission even met yet? I know they're one member short, but they haven't even met yet at this point?

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MS. TSUHAKE: No, Member Molina, they're commission has not convened yet. So --

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah.

MS. TSUHAKE: -- they're awaiting some consultation with Corp. Council about whether they need to have rules first before convening, or whether they can convene, and then develop the rules subsequent to that first meeting. We haven't heard yet.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina. Members, any other questions for Department or Member Johnson? Seeing none. I'll revisit. The next priority proposal is from Member Molina, it's number 72. And we briefly talked about it earlier when we had Member Paltin's item up. It is Countywide, new funding. It would be on page 50 of Appendix A, Part 2. And it's Home Acquisition and Ownership Program Revolving Fund. Member Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah. Thank you very much, Madam Chair. This is the one that I'd like to modify a bit based on the conversation we had earlier with the Director. The proposal now would be under Budget Details, pages 8 through 11, Code 914485B. And the proposal would read as follows, Increase the affordable rental housing program an additional 1 million for a total FY'22 appropriation of 3 million. And again, we heard the reasons for it. It's apparent that the greater area of need in our community is rental assistance. Even prior to the pandemic, rental assistance was much needed. And certainly with COVID's effects, it's just escalated, made things worse for a lot of people. People are just hanging on, you know. And they're just a paycheck away from going under. So you know, I don't think I need to add anything more as to why we need this rental assistance. And I applaud my colleague from West Maui, Ms. Paltin, for making the first move on this, 500,000. I think another 500,000 is very doable. So you know, if nobody has any questions for the Department, I would respectfully ask for a consensus on this. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina. Okay. Members, questions for Member Molina or the Department. Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: *(Audio interference)* there. So you're saying 500,000 to make this, with Ms. Paltin's, a total of a million.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Is that what you --

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Well...well...well, yeah, whichever...well, proposal we go for, but mine would be one million. Member Paltin is asking for 500. But I...I don't know if I heard wrong, but I think Member Paltin said that she's open to the one million as well. I...I think the more we can add, you know, invest in this, I think the better. I think it's certainly doable at one million, but that's...that's my opinion.

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COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Could I ask the Department?

MS. TSUHAKO: Sorry. I scooted away for a second, Madam Chair. I think that the Department has already determined that we...we could efficiently and spend the addition of one million dollars with efficacy to the intended purpose of the program. Also, keeping in mind all that we're soon to be also offering 40 million dollars in U.S. Treasury funds to the community for rent and utility assistance. So we'll have...we'll have lots of reinforcements in the...in the year upcoming to help families who are in very desperate need. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. This is for Mr. Molina. So Mr. Molina, so the rental is for...to assist with rental payments or assist...to assist in the building of rental units?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: No, I...I believe this will be to help people pay their rents.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: People are short on money and they could apply for financial assistance. I believe there was four...several pass-through agencies there, like MEO, Family Life Center, if I'm correct. I think the Director had mentioned that. You can ask...ask the Director for further clarification as to the parameters of the distribution of this funding as well.

MS. TSUHAKO: Madam Chair, so the Rental Assistance Program is intended...well, what we do is we utilize a partnership with Women Helping Women, Ka Hale A Ke Ola, MEO, the Family Life Center to...to take in requests for services and then distribute funding, so they can help with security deposits, rent in arrears. Most of this housing assistance or rental assistance is really geared toward helping families stabilize and stay in housing, so that we can avoid them becoming part of the homeless community. So yeah, we...we utilize those partnerships to achieve the objective of this program.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Pro Tem Kama. Okay. Okay. Seeing no more hands. As I said earlier, I...I'll call for revisit on each of the items. And if you want consensus instead, then I'll say revisit.

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICE CONSENSUS**

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay. Okay. I'm gonna mark this as consensus. Okay. Okay. Okay. We have five more. The next one is from Member Sinenci. It's on his alternates page, which I don't have in front of me right now. Member Sinenci, your \$100,000 one.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: What page?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Chair, which one was...sorry, I don't know if I've got that page as well.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That is from your alternates page. And it's waller...water...water filling stations for homelessness for \$100,000.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, right. Yeah, we spoke about this, and...or I don't have...I don't have that page with me. But this is one of the things that was the most...needed the most with some of the...the...the encampments that we were visiting. Again, we tried to look at some of the mobile units, the hygiene units. However, that was more cumbersome to...to fund because of the maintenance of...of the hygiene units. So the alternative was looking at an...a water fillings truck, vehicle, that would deliver water to the encampments. Right now, with parks closed or the locations of some of these encampments, they...they don't have any access to fresh water or running water. And so this was one of the alternatives that we had, if we could go ahead and...and ask for some kind of water filling stations for...as far...for immediate needs of our unsheltered population.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Do you remember where...at what...what funding and what...I'm assuming, it would be a grant?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yes, I believe so. Thank you, Chair. I apologize. I...I don't have the...the full...so this was just something that we wanted to consider and maybe ask of the Department. And we can always revisit to get more details.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Director.

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Member Sinenci. You know, I...I don't know of any resource that is...that is that specific service. And I...I seen on the news sometimes when water mains break on O'ahu, they have water trucks come, and people can show up and fill their bottles and stuff. But I...I'm not really sure that we have that here on Maui. I...I'm not sure what the Department of Water Supply's inventory is, if that's a service they...they do. So I don't really feel prepared to discuss that because I don't know that that...that particular vehicle or that type of service exists. But as I said earlier though, when those request for water have been made to...to the County, and to Feed my Sheep, and through the Red Cross...those partner agencies, the Red Cross, Feed my Sheep, the Food Bank, have responded, and have actually delivered water to various encampments in...in pretty substantial quantities to address the need. But I don't know...I don't know of like, a mobile truck sort of distribution process. Sorry. We can...we can ask about that.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Director. And yeah, Chair, it looks like...I know Member Paltin mentioned something about a water buffalo, maybe something like that just to park it near some of these encampments, so they have access to...to fresh



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water. But again, this was considered one of my alternatives. And so we can revisit it on April 15th, should I propose to have it part of my ten. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Well, I just wanted to clarify with Member Sinenci if he meant for this to be like when the parks shut down type of deal. Like, when they close the restrooms.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. And...and again...yes, exactly. Like one of those water buffalos because, you know, sometimes the encampments might access private property for water, even though they can't access it. So I think if...you know, if we had something like a water buffalo nearby or accessible, then, you know, they won't be going onto private property to try and search for water. So --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: And --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- but that's a great idea. We can...like the Director said, we can look further into it.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: But more so like pandemic reasons for closure rather than natural disaster reasons for closure?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yes, exact --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- exactly.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: All right. Thank you for the clarification.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Okay. Any other questions for Member Sinenci or the Department? Okay. Seeing none. I have one...one question. Oh, Member...okay. There they are. Okay. Member Sinenci, do you know of...like, so would a organization apply for this funding to get a water filling station?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: We could go ahead and have it for...for application. Like I said, our original ask was for one of the hygiene units. But again, a lot of the nonprofits found that they couldn't maintain. So I think something like this would be less of a maintenance for them, and could have more of a direct benefit to...you know, to help with some of our homeless encampments. So I think something like this might

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be less for them to maintain, easier to help with those homeless encampments. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Okay. I'll mark that as a revisit, if it...if it even ends up on Member Sinenci's top five, because it's an alternate. Pro Tem Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I just wanted to ask Member Sinenci if he thought that this...this water buffalo would be mobile.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Hmm. Members --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. We lost a whole bunch of people.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. So having water taken to them would be the idea.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Very good.

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

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Pro Tem Kama. Okay. It looks like Member Molina, Member Johnson, and Member Sugimura weren't able to reestablish connection yet. Okay. Hmm. Okay. We'll...we'll just...you see them? Okay. I don't...I don't see them, and they're not on Channel 53. But if you see them, then we can keep...keep going. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Member Johnson is here. I see him.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We only have four more. Okay. Member Sinenci, yours...your proposal is the next. It's another alternate. All of these are alternates. It's under Feral Animal Management, Kula Hunting Club, \$47,000. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair, for the opportunity. Yes. Our office was contacted by a Mr. Jeff Frye (*phonetic*), I believe, of the Kula Hunting Club. And what he does is he does the feral deer mitigation on the Kula Ag Park. And so he was looking...I believe last year, he...he was able to get over 200 deer. And what he does with the...the deer meat, he goes ahead and...and gives it to some of the food...food banks and the food hubs that are the local food hubs. So he was looking at just some equipment to help him continue his operations at the Kula Ag Park. And this is one of our alternatives, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Department comments? And you're on mute.

MS. MILNER: ...messed.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, there you are.

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MS. MILNER: They messaged that they may have lost internet connection.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, who did? *Akakū?*

MS. MILNER: The...Finance, they can't hear anything. They may have lost their connection.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay.

MS. MILNER: They're in chat.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, oh, oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: There's only four left. Do you want to revisit them?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Well, we're not going to have the Department with us, that's why. And that's the purpose of asking these questions and proposing them now, is because the...the Department won't be with us during decisions week. And we don't want to ask them to come back during decisions week either. So it's --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: They left. Maybe they're coming back.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So in the meantime, Member Johnson, did you...do you have your two alternates, the Hale Mahaolu Care Program...Personal Care Program and mental health Kokua Safe Haven Services Program? Do you have that ready? . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . Okay. And then Chair Lee, your alternate is restrooms and showers for unsheltered for 100,000 of that too. That way when the Department does get back, then you'll have your proposals queued up. And then you can let everyone know what funds they are, and where they would be located in...in the Budget. Okay?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I...I see the Department. They're on.

MS. TSUHAKE: Madam Chair, we're back on. We reconnected. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Awesome. Okay. So we were talking about Member Sinenci's proposal for the Kula Hunting Club. And then if we can just...you know, especially since they're alternates, if you can keep them as concise as possible. So it's a feral animal management condition for 47,000 for the Kula Hunting Club. Do you have any comments on that?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Unfortunately, I don't have a list of the alternative...the alternate proposals. So I...I'm not --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay.

MS. TSUHAKE: -- prepared...

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And it's not...

MS. TSUHAKE: I'm sorry. We didn't get transmitted.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Through the Kula Ag Park.

MS. TSUHAKE: Okay. So not prepared right now to make a comment about that, I haven't seen it. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Do you need to hear more details from Member Sinenci? Because the...the rest of these are alternates.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I have...Kula Ag Park is...is...of course, has this hunting club. And I met with him also on Zoom, as well as I guess Shane did. But they are a contract...they are with the...with...with our Kula Ag Park, and we don't pay them. So they go in, and they can hunt, and they can take all of the...you know, the deer. But what I told him, as everybody else, that they can apply for a grant with Housing and Human Concerns. So there's no contract for, you know, his services. He goes in. There's a lot of people who want to hunt. I...you know, and I respect what the Kula Ag Park has been doing for years with his services and appreciate him. But I...I think it's a question for OED and not Housing and Human Concerns, unless if he wants to apply for those grants, which I told him he...he can. It's available, you know, once...once they announce again. So thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Okay. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. So an option of like the Moloka'i one is to provide...so some of that funds out of the 250,000 for Maui?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. That would be another option.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And so --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- since we're...we're going to be talking about that under another Department later, we can, you know, discuss more. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Okay. Member Johnson, your alternate proposal.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you, Chair. So this is in regards to the Hale Mahaolu Personal Care program. I'd like to increase the funding to expand this program from 8 to 20 clients, including the expansion on Lāna'i. Hale Mahaolu provides in-home personal care services to our frail...frail elderly, disabled, and chronically ill adults, 18 years old and older is...is what their program is. It includes cognitive and/or emotional problems, which impairs the individual's ability to perform activities of daily living. So I'm asking for 225,000. And I...I hope I can get consensus. These are the folks who need it the most. Lāna'i is specifically people...a lot of constituents has been asking me, what am I going to do when I'm old and frail. Will I have to move to my family in Vegas, you know. And it just adds more to the...you know, we talk about the youth and the brain drain. This is our elderly kūpuna and the cultural drain. So I think...I would hope that you guys would support this, and I hope the Department supports this. So that's all I have to say for now. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Johnson. Member Molina, I...I saw the...the two videos pop on after they spoke. So if you could just --

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Sorry.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- speak so that your video will pop up on Channel 53.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yep. I'm here. Testing, one, two, three.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, there you are. Okay. Now you're on TV. Okay. Perfect.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Okay. Director, are you able to speak to Member Johnson's proposal that he explained?

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Madam Chair. And thank you, Member Johnson. The Hale Mahaolu program did...did not make a request to the Department for additional funding. So I've not seen any of the material justifying additional funding. I heard Mr. Ignacio's testimony this morning. And I think that in general, programs such as this do help people remain in their homes and avoid institutionalized placement. The cost per participant is...is fairly high compared to other programs, but I'd need to see the...the agency's sort of justification for that the...the high cost for a participant. But I'm happy to know from Member Johnson's statement that services are expanding to...to Lāna'i and being...would be offered more...in a more robust fashion there. Though, if we may ask to maybe have the material that was provided to Councilmembers shared with the Department, we could provide you with a much more...which...with a much more...better articulated response to the agency's request. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay. Member...Member Sugimura. And then, I'll go back to you, Member Johnson.

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COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So this is a question for Member Johnson or the Department. I remember going through the Budget session and the...we heard the Lānaʻi Kinaʻole group, which were physicians, and nurses, and professionals trying to do exactly what you're saying. And so it's a service that's available at Lānaʻi unless they stop doing their work. And this was the last...last Budget session for me. I don't know, maybe Department knows or...or do you know, Gabe, if they're still around?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Councilmember Sugimura. Yes, they do two...they have like...they do two people. So the need is...is massive. Okay? So there just isn't enough. They didn't apply for this. I wanted to kind of answer your question as well as the...the...the Director's in...in one swoop. It's...it's on...the Hale Mahaolu is...put it on Granicus, it's my last paperwork on Granicus. So you can look into the details of it. But it...to address your specific question, Councilmember Sugimura, yeah, there is a very small program. But this one's trying to expand. And they want to expand in Lānaʻi. Hey, that's great. You know, there's definitely way more people who need it. In fact, I...I don't want to get too personal, but I live in a house where people who had to leave the island because they're getting too old to...to...nobody was taking care of them. So they got to go live with family on the mainland. So this is affecting my community in my face. So I...I really...I...I ask for your consensus on this. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. And Member Johnson, it's...this is one of your alternates. So I'm...I'm guessing that we'll not be taking consensus on your alternates until you decide if you want to --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Practice --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- place your...okay. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All right. Any other questions? Seeing none, I'll go to Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I just was saying, I support it. You know, it's in my face right now. And luckily that I got this job where I can work from home right now. Otherwise...I mean, it's freaking 50 bucks an hour, minimum three hours a day, minimum ten hours a week. Just for the month of April, would have been 6,400, which I couldn't even cover with the salary that I have now. So I mean, I don't know if we can figure out a more efficient way to do it. I...I kind of spoke to Mr. Ignacio if there was a pay-your-way forward program, you know, when...seeing the person passes on, and maybe the family sells the house or whatever, maybe they can put a little bit back in to pay it forward. But I support it --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Paltin...

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- because you don't know until you know.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Yeah, so this is one of the alternates. So we're...we're...we just got to see if Member Johnson is going to put it on one of his top ten. Okay. Okay. Member Johnson, your next alternate. So we won't be asking for consensus because this isn't one of your top ten. If it ends up on one of your top ten, then we'll be taking a vote on it in decisions week. Okay. It's for Mental Health Safe Haven Services program. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Mahalo, Chair. Okay, members. This is the Mental Health Kokua Safe Haven Services program. They proposed to expand the MHK Safe Haven Services program in Wailuku, Kahului to include a LEADs component to help divert homeless adults from legal encounters and arrests, and instead engaging homeless adults in social services and housing placement. Expansion would include two additional safe haven stabilizing beds. So additional funding is \$128,576 per year. MHK is...Safe Haven program is currently funding the FY'22 Budget at \$192,337. And we would like to increase the total to \$321,000. That's it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Johnson. Department, comments?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Member Johnson. In general, safe haven programs have been a really good way to engage unsheltered homeless and get them into services and keep them stabilized until other services can be employed to wraparound for their care. I haven't...I...I don't recall if Member Johnson shared the actual proposal for Safe Haven. I...I think I read a proposal for Mental Health Kokua, but I don't believe I saw the Safe Haven proposal. So the Department would...would defer our comments for right now until we can maybe look at the proposal with a little bit more time and a critical eye and give you some feedback about cost and benefit. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I just...thank you, Chair. I just want to address your concerns, Director Lori. It is on Granicus for your viewing pleasure. It's up there. So...yeah. We...I hope you guys check it out. And so...yeah. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Johnson. Okay. Any questions, Members? Seeing none. We're...well, we're...we're on our last proposal from Chair Lee. It's again, an alternate, restrooms and showers. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Sorry. Sorry. Okay. The proposal is for restrooms and showers for unsheltered...the unsheltered homeless. So this is pretty much piggyback on some of the other proposals that were advanced earlier. And I think all of us are aware that our homeless are...are in dire need of a minimum of showers and restrooms, especially when there are clusters of them. That...that's all I have. And...and I...this would come from the homeless program, \$100,000.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Chair Lee. Department, comments?

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MS. TSUHAKEO: Thank you. If I may ask a question of Council Chair Lee. Council Chair, so is the intent to have mobile shower and hygiene...I mean, mobile shower and...and bathroom units, like a mobile hygiene unit? Or is it...or do you...is the money to...for some...or to create a...a restroom and shower that's fixed in...in one area?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, I...I think...I think a mobile shower is...is better because, you know, the ultimate goal is for everybody to move out of that place. So you know...you know, you don't want to create accommodations that are going to encourage people to stay.

MS. TSUHAKEO: I agree with you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Talking about people...people parking, you know, like, Kanaha is an example. It's a...it's a little...there's 80 people there, yeah, and they need...they need to take care of their personal hygiene. At one time, there...there were facilities, but they were removed. So all I'm saying is just a matter...just taking care of people's basic needs. It...it should be a very important consideration. That's all I'm saying.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Director?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I finished answering the question. Oh, okay. I'm done. Done.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Yeah, I thought the Director was going to say something else. Okay. Members, any questions for Chair Lee? Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Just similar question to Shane. Is this intended for when the park's bathroom closes for reasons other than natural disasters, or is it a 24/7 type of deal, Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Are you asking me or Shane? Me?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I'm asking you, Chair --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, me.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, I'm sorry. I thought --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I'm asking --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I thought you said -- no, no, no. I think it should be --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's your proposal.



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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I think it should be on an ongoing basis, not only in times of a hurricane or COVID or something else.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: People should be...have to...should...don't leave for work and come back to the park and find your shower is gone, and the water is gone, and the toilets are gone, you know, because...you know, because you're expected to use the one in the park.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Got it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Okay. Any other questions for Chair Lee or the Department? Is someone speaking? Sorry. Director.

MS. TSUHAKE: Chair, thank you. So recently one of our...our partners, Family Life Center, actually used Federal funding to purchase a mobile hygiene unit. They paid approximately \$80,000 for the unit itself. I'm not sure how much money it'll take to maintain the unit, the staffing, et cetera. They need a truck to...to pull the unit. It's a little bit smaller than the unit that you guys have seen that's over at the Wai'ale Park right now that belongs to Ka Hale A Ke Ola. But you know...or in...last year from May until October, the Department operated that...that shelter, right. And I was so naive about what it takes to operate that hygiene unit. So David Biss (*phonetic*) and I often spent more time than we imagined filling water tanks, making sure that water tanks were pumped out by the pumping agent...the company. And that's only grey water because it was only....it was only showers that were provided in that hygiene unit. The folks who lived there were using the restroom...the fixed restroom at the park. So we didn't have black water to...to dispose of.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Director. Director. Director.

MS. TSUHAKE: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Director, I noticed that in your list of expenses under the...the COVID moneys, on several occasions, you paid \$10,000 for pumping.

MS. TSUHAKE: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Was it for those...was it for that facility?

MS. TSUHAKE: Yes, it was.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: To...to pump the grey water?

MS. TSUHAKE: Yes.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Well, maybe this money should go for maintenance and maybe...you know, and accessories for the...for the truck that they have, that...the mobile unit that they have. But I'm just putting that there for it to be used in the...the best way. I don't have exact numbers on a new unit. And maybe a new unit is not necessary. Maybe a truck is necessary and other types of equipment to maintain the mobile unit that Life...Family Life Center already has.

MS. TSUHAKE: Yes. Thank you, Council Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Seeing no other hands. That concludes that portion of the process. Yay. Okay. The next portion is grant revenue. Are there any questions on grant revenue at all? Congratulations on getting so many grants, Department. Good job. Okay. Seeing no questions on grant revenue. Revolving and special funds. So there's the Housing Interim Financing and Buyback Revolving Fund, Animal manage...Management Revolving Fund, Affordable Housing Fund, and the Kaunoha Senior Services Leisure Program Activities Revolving Fund, Experimental and Demonstration Housing Projects Fund, and Home Acquisition and Ownership Program Revolving Fund. Okay. Any questions on the other ones, other than Affordable Housing Fund? Very good, Members. Okay. And we might get out of here by 9:00. . . .*(knocking)*. . . Okay. That was me. I knocked. Okay. Affordable Housing Fund. I'll...I'll just go through each one. And then if you have a question, just raise your hand, and then we can ask the Department. And then we...we will...we'll take these to a vote during decisions week. Okay. Up to 70,000 must be for administrative expenses. Okay. I don't see hands. Up to 2 million must be for planning, design, engineering, construction, and construction-related to the Lānaʻi Affordable Housing project. Okay. Okay. Up to 650,000 must be for the acquisition...oh, Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, Lānaʻi Affordable Housing project, it's not the County one, huh?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, that's the one.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well, can we --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We're not...we're not...I'm just letting...I'm letting you what's on here. And then if you have questions, the Department is with us now. You can ask them questions. We're not voting on these. We're going to take it to --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- decisions week, and we'll vote then.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Can I ask them a question?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. My understanding is that money has been there for years. How soon are you planning to use that money for the project?

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Council Chair Lee. The money has been there for several years. The largest hang-up that we have right now in terms of moving that project forward is the cost of the infrastructure. I think years and years and years ago, when former Councilmember Hokama started working on this project, the...the landowners of adjacent property, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and the Department of Education had both planned to develop further their properties. And then the idea was to collaboratively fund infrastructure, so that the housing could be developed. As the project got...as our project got moving along, the Department of...of Education did not have the student base to justify an expansion of their campus. And Department of Hawaiian Home Lands had decided not to pursue their housing development. And so it left the County alone funding the infrastructure, which at the time, I think two years ago, last estimate was projected to be \$10 million. And the County did not have the funding to pursue that infrastructure, and so the project has remained dormant since that time.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So in other words, you could have been using that money for other projects then. It's been parked...it's been parked there for several years is...is my point. Now, it...unless it's ready, why would you continue to park that money there? Why not put it back when it's needed? Can't hear you.

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Council Chair Lee. I believe the money had been used elsewhere. I think the...well, the Department's hope was that the infrastructure cost issue might be resolved with Hawaiian Home Lands' cooperation. We...we didn't expect the Department of Education to really do an expansion because it was really a...a census issue for them, but we were hoping...and we had, I think, some indication about two years ago that the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands was moving further along in their development. So we didn't withdraw the money. But you are correct in your assessment that it could have been allocated elsewhere.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I just was wondering if it's 10 million for the infrastructure, how much more would it be to just do Hawaiian Home Lands' infrastructure as well because that's going to be affordable in perpetuity?

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. I think the...the location of the County housing parcel is actually beyond Hawaiian Home parcels. So it would be infrastructure that I'm assuming would be --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Shared.

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MS. TSUHAKE: -- shared or used by both projects.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: So if the County puts in the infrastructure, DHHL just needs to tie in.

MS. TSUHAKE: Yes, or we could...they could do it together with us and share the cost of that.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Got it. Thanks.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Okay. Seeing no other questions. I'll go on to the next one. 650,000 for the acquisition of the property at 266 --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I'm sorry. I had my hand up. I don't --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, I'm sorry. Oh, my apologies, Member Johnson. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: It's okay. Just a real quick follow up. You know, Doug Bigley, who has offered to work on the affordable housing project on Lānaʻi has reached out to Hawaiian Home Land, and said hey, you know, we can structure this. So there is ongoing talks. I...and I just wanted to clarify for that because that's...and that would be great with two birds, one stone. And we're all working together. And we're sharing the costs. I...I like Director Lori's point to that. We've got to share the costs. So that's just a follow-up information. Mahalo. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member...Member Johnson. Okay. 650,000 for acquisition of the property at 266 Dickenson Street in Lāhainā. Okay. Up to \$3,025,442 for a grant to Ikaika 'Ohana for land acquisition, planning, and design, new construction, and reimbursement of entitlement work done by the lands' sellers for 56-unit multi-family rental project for the Kaiaulu O Halelea Phase 1B project in Lipoa Parkway, Kihei. The project will include six units at or below 30 percent AMI, six at or below 40 percent AMI, 43 units at or below 60 percent, and one unit for an onsite property manager. Affordability period is 65 years. Okay. Up to \$4,665,660 for a grant to Hawaii Community Development Board for land acquisition for a 96-unit senior rental project for the Hale O Pi'ikea 2, Pi'ikea Avenue and Liloa Drive in Kihei. The project will include 10 units at or below 30 AMI, 19 at...at or below 50 AMI, and 68 at or below 60 percent AMI, affordability for 61 years. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Up to 6 million for High Ridge Costa Development, LLC for the planning design and new construction for a 120-unit multi-family rental project for the Waiehu Apartments project at Kahekili Highway, Waiehu. The project will include 7 units at or below 30 percent, 112 units at or below 60 percent, and one unit for an onsite property manager, affordability for 60 years. Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I just had a question about that one. Do we know who the players are in the High Ridge Costa group? Like, who it is? It was a Delaware limited liability company, so there's no names. Usually, I think, the incorporated Delaware, so you can be a secret.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Director.

MS. TSUHAKO: Yes. Thank you for the...thank you for the question. The...the folks that are involved in that, High Ridge Costa obviously is the developer for that. Hale Mahaolu is their...their partner in that project, and this land is actually owned by MEO.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Okay. Seeing no other questions. Oh, Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Just a follow up. So the...the traffic for that would be go onto Waiehu Beach Road?

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you for the question. I believe that the entrance is actually on the highway, the...Kahekili Highway, rather than on Waiehu Beach Road.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Paltin. Okay. 2 million for a grant to Na Hale O Maui for land acquisition, foreclosed, or abandoned building acquisition, rehabilitation, and new construction for six for-sale single family homes, including three units at or below 100 percent AMI, and three units at or below 120 percent AMI, affordability is in perpetuity. Okay. Up to 660,000 to Catholic Charities Housing Development Corporation for planning and design of a 179-unit multi-family rental project for the Hale Pilina project located at Puunene Avenue in Kahului. The project will include 18 units at or below 30 percent, 18 units at or below 50 percent, and 142 units at or below 60 percent AMI, and one unit for an onsite property manager. The affordability period is 61 years. All right. And...oh, okay. I spoke too soon. Chair Lee, followed by Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Was it on Puunene Avenue, yeah? Not in Puunene, yeah? Big difference.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, Puunene Avenue, Kahului.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thanks.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So on the Na Hale O Maui \$2 million, and they're saying, you know, what they're going to...for new construction for six for-sale single-family homes, including three units, all of that. Can...can they show us...can we put a proviso in there so they can show us the homes they're going to purchase for that, based upon how expensive housing is? I just want to get clarification before we release them the money. So Department?

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm sorry. Which one, the Na Hale O Maui?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, the \$2 million for Na Hale O Maui for land acquisition.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Department.

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you for that question. Na Hale O Maui hasn't identified the properties yet. This is one of those situations where you have to have the funding in order to be positioned so that you can make a move on a property. So this is (*audio interference*) to other funding that they received from...from not necessarily from us, but from the Federal Government where they were poised to purchase homes that were in foreclosure or in otherwise needed to be...or available for their purchase. So they would be identified after the funding is made available. Oh, I'm sorry. We can't hear you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then mute yourself when you're pau.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. So once they...I guess, they've gotten some commitments already from the Federal Government, and then they're looking for ours. So if this does pass, then July 1 and they move forward. Then before we release their money, can they show us what properties they're...they're looking at? That would be what I would like to condition it with. Thank you.

MS. TSUHAKO: Some clarification --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Director.

MS. TSUHAKO: Madam Chair, just for clarification purposes of Councilmember Sugimura, are you seeking to require Council approval for every one of the purchases made by Na Hale O Maui once they get the funding? Is that what you're requesting?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Please unmute.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I just want to...I just want to see what they're doing with...we're giving them a \$2,000...I'm sorry, \$2 million check. So what are you doing with it? You know, just as we are with the other projects that we're funding, it's pretty specific. This is a blank check. Although they do great work, I'm...I'm not questioning that at all. But I just want to see that, you know, it is being done...money is being used the way that they're advocating for. Thank you.

MS. TSUHAKO: Yeah, I think some of those...those conditions and the...the...the...the assessment of the values, the value and the...sort of just the...the efficacy of the purchase is done through the grant agreement that the County will execute with Na Hale O Maui. My...my...my uncertainty is whether the Council would put a proviso on to say that every single purchase must be approved by the...by the Council, which has

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never been a part of our usual working agreement with Na Hale. But I don't...I don't know how else to...to assure you that the Department wouldn't allow like a really stupid purchase to be done with our Affordable Housing Fund resources, so...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: How about just a notification...a notification to the Council?

MS. TSUHAKE: I'm sure that that wouldn't be a burden that wouldn't be too hard...hard for us to meet. Thank you. Council...excuse me, Committee Chair Rawlins-Fernandez, I think Ms. Munsell has identified an error in one of the TMK numbers listed in the projects that you read off. And if we could correct that on the record, we would appreciate that, please.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Please proceed.

MS. MUNSELL: Thank you. I really...I appreciate that. So for Number 6, the TMK listed is incorrect. The correct TMK for that property would be (2) 3-7-013:026.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Deputy Director. Okay. Any other questions on the Affordable Housing Fund? Member Paltin. Ah, it's 9:00. Okay. We got to go. Sorry. We got to adjourn. Just kidding. Just kidding. Member Paltin, go ahead.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Is the High Ridge Costa going to come back to us for approval before the money gets spent? There's not a whole lot of information available with just this paragraph.

MS. MUNSELL: Thank you. Thank you, for the question, Ms. Paltin. The projects had an opportunity to present some material to you in March at the Affordable Housing Committee. And if you need additional information, certainly we can forward that to you prior to decision making if you'd like.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Okay, Members. Any other questions? I'm not seeing any hands except for Deputy Director Munsell. Go ahead.

MS. MUNSELL: I...I just wanted to clarify. Is it only the High Ridge Costa project that you're interested in, or do you need more information on other projects as well? We can try and submit all of them together.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Paltin. Oh, sorry. You got to unmute yourself.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I'd like a little bit more information on Number 8 as well. The rest of them either I remember or I'm...I'm okay with. . . .*(barking)*. . . Shh. Sorry.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Is that the Catholic Charities one, yeah? Catholic Charities at Puunene Avenue, that one? Okay. Okay. Department, so additional information

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for the Catholic Charities Housing Development Corporation, Hale Pilina project, and the High Ridge Costa Development, LLC Waiehu apartments project. Okay.

MS. MUNSELL: We'll do that.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: And if you could also add on Na Hale, which is Number 7. Just the...what process we'll go through, just for clarification. What is a notification, and if there are any...if the...if the Department could just let us know what...what they have come up with. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That...that's not something that they would give us. That's something that we would put into the Budget ordinance.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. So I'll require something then. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Okay. I don't see any more hands. Okay. Very good. I better speak quickly and grab my gavel quickly. Okay. Just kidding. Just kidding. Okay. So the Department, when you provide the written correspondence to the questions that we submitted, if you would like to keep them all together you can, you know, provide that information when you respond with that correspondence. Will you please include the correction to the TMK, and the request for 115,000 increase to the meals because of DOE's increase...so those too.

MS. TSUHAKE: We will. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, perfect. And then we'll add that request from the Department, the 115,000, to the departmental requests. And then we'll take to decisions week and then we'll vote on it. Okay. I think that is everything. Staff, did I miss anything?

MS. MILNER: No, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay, Members. Tomorrow we have the Department of Liquor Control, Department of Management, and the Office of the Mayor tomorrow at 9:00. And we'll also need to post the range of rates for RPT. So we'll...we'll do that tomorrow. We'll...we'll just look at that. We'll decide on the range for posting purposes only. Okay. Oh. Mahalo nui, Director Tsuhako and Deputy Director Munsell for being with us. I'll invite you to share any final thoughts or closing comments.

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you very much, Madam Chair and Members. We've been here for a long time, but I feel like we accomplished a lot. Tonight we had a very robust discussion. And you know, whenever possible, if we have information, the Department is happy to share our opinions with you. I think you...all of you collectively have a really hard job ahead because you're really going to be balancing all



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these new proposals for funding with how do we actually get it done without undermining existing safety nets, and still ensuring that people are taken care of. That...that is also our charge as well, right? We're...we're in charge of implementing those programs that are trying to take care of people. So we're...we're here, and we're very willing to have discussions with you, and share with you any implications. If you propose cuts in any programs, we can provide you with information about how that would actually impact the people who are being served with those programs. So we look forward to meeting with you again, and having more discussions about the Department's Budget. Thank you very much and have a good evening, all of you.

MS. MUNSELL: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You too, mahalo. Mahalo for sticking with us all the way past 9:00 p.m. tonight, I appreciate your hard work. And you too, Budget Director Yoshimura. Mahalo. Okay, Members. So tomorrow at 9:00, we have the three departments, and we'll go through the same process. I think that's everything.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Is Liquor going to be first?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Liquor is first. And then, we'll be happy. And then Department of Management, and then Office of the Mayor.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Good.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: And probably a lot of testifiers.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Shh. We're...we're hoping to get out while the sun is still up. Okay. It's...and any questions or comments before I adjourn? I know...I know you asked a lot of questions and made a lot of comments today. So I think, you know, you probably got it all out of your system for today. And we can save more questions and comments for tomorrow. All right. It's 9:08 on April 8th, and the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee is now adjourned. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

**ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.**

ADJOURN: 9:08 p.m.

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APPROVED:



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KEANI N.W. RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ, Chair  
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee

bfed:min:210408:

Transcribed by: Daniel Schoenbeck, Crystal Sakai,  
Kaliko Reed & Ruth Millican

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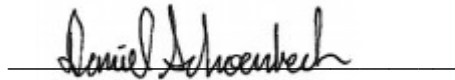
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CERTIFICATIONS

I, Daniel Schoenbeck, hereby certify that pages 1 through 92 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.

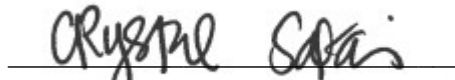
DATED the 13th day of May 2021, in Kula, Hawai'i



Daniel Schoenbeck

I, Crystal Sakai, hereby certify that pages 92 through 129 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 13th day of May 2021, in Wailuku, Hawai'i



Crystal Sakai

I, Kaliko Reed, hereby certify that pages 129 through 153 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.

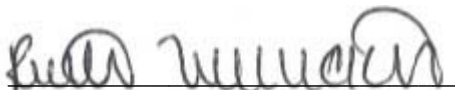
DATED the 13th day of May 2021, in Wailuku, Hawai'i



Kaliko Reed

I, Ruth Millican, hereby certify that pages 153 through 178 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 13th day of May 2021, in Wailuku, Hawai'i



Ruth Millican