

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

April 14, 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 Kelly Takaya King, Member
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member
Councilmember Michael J. Molina, Member (in 2:04 p.m.)
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Member

EXCUSED: Councilmember Tasha Kama, Member

STAFF: Lesley Milner, Legislative Analyst
Kasie Apo Takayama, Legislative Analyst
Ana Lillis, Legislative Analyst
Shelly Espeleta, Supervising Legislative Analyst
Richard Mitchell, Legislative Attorney
Yvette Bouthillier, Committee Secretary
Jean Pokipala, Committee Secretary

Kate Griffiths, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Gabe Johnson
Keisa Liu, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Gabe Johnson
Evan Dust, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Tasha Kama
Lois Whitney, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Tasha Kama
Davideane Sickels, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Tasha Kama
Axel Beers, 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

ADMIN.: Michele M. Yoshimura, Budget Director, Office of the Mayor
Marc Iwao Takamori, Director, Department of Transportation
Michael Du Pont, Deputy Director, Department of Transportation
Jeffrey Pearson, Director, Department of Water Supply
Helene Kau, Deputy Director, Department of Water Supply
Holly Ho, Waterworks Fiscal Officer, Department of Water Supply
Eva Blumenstein, Planning Program Manager, Department of Water
Supply

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

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

OTHERS: Chris Brosius, Program Manager, Mauna Kahalawai Watershed
Partnership
Michele Weinhouse
Debbie Cabebe, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.
Junya Nakoa

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

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . . *(gavel)*. . . Aloha kakahiaka kākou. Mahalo, *Akakū*. Okay. 'Eha minuke i ka hala o kahōla 'eiwa. Ma 'umikūmāhā o 'Apelila Iwakālua. . . `elua kaukani Iwakāluakūmakahi. E 'olu'olu mai, e ho'omalū kākou i Komike ho'omohala Waiwai a me Mo'ohelu Kālā o ka luna ho'o malu o kēia Komike o Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. It was 9:04 on April 14th, 2021. Will the Economic Development, and Budget [sic] Committee please come to order. Buen dia kākou mai Moloka'i nui Ahina. I keia lā me kou kākou, eia hope luna ho'omalū o, Tamara Paltin. Aloha.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Buen dia. Aloha kakahiaka kākou, mai Maui kumahana. The surf in town is one to three feet, light trades and mostly sunny skies, and the birds are chirping.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's not all they're doing. Good morning. Mahalo for the update. Committee Vice-Chair Member Shane Sinenci, buen dia.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair, mai Maui Hikina, and buen dia kākou.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Member Mike Molina is excused this morning and will be joining us this afternoon. Council Chair Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Buen dia, my colleagues, good morning. It's a beautiful day in Wailuku and Koa is taking a nap.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that update. It's always nice when the children take a nap. Member Kelly King, aloha. Buen dia.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Aloha. Buen dia, my colleagues. It's nice and sunny here and still. I'm really glad to be done with that wind that plagued me for about three days. It's hard to hear sometimes, but it's not howling anymore, and it's beautiful and sunny here.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Beautiful. And the greeting for this morning is from Bolivia from Council Chair Lee. Okay. Member Gabe Johnson, buen dia.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Buen dia. Good morning, Chair. Good morning, Councilmembers.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Good morning. And Member Yuki Lei Sugimura, aloha. Buen dia. Uh-oh.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Got it. Buen dia. And I'm in beautiful Wailuku looking at the Ka'ahumanu churches. Beautiful skies and good morning.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Morning. And Pro Tem Tasha Kama is excused, and in our thoughts and prayers. Okay. From Corporation Counsel, we have Deputy Corporation Counsel Kristina Toshikiyo.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Buen dia and aloha, Committee Chair and Members.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha and buen dia. And from our Committee Staff, we have Committee Secretary Yvette Bouthillier.

MS. BOUTHILLIER: Buen dia, Committee Chair and Committee Members.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Buen dia. Committee Secretary Jean Pokipala.

MS. POKIPALA: Buen dia, team. Good morning.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Buen dia. Supervising Legislative Analyst Shelly Espeleta.

MS. ESPELETA: Buen dia, Chair and Members.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Buen dia. Budget Committee Analyst Lesley Milner.

MS. MILNER: Aloha, Chair. Buen dia, Members.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha, buen dia. Legislative Analyst Ana Lillis.

MS. LILLIS: Buen dia, Chair. Good morning, Members.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Buen dia. Legislative Analyst Kasie Apo Takayama.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Buen dia, Chair and Members.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Buen dia. And Legislative Attorney Richard Mitchell.

MR. MITCHELL: Buen dia and aloha, Chair and Members.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha and buen dia. 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 information on meeting connectivity. We have our one item on today's agenda, BFED-1, Proposed Fiscal Year 2022 Budget for the County of Maui. We have three individuals signed up to testify. Oral testimony via phone or video conference will be accepted. Please note that if you are signed in, you

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

are on the list to testify even if you did not request to testify. Testifiers wanting to provide video testimony, please join by going to the link as noted on today's agenda. Testifiers wanting to provide audio testimony, please call the number and enter the meeting code also noted on today's agenda. The Committee intends to keep the same meeting link and phone number for all BFED Committee meetings for the ease and convenience of everyone. Written testimony is highly encouraged. Instructions on how to submit testimony can be found at maucounty.us/testify. Oral testimony is limited to three...three minutes per item. When testifying please state your first and last name. Staff will...has posted the testifiers log in the chat. Please be mindful of the use of chat during the meeting. Chat should not be used to provide testimony or chat with Councilmembers or other testifiers. If providing testimony, please, be courteous to others by muting your microphone and video while awaiting 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 maucounty.us. Participants who wish to view the meeting only without providing testimony, please also disconnect at this time and instead view the meeting on *Akakū* Channel 53, Facebook Live, or on maucounty.us. Only Councilmembers, Staff, and designated resource personnel will be connected to the video conference after the testimony concludes. We'll now proceed with public testimony. Okay. The first person signed up to testify is Chris Brosius, followed by Michele Weinhouse.

. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

MR. BROSIUS: Buen dia. Aloha, Chair Rawlins-Fernandez. Councilmembers, my name is Chris Brosius, and I'm the program manager for the Mauna Kahalawai Watershed Partnership. I am here today to thank you for your support and for all you do for watershed protection, and the grant programs through the Department of Water Supply. I wanted to start off with a story. My first experience, on...on the mountain was in 2003. I spent ten days at the top of the mountain, and I became very familiar with how the watershed works in that...in that short time. And one particular occasion, I was standing on the edge of the cliffs on Honokohau Valley and being buffeted by the winds and the passing clouds. And I quickly realized that the wool cap that I was wearing was getting saturated with water. The cold water was running down my back underneath my rain gear. It wasn't raining at all, but when I took my cap off, I wrung it out. The wool cap had held probably a half to a cup of water. And in that square foot of fabric, the fine fibers in that fabric becomes a good analogy for every square foot that is the giant living sponge of delicate fibrous forest that we have at the top of our mountains. Department of Water Supply looks at our forest and the life-giving water that they provide as the first link in the pipe that supplies...that charges our aquifers that runs into our streams, and then becomes the water that flows from our taps. Every single one...one of us drinks water that originated on the leaves of *ohe'o*, the ferns, and the moss of the forest. Later in that experience, I was hiking out, and I quickly became aware of the threats that surround the forest. We protect 50,000 acres with 13 people, and we do our best to manage these threats from feral ungulates, invasive weeds, fire, and we do outreach and education to try and protect these things. We're now up to 63 percent of the forest protected behind fence. We're controlling the worst threats, and

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

we matched your dollars two to one. And we just want to thank you for your support, and we couldn't do it without you. Thank you very much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Perfect timing. Mahalo, Mr. Brosius. Okay, we have a question from Member Sinenci. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. And mahalo, Mr. Brosius, for your testimony this morning. Just a question about the...the increase, what's the use for the increase from last year?

MR. BROSIUS: Yes, thank you. It is a timely increase. We...we have steadily been increasing the land that...the land area that we manage and the scope of the threats that we are engaging. A few years ago, we came across a new population of Himalayan ginger, the first known population on Mauna Kahalawai. And East Maui, one of their principal threats is Himalayan ginger. It's one of the worst invasive species in the world. And what we are attempting to do is get a handle on this incipient population before it spreads elsewhere. And so if we can invest dollars today, hopefully it will pay off by reducing the amount of management dollars we would need in the future. So the infusion of increased funds is very timely, and hopefully it will prove to be effective in the long run. So we...we thank you for this, and we...we know that it represents a line item increase, but I can guarantee you that it comes at a critical time when we can really put that money to good use. And furthermore, you know, the...as you all know, Maui County is suffering from an ungulate issue, and we are vigilant in protecting the areas that we have managed. And those funds will help us withstand the increasing pressure that is coming at us from ungulates in and around the watershed. So it costs money to do our work, and...but we...we try to use that...every dollar efficiently and...and do the best we can. But those are the primary reasons for the increases.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, great. Thank you, Mr. Brosius. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. I have a quick question, Mr. Brosius, if you're...if you're able to answer in a sentence. Himalayan ginger, how does it propagate? It doesn't propagate via seed, right, like, a . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

MR. BROSIUS: Yes, it does propagate by seed. I believe it also spreads vegetatively. So it can be bird dispersed, and when those...those seeds are...are...sown in disturbed areas, they get a foothold and they start. So we think we've caught it early and we can control it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo. Okay. And then in one sentence, if possible, what...what is your goal for this year as far as what you hope to accomplish, the organization?

MR. BROSIUS: In a sentence, I...yeah...I...I really hope to get a gain on the two primary threats that I listed.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Brosius. Member King.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I took so long to click on that. Thank you, Chair. So just a really quick question, Mister...is it [Bro-gee]?

MR. BROSIUS: [Bro-shus].

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Brosius, okay. Part of your name is...is left off the square there. But on the...I just wanted to follow up on the issue with the Himalayan ginger that we've been talking about for...well, since I first got on the Council. I think Member Elle Cochran brought it up back then, that it's being sold to tourists to...in the airport stores, and I'm not sure what other tourists shops. But has anything been done to follow up on that so that we're not selling our invasive species plants to people to take home as souvenirs?

MR. BROSIUS: A quick response is that there is a Statewide biosecurity plan that does identify these threats and...and noxious weeds. And we do our best to testify and support that plan because it really does need to be a Statewide effort. We certainly try to address this through outreach, and whenever we know that there is population around the mountain, we try to directly address that with a...and do some outreach with the landowner or...or whoever owns the property.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. So this might be an issue we have to take up with the Visitor's Bureau because these are actually packaged plants that are being sold to tourists in shops.

MR. BROSIUS: Yes. I would encourage you to also network through the State Legislature to support the biosecurity plan to address this and other, you know, botanical...or excuse me...issues on...in the state, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Thank you. Thank you for that. Thank you, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. So how much acreage did you increase? Because it...it's correct, you went from 600 to 624 on Kahalawai Watershed?

MR. BROSIUS: Yes. I think what I'm...so the...the...the Himalayan ginger effort will ramp up dramatically this year, and it really addresses only a 15-acre footprint. But it's extremely challenging terrain that we have to access via helicopter, and the slopes are like, you know, 30...30-degree slopes. So it's really hard work. The ungulate area of impact, basically, is the fringes all around the boundary, especially, increases on the...on the windward slopes of Mauna Kahalawai. So we...we are increasing our management footprint behind fence, that's usually once...one metric that I quote. And I think we've done...increased that management footprint by a couple thousand acres in the last two years. The...so we're going from 600,000 in Fiscal Year '21 to 625 in...or four, I believe, in Fiscal '22. And I think that the...the increase is meant to just help us a little bit more and deal with increasing costs because, you know, as you all know, flat funding means that it's actually kind of decreased capacity when you consider increased

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

costs.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. So you're fine with the 24,000 base?

MR. BROSIUS: I...you know, I'm...we could always use more support, that hopefully goes without saying. But we can...I think it's incredible that in this time that we could even have an increase, and I'm very appreciative of that.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you very much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mister...Member Sugimura. And seeing no other questions, we'll thank you, Mr. Brosius, for your testimony and answering our questions this morning.

MR. BROSIUS: Thank you all, and take care.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Our next testifier is Michele Weinhouse, followed by Debbie Cabebe.

MS. WEINHOUSE: Buen dia. My name is Michele Weinhouse, and I am a recipient of the...of many of the benefits of the MEDB STEMworks program. I'm a high school teacher at Lānaʻi High and Elementary School on Lānaʻi, and I'm asking for your continued support of MEDB and its programs, such as STEMworks because so much of my curriculum has been enhanced and supplemented, and I directly have been trained and supported by the STEMworks program. STEMworks has allowed me to easily obtain what I need to teach courses I've never taught before, such as STEM and coding, yeah. And so next year I'm really excited because I have the opportunity to teach AP computer science to my students because I took advantage of a free training opportunity through STEMworks. In the past, STEMworks has provided training to enrich my curriculum for teaching science when I was teaching in the middle school. And they have also provided a network of middle school and high school teachers with similar likes and needs across Maui County, which is huge for small Lānaʻi, and as a teacher in the only school on the island. And so the connections that I've made through some of the programs that they've had, like through CTE natural resources, which is a new course that I'm teaching this year, would never have been able to happen, especially, during COVID. So I really appreciate that...that connection that they make for me. This is my first year teaching CTE, which is Career and Technical Education. And the purpose of the CTE program is to give those students who do not want to continue with education and need other opportunities post-graduation as such as a career. And I cannot begin to tell you how huge the STEMworks internship program is for our Lānaʻi students. The application process and the job experience, of course, give teaching CTE courses that real live context that a ninth...ninth and tenth grader who wouldn't have that opportunity otherwise. So it's so important. The only thing I would like to add, and I'm not sure that the Council can make these stipulations, is to ensure that the smaller items like Lānaʻi and Molokaʻi, the very schools that need their services because we're so remote, will continue to get free services from MEDB STEMworks because we all know that when money gets tight, it's these very services that get cut, or they charge a

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

fee for. I know that Lānaʻi...Lānaʻi High and Elementary School would not be able to afford their programs if we had to pay a fee. So...but for...but I do want to support or...or express my gratitude and appreciation for the STEMworks program at MEDB. Thank you. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Impeccable timing. Okay, mahalo for your testimony. Seeing no questions, we'll thank you...oh, Member Johnson, you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Good morning, Ms. Weinhouse. I just have a quick question for the amount of students you're...you're helping in the class. I know that Lānaʻi is very small school, so how many kids are taking part of your STEM classes?

MS. WEINHOUSE: I have...I have ten students currently. I'm a new teacher to high school, so I'm hoping that will grow next year. But the thing is, is that I also share the...the supplies, the...the training with other faculty members, and so it kind of reaches out to beyond just my classroom. There's...there's...in middle school, I was provided iPads and that sort of thing, which I brought into high school. But it's really hard distance learning, actually, using that. And then I actually use the equipment in all of my classes. So I have about probably 50 students altogether in all of the courses I teach, and so they get some part of that.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you. That's surprisingly a lot...a lot of kids involved. So mahalo. Thank you, Chair. I have no further questions.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Johnson.

MS. WEINHOUSE: Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Seeing no other questions. mahalo again for your testimony. Aloha. Our next testifier is Debbie Cabebe, followed by our last testifier, Junya Nakoa.

MS. CABEBE: Aloha Budget Chair Rawlins-Fernandez and Committee Members. Thank you for letting me speak this morning. I'd like to talk about MEO Transportation. During the past year, MEO Transportation services have continued to serve our county. Our Staff have been flexible and responsive to the needs of each community. We've modified operations to ensure the safety of our clients and our Staff. And we're so thankful for the support of the Council and the Administration that they've given to all of our programs over the years. As many of you know, MEO operates two transportation programs for the County. MEO Human Services was established in 1969 as the first transit system for Maui County. MEO Transportation truly is a lifeline for low income individuals, and persons with disabilities, seniors, and youth, particularly those living in the rural areas of Maui Island and on the islands of Molokaʻi and Lānaʻi. MEO operated the public paratransit service for the past eight years, and paratransit services are an extension of the public transportation system servicing persons with disabilities residing within three-quarter miles of the fixed route system. The MEO is requesting 6.2 million to fund MEO human service operations for Fiscal Year '22. For Fiscal Year 2021, the Council funded the program at a little over \$7 million. However, due to a

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

decrease in ridership during COVID-19, the Administration allotted about 5.6 million for the human service operations. For Fiscal Year 2022, the Administration has proposed funding human services at 5.8 million, but we're requesting the budget be set at 6.2, which will allow us to cover the costs associated with collective bargaining and an increase in other operating costs. With many residents receiving the COVID-19 vaccination, we do anticipate ridership to increase during the Fiscal Year of 2022. So...and please note that our fiscal...our request of 6.2 is about 809,000-and some change, less than the Council's 2021 adopted Budget. For the public transit, paratransit, we requested three point...a three percent increase to our current billable hour rate, which is at 78.22. That would take us to 80.62 per hour. And that's...that rate is inclusive of all of our expenses to run that operation from maintenance and repair, to fueling, to staffing, to vehicle, everything. We currently have an operating deficit of about \$150,000 due to flat funding and mandated prevailing wage increases, as well as additional benefits required under the collective bargaining agreement. For Fiscal Year 2022, it's going to be four...year four of a five-year contract. And in the past three years, we have paid mandated prevailing wage increases at an average of 6.5 percent in year one, 3.2 percent in year two, and 3.2 percent in year three. Our current billable hourly rate is not sufficient to cover these increases. We don't expect that the billable hourly rate will increase the Administration's proposed budget allotment. And I know that sounds counterintuitive, but because of the reduction in ridership, it will offset the costs of the billable hourly rate increase. So we respectfully ask for your consideration, and appreciate your support of all MEO programs and the opportunity to speak to you today. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Cabebe. Did you submit your testimony in writing as well?

MS. CABEBE: I believe Imada's working on that. I think it's going...thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo. I saw hands from Member Sugimura and Member Paltin. Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you, nice seeing you here. I wanted to just confirm, so public transit program from the Highway Fund is in the Budget from the Mayor's Budget for 6.3 million. And you're saying...your explanation about the hourly rate, are you saying that it doesn't cover your hourly rate increases? So on that portion you're short, as well as the highway...human services transportation. And please correct me.

MS. CABEBE: Chair, is it okay if I speak?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Cabebe.

MS. CABEBE: Thank you for the question. Thank you for the question. So the way the Budget is...in the Mayor's posted Budget, it's a lumped sum, so I'm not really sure how to bill an approved billable hourly rate by the Department. That is currently at 78...what did I say, 78...

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: 22.

MS. CABEBE: Yes, and...28. Sorry, 78.28. And that rate is not sufficient to cover all of our operating expenses because over, you know, the last three years, we'd had all these prevailing wage increases that far exceeded any kind of adjustment that we were allocated, in addition to, we've had to, per the CBA, increase benefits. So that's under paratransit. For human services, which is a different line item in the Transportation Budget, we also have...we are going through contract negotiations right now for the collective bargaining agreement, which covers both paratransit and human services. And they are, you know, looking at...they are going to put some demands on us, I believe, for wage increases for that...for those individuals that are covered under the collective bargaining agreement, in addition to our insurance rates have gone up, and just expenses in general. So it's 5.8 that the Mayor proposed, that would...that would flat fund us with no...no room for any additional expenses or any increases that may be mandated under the collective bargaining agreement.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. So that means an increase of about 700,000, and then I've got to look into your other...other requests. Do you have a dollar amount that you're looking for?

MS. CABEBE: For what?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: To cover the...the wages?

MS. CABEBE: I believe it's all written in my...in my testimony.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. CABEBE: If that's not, I'd be happy to send you additional information.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: That's fine. I'll wait for that. Thank you.

MS. CABEBE: Thank you.

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

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I was wondering if Ms. Cabebe could be a resource. One of my priority items was the AD buses.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Members, any objections to Ms. Cabebe serving as a resource? Ms. Cabebe, would you be available, I think maybe in about a half an hour to 45 minutes? Okay. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Members. Seeing no...

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

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

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

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yes, I do. Thank you, Chair. Well, hi, Debbie, good to see you here. My question is about, you know, your program seemed...the parts of your program, especially if we're having lost revenue from the COVID that seem to fit in American Rescue Plan. So have you spoken with the Administration about the money that's coming directly to the County, or spoken to any State authorities about the money...much bigger pot of money that's coming to the State that will be dispersed?

MS. CABEBE: Thank you. Thank you for the question. Yes, the Administration has been subsidizing the paratransit program because it is Federally funded with some of the COVID...COVID relief money. Unfortunately, there's still, you know, a deficit in operations. And again, it's related to that prevailing wage increase, which has been over the life of the contract. So it's not something that just occurred this year, it's like a snowball effect. It's really hard when they...when a contract is bid out for five years, and there's a provision in there that says that you can request up to a five percent increase each year, depending on budget availability. And then there's budgets not available, so you're stuck at that rate, but everything keeps going up. I hope that answers your question.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Well, no, my...my question was more related to funding for your needs that there is expanded uses for this America...American Rescue Plan beyond what the CARES Act originally would allow for. So now it can be used for lost revenue and to fund a broader list of things for our counties, for the . . .*(inaudible)*. . . to counties. So I just wanted to just, you know, put that bug in your ear so you could...you know, you could be mindful of that and maybe connect with the Administration about possible portions of your budget that could be funded through the American Rescue Plan. Because I think it's...it was more restrictive last year, but it's...this new money is less restrictive.

MS. CABEBE: Chair, if I may? I just want to say, the Administration has been...as a primary transportation has been fabulous, really trying to work with us, so it's...I believe they have tried to compensate us as much as they can for lost revenue. So I will take your advice, you know, Member King, and, you know, have a further discussion, if there's anything we haven't thought of. But thank you very much for that.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. So everything in your...in the Mayor's Budget for your organization right now is out of the General Fund?

MS. CABEBE: Paratransit is not. If you look in there, I believe they already have some CARES funding --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

MS. CABEBE: -- accounted for in the...in their Budget. So if you look at the way it's written, I think they've already...that's why it looks like a reduction, but it's flat because they are subsidizing it with CARES Act funding.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. All right. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member King. Mahalo, Ms. Cabebe, for your testimony.

MS. CABEBE: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Our last testifier signed up is Junya Nakoa.

MR. NAKOA: Buen dia.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Buen dia.

MR. NAKOA: Buen dia. Yes. Okay. I want talk about three things. The first one is the...you know, yesterday at 9:00, I was in another meeting for the Planning Commission meeting, and so I like talk about the Planning Department, you know what I mean? I know you guys...I know you guys ask them about, you know, the staffing and how...the wages, and you know, how you guys are going to pay for all these buggahs or whatever. But we better check these guys out that is agreeing to support somebody's short-term rental that they was trying to pass yesterday here in Kā'anapali. You know, West Maui, you know, the community plan, we no like that stuff over here, and they're not following 'um. They're not looking at 'um. So maybe you guys go look for their...you know, check into the personnel so you guys can pay the right person to do the job 'cause they kind of never listen to the people of West Maui. You know, I listen to their recommendation, and their recommendation to agree to the short-term. And then all of us, lucky...lucky...lucky the commission when listen to the people who went from Lāhainā and said weno like 'um already and all that stuff. So yeah. So you know, the budgeting, go look at...go look at those buggahs and see they doing us right because since you guys going to pay them, or we going to pay them, make sure they know what the heck they're doing. Yeah, the next one I want to talk about is the visitor's kine. I know the Maui Visitors Bureau, they gonna come over here and ask you guys for some money. They always ask for money every year. I tell you guys right now, give 'em nothing. Give 'em no money. Okay. I know the State will cut back on their...the State went cut back on their funding at the State level. The only thing I disagree about that, you know, the...that agreement is they told them cut back on the...no need do the cultural and no natural they just gonna brand Hawai'i, and brand...you know, sell Hawai'i. You guys see the numbahs? You guys see how much people coming to Hawai'i? No need brand them. We don't need big commercial for them come Hawai'i. They like come Hawai'i. They coming anyway, you know what I mean? We telling them for slow down, and they not listening. You go on the thing on Facebook, the Maui bound. Holy smoke, they coming like crazy. So you go look...so okay, the Maui Visitor's Bureau, they don't need...they don't need money, or any visitors thing. And if they don't get money, tell them to spend 'em on the stuff that going to protect the Kā'anapali thing because that's

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

where all the tourists stay. You know, I know they want to...one time--and Tamara, I think you remember this one--they want to take the lifeguard from Kanaha Beach and go take them to Kā'anapali. You know, heck no. Tell them use that money because you guys going to give up and go fund...go fund the lifeguards who will protect over there, you know what I mean? I'm sorry, man, tourists is last, locals first. And then...so yeah. So . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . yeah, the tourists, we don't...we don't need advertise them. And then the third one I'm going to talk about is the film industry. I know you guys are talk about 'em, and he's talking a budget. But I...if I can remember, I think it was like 100,000 for the film industry, and then no, it doesn't...you go ask a question like, you know, how...you know, all the money that they would give back to the community. And then you guys know I was on a Temptation Island. The Temptation Island gave more money than the White Lotus one, and the White Lotus is the big funded. They're the big one. That's the one the Mayor went go check out, but he never come check out Temptation Island.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Nakoa...

MR. NAKOA: So the...no, no, so...so the funding part is . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . I think that you guys...that...that the industry guys, film industry, the Administration, you guys should get somebody from the community to watch these guys, like a watchdog, like I went do. So put that into the plan, where they gotta...somebody from the community go watch and make sure these guys don't cheat us out of our tax money. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Nakoa. No questions, we'll thank you for your testimony this morning.

MR. NAKOA: Yeah, mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Okay. Mr. Nakoa was the last person signed up to testify. Now I'll invite anyone on wishing to testify to please unmute yourself now, and you may proceed with your testimony. Okay. Hearing no one indicating their wish to testify, I will close public testimony, and we'll accept public testimony...written testimony into the record. Any objections?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Members. Public testimony is now closed for today.

. . .END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

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

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All right. Okay, Members. We have our one item on today's agenda, BFED-1, Proposed Fiscal Year 2022 Budget for the County of Maui. And

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

because you all did such a wonderful job, we are on our last two departments today, the Department of Transportation and the Department of Water Supply. And we have the Department of Transportation with us this morning. Good morning, and aloha, and buen dia, Director Marc Takamori. Will you please introduce who you have on your team with you today?

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MR. TAKAMORI: Buen dia. Buen dia. Good morning, everybody. Thank you for having us. I'm Marc Takamori, the Director for the County Department of Transportation. And with me is my Deputy Director, Michael Du Pont.

MR. DU PONT: Good morning. Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Good morning, and aloha to you both. Okay. We'll get started with the questions that was transmitted. First six questions are regarding the overall Budget. Question one, in the narrative discussing external factors, the Department noted the biggest challenge is the lack of Staff. The FY'22 proposed budget does not contain an increase in EPs for the Department. Is the County still operating under a hiring freeze? How can Council assist the Department in meeting its goals?

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you. So to the Department's knowledge, there is a hiring freeze on unfilled EPs. However, the Administration will review each position on a case-by-case basis. Currently, for the Department of Transportation, we don't have any open EPs or unfilled EPs. The Department is comprised of six employees. Three are appointed, and the other three are civil service employees. Last time the Department...last time the Department received a new EP was in Fiscal Year 2014. So since then, the Department has taken on new projects, such as the addition of current technology, featuring the bus tracking app, the Maui Bus app, mauibus.org, and social media accounts that allows us to provide up-to-date information to bus riders. We implemented a . . . *(inaudible)*. . . AVL system for tracking of our fixer out buses, as well as additional scheduling software for our paratransit buses, which requires ongoing technical support and management of the information technology systems for the Department. We've also moved towards County and State initiatives to reduce the dependency on fossil fuels by utilizing the 80 percent Federal funds to procure renewable type energy buses, with the goal of replacing our current all diesel and gasoline fleets with vehicles or buses that are more renewable energy type buses. This initiative requires additional research, training, and oversight requirements for the Department. The Department has also been tasked with additional Federal requirements since becoming an urban grown area back in 2010. The full FTA and entity reporting requirements and compliance are the same as any metropolitan area in the United States. So they don't really have a scaled back version of reporting requirements. If you are urban zone area and becoming a metropolitan planning area, we basically follow the same rules as what, you know, New York Transit would have to follow because they're a metropolitan area. So the...so the FTA and the State Department of Transportation has also required the Department to become a direct recipient of Federal funds in Fiscal Year 2021, so that removes State

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

DOT as the recipient of Federal funds, requiring the Department to report directly to the FTA. So we're currently working on that with FTA. And then the Department has also been forced to relocate the transit hub at Queen Ka'ahumanu Center, and that requires construction, which we are going to right now, and oversight of the new Central Maui transit hub, a County-owned facility. Future projects will also add to the demand of the Department, such as a County-owned maintenance facility, as recommended by FTA for us to build, as well as additional transit hubs, as being requested in the recently updated community plans.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Question two, how many additional EPs do you need to address current and future increased Federal reporting requirements?

MR. TAKAMORI: So as of this point, I guess we would request one additional EP for Transportation System Analyst, SR-24 position, if possible.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Question three, please provide a status update on the Department's conversion from paper to electronic data collection and reporting to the National Transit Database.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you. The Department utilizes two systems to help assist with electronic data collection and reporting to the Federal Transit Administration, FTA, the National Transit Database, NTD. So for the fixed railed system, the Department utilizes synchromatics Computer Aided Dispatch, Automatic Vehicle Locator system, or CAD AVL. This system allows for real-time tracking of the fixed rail buses to collect on time data, as well as vehicle revenue miles, vehicle revenue hours, deadhead miles, vehicle loads operating at maximum service, as well as passenger miles traveled. Each bus has been fitted with automatic passenger counters, and these automatic passenger counters collect passenger boarding and alighting counts at the stop level on all the different routes. In order to utilize this passenger counting data, they need to also be certified by NTD, and I guess in order to do so, one of the requirements would be to have onboard people counters...not an electronic version, but actual people counting so we can validate our electronic counts. And because of COVID, they have asked us to stop. They are not requiring us to continue with in-person counting just because of...for the safety of, you know, riders and...so at this point, we have stopped that process, but once we're able to, we'll continue working on that. And then the other system that we have in place is the equaling scheduling system that's used on the paratransit and human services transportation programs. In addition to the equaling system, as a scheduling software that automatically reviews the inputted reservations for the day, it also allocates trips to available buses on the schedule. And while these buses are on the road, picking up and dropping off riders, the system is collecting the same type of data as needed for NTD reporting.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Question four, please provide a list of all bus routes servicing Pukalani. What additional routes and stops are being planned for Pukalani?

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you. There are two bus routes providing service to Pukalani. They

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

are the Kula Island, or Route Number 39, and the Upcountry Islander Route Number 40. Originally, within the Pukalani area, there were only one stop that provided service to the entire Pukalani community. That stop was fronting the Mayor Hannibal Tavares Community Center on Pukalani Street. After community requests and several community association meetings, an additional stop was added on Olulani Street at Ikalani Street [sic]. There are currently no further routes or stops being planned in the Pukalani area at this time.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay. Question five, what is the annual cost to the County to operate all routes that service Pukalani and Kula? What is the annual ridership for these routes, both pre-COVID and during COVID?

MR. TAKAMORI: Okay. Thank you. So Kula Islander Route Number 39 annually costs around \$395,000. For the Upcountry Islander Route Number 40, annually the cost is a little over \$567,000. The effects of COVID for our passenger boardings started back in March of 2020. So I have a chart on my sheet, so when it's transmitted, you'll see the actual chart. But in terms of Kula Islander, Fiscal Year '19 numbers, boardings were 24,075; Fiscal Year '20, boardings were 22,663 boardings; and then for Fiscal Year '21, half the year counts, we are at 8,378 boarding. For Upcountry Islander, Fiscal Year '19, we have 83,959 boardings; Fiscal Year '20, we had 66,416 boardings; and Fiscal Year '21, half the year counts, we're at 19,917 boardings.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Question six, 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 draft Comprehensive Affordable Housing Plan of \$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. TAKAMORI: Thank you. So for what programs and activities we would cut, our response is that the Department has provided funding reductions in the current proposal where services will still be able to continue. And should there be any cuts, the impact...should there be any additional reductions, then transportation services may be affected.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. The next two questions are regarding operations. Question one, please explain the decrease in bus services, despite being subsidized by CARES Act and CRRSAA funds...funding.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you. There will be no reductions in Maui Bus services. The changes...the change for Fiscal Year '22 will be the reduction in County Highway Fund allocation for the Maui Bus contract. CARES and CRRSAA funds will be utilized to subsidize the funding allocations. So in total, it's still a flat budget request per the contract...per the contract, yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Director. Question two, under the Highway Fund Administration and Public Transit Programs, operations account, please confirm if the funds are being used for replacement or maintenance of equipment.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you. Funds are utilized for both operations and maintenance, which may include replacement and maintenance of equipment. As the Maui Bus contracts are procured as an operations and maintenance contract, those contracts include the maintenance of the buses. So with the maintenance...so we also have maintenance of our bus stop shelters that may also include replacement of parts.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. The next three questions are regarding grant revenue fund. Question one, relating to the FTA Rural Section 5539 Formula Funds program, A, please provide details on how many buses and related equipment will be purchased during...using these funds; and B, how is the total cost of \$4.5 million for the FTA section Rural 5339 Formula Funds program derived? The budget details reference unit cost of \$500,000, with a quantity of one.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you. So for part A, it is anticipated that the Department will be able to purchase, through the ISB process, at least six low floor ADA accessible heavy-duty transit buses, and at least four mini-ADA accessible buses or vehicles. The buses are expected to be utilized in both...or in the Maui Bus fixed route fleet and the Maui Bus paratransit fleet. And for part B, the total amount for the FTA Section Rural 5339 Formula Fund Program needed for Fiscal Year '22 is \$4.5 million in grant revenue funds. The unit cost was not updated from Fiscal Year 2021 values, and is in error. The important value is a grant revenue fund allocation of \$4.5 million. And from past budget cycles, the quantity is usually listed as one, and the unit cost would then be listed as \$4.5 million.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that correction. Question two, how is the total cost of \$1.5 million for the FTA Section Small Urban 5339 Formula Funds Program derived? The budget details reference a unit of 700,000 with a quantity of one.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you. So similarly to the question above, the unit cost was not updated from Fiscal Year '21 values. The total grant revenue request of \$1.5 million is correct. From past budget cycles, the quantity is usually listed as one, and the unit cost would then be \$1.5 million.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for that correction. And question three, how is the total cost of 2.2 million for the Urbanized Area Formula Program derived at a unit cost of 2.5 million?

MR. TAKAMORI: So similarly to the question above, the unit cost was not updated from Fiscal Year 2021 value. The total grant revenue request of \$2.2 million is correct. From past budget cycles, the quantity is usually listed as one, and then the unit cost would then be updated to 2.2 million.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. The last question is regarding Capital Improvement Projects. Relating to the Central Maui Bus Hub, A, the project description references installation of security camera system. Will the system be monitored if Staff...will the system be monitored by Staff personnel? Will there be onsite security at the transit hub, particularly in the evenings when buses are not operating? And B,

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

please explain the rationale for using General Fund monies for the additional 500,000 for this project. Please provide a cost breakdown for all FY'22 projects, including in conjunction with CVS-5021, including utility connections, installation of a security camera system, restoration of the Queen Ka'ahumanu Center Facility once the transit hub has been relocated and a community requested art project for the transit hub.

MR. TAKAMORI: Okay. Thank you. So for part A, the County security camera system is planned to be installed at the new transit hub. The camera system will not be monitored in real time by Staff personnel, it will be set up similarly to the County building's camera system. There are plans to have a security guard onsite while the transit hub is open and operational, and a roaming security guard when the hub is closed in the evening. And then for part B, the...per discussions with the Budget Office, it was recommended that General Fund money be utilized for this request of \$500,000. For the type of expenses expected for these funds, a bond fund wouldn't be able to be utilized. The anticipated expenditures for the requested \$500,000 would include, but not limited to, the...again, installation of the County camera security system, information kiosk system, utility connection fees, art project per SMA permit requirement, additional seating, and the restoration of Queen Ka'ahumanu Center once the hub is relocated.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Director. That concludes that portion of the process. Okay. We'll go to the next portion of our process, and that is giving each Member five minutes to ask their questions, either new questions, or follow-up questions. Starting with the subject matter Committee Chair, Member Sugimura, followed by Committee Vice-Chair Paltin, and then we'll go to Member Sinenci. Okay. Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah. Thank you. So Director, I'm going to ask you about the CVS-5021, which is the CIP, half a million for this project. So are you saying that all the items that you listed could not be bonded? They're not bondable because of the type of equipment that it is? Security camera, restoration, the Queen Ka'ahumanu Center, and an art project; is that why?

MR. TAKAMORI: Yes. Yes, that is correct.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. Otherwise it could be bonded, like the security camera could be bonded? Or is parts of it that could be bonded?

MR. TAKAMORI: No, I think...I think based on the conversations we had, based on the lists that I've provided, it came back as it would be...it wouldn't be able to be qualified as a bonded aspect.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. So it has to use General Fund.

MR. TAKAMORI: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: But can you refresh our memory as to when you need to be out of there, the Queen Ka'ahumanu Center? I know that the center has been very

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

graciously allowing us to go through our construction process. So what is the date, if you work backwards, that we have to be out of there, Queen Ka'ahumanu Center?

MR. TAKAMORI: Yes, thank you. Yeah. Okay. Thank you for that question. Yes, I do have to say that we do appreciate, you know, the partnership that we have with Queen Ka'ahumanu Center for allowing us to continue to be utilizing the current space for the transit hub while we build our new hub. Working backwards, we have...we have...we will be utilizing one extension, which will allow us to extend to the ending of January 2022. So at that point in time, we have to be out of Queen Ka'ahumanu Center. That would be the drop-dead date. We are hopeful that the hub will be completed a little...we're not...we definitely don't want the hub to be completed in January, we're hoping to be a little bit completed before then so we're not rushing. So we're hoping that at the ending of this calendar year, the hub will be completed, and then we'll be ready to move over to the new site.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. So you're right now on track, and you don't have any challenges that we need to be concerned about then?

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for that question. As you are aware, any construction project that you work on, there will always be things that pop up. We are aware that there could be, you know, potentially some issues that will pop up. We are working with the contractor and neighboring project, Kahului Lani, to make certain that everything is on track for us to relocate toward the ending of the year...or to have the project completed by the ending of the year, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. Got to work with your neighbors. Okay. Yeah, there's lots going on in --

MR. TAKAMORI: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: -- in that neighborhood, agreed. Debbie Cabebe was on, and I look forward to having her written testimony to understand what she was saying. And I will ask the Department later once I dissect what she submits. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo Member Sugimura. Committee Vice-Chair Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. And I just wanted to say, we're on a time frame, and so if I get my answer from you, I might interrupt you, but I don't mean to be rude or disrespectful. Okay. First question, you know the security system? Are you guys tied in with Risk Management out of Corp. Counsel? Are they running the security, or assisting, or involved in some way?

MR. TAKAMORI: Yeah, we're working through Department of Management that...I think, Department of Management took over the security camera system, so we're working with them, yes.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay, cool. And then the other day we heard from Public Works, and they had to increase their Budget, I guess, to maintain the new bus hub. And I just was wondering the feasibility for the funds of that coming out of your program.

MR. TAKAMORI: Okay. Thank you. So this conversation has technically been going on for the past several years in terms of how we're going to be maintaining the new site. Initially there was discussions about allowing the contractor . . .*(inaudible)*. . . to operate and maintain that facility. It's been recommended by discussions within Corp. Counsel that it has to be done by County employees because it's a County-owned facility. And so instead of creating a whole division within my Department to clean the facility on a daily basis, it was recommended that Public Works support our Department on that.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. One moment. Member Paltin, I paused your time. There's that feedback again, so if you would mute after you ask your questions, I think that would be helpful for the Department to be able to respond to you.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I understand that part of it. I just was wondering, like, you know how when Parks uses water, they pay to the Water Department for the water, or when...you know, those types of things. So if Public Works provided the maintenance and had the positions, but could your Department fund it? Or is that not even worthwhile conversation?

MR. TAKAMORI: I'm not quite sure...I understand what you're asking, I'm not quite sure I have an answer for that. That might be a further discussion within Committee with Budget and the Administration.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Thanks. And my final question was, last year we seen a request, I think, for four paratransit buses. And has that been taken care of within your existing Mayor Proposed Budget?

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for that question. To answer that, last year's request for bus replacement for MEO were cut down to zero. In the current fiscal year budget, Mayor's Budget, it doesn't include that at the moment.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. And can you speak to the need at all?

MR. TAKAMORI: Basically, the buses that...I guess, last fiscal year, the buses that were being requested to be replaced are ones that are of age and are...have higher mileage. So basically, the more years that you push it off, the older and...the older and potentially more frequent breakdowns there could be on older vehicles. So yeah, if it doesn't get funded this year, then, you know, next year again would...a request would come back in.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Director. That concludes my questions at this time. Thank you, Chair.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair Paltin. Okay. What did I say? Member Sinenci, followed by Council Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And mahalo, Director Takamori and Deputy Du Pont. Yeah, I just had a question. We had Ms. Cabebe come on with MEO, I'm talking about the paratransit services that they provide for the County. Could you briefly speak to that contract, and I'm aware of most of the monies come from, if those funds are coming from any of the Federal grants?

MR. TAKAMORI: Could you repeat your question again? It...I missed...I think it cut out.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Could you speak briefly with the MEO contract for paratransit?

MR. TAKAMORI: Oh, yes. So how we have it written up for this...of this...for this next fiscal year, or this upcoming fiscal year is that a portion of it was reduced in terms of we're reducing the allocation of the County highway fund monies, and we're...and we're adding back what we're reducing of CARES and CRRSAA funds. So it...basically, it's still at a...at a flat budget...budgeted amount. Right now, for the paratransit contract, we pay based on service revenue hours. And so that's kind of what Debbie Cabebe mentioned in her testimony this morning, as well as the fact that the paratransit contract is a five-year contract in comparison to the Human Services transportation program, that is...that is a general...that is a general funded grant...annual grant provided to MEO.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. So CARES Act and CRRSAA grants will bring MEO up to flat, but not if she's asking for increases, correct?

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for that question. For the clarification, because ridership is down for paratransit, the service hours are down as well. So the...Debbie Cabebe's testimony, as she's requesting a three percent increase in the hourly rate, based on the current ridership trends, that would...the total amount of the contract would still be under the budgeted amount for next fiscal year, is what she mentioned in this morning's testimony.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. Thank you, Director. And then just clarification, so of the FTA grant awards of \$12 million, do they help fund green initiatives and electrification of the fleet?

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for that question. Yeah, the grant revenues for capital equipment, they do fund us for green initiatives. So we are currently out to bid for hybrid electric range buses. So we're trying to move towards a renewable energy type fleet. And so, yes, those funds do fund those types of projects as well.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And my last question, Director, was just, you know, for public announcements and ads upon the buses, I always ask this, is there any space for social...to promote social services during this pandemic, whether it be for rental assistance, suicide prevention, food bank, those types of things?

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for that question. Yes, based on available space, if there are space available, we will allow, on a month-to-month basis, PSAs such as what you're mentioning, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Awesome. I appreciate that. Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Madam Chair, I have no questions. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. I just have one issue, Marc. Thank you for being here. I will...first of all, I want to compliment you on your goals on page 578 of the Budget Proposal book. And I thought they were very well written, and you had what makes sense to me in measurements. So the only thing that I see here that's missing is a goal of increasing ridership. So I just kind of wanted to ask you about why that wouldn't be a top goal. And I know we've talked about marketing and doing PR and stuff to try to increase the ridership, but to me, that should be a top goal.

MR. TAKAMORI: Well, thank you for your question. Yeah, I mean, I guess we could be a little bit more clear. I...when you look at the different goals and objectives, I guess, you know, when you kind of...when you look at it as a whole, it's more like, oh, receiving positive customer feedback, so providing welcoming, friendly, and helpful customer service, being more on time, providing safe service. I think when you look at it as a collective, it's kind of hopefully increases ridership from that perspective.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

MR. TAKAMORI: But I guess from what you're saying is that it should be a little bit more clear than looking at it as collective of all the different goals together.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah. I just would hope to see a goal because I think that's going to help us with funding as well, right. Because you know, when ridership goes down, then you've...you end up subsidizing more. So if that were a separate goal, that's a really easy one to measure because, you know, we know how many people are...keep

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

track of how many people are riding the bus. So I'm just going to...wanted to make that suggestion, that that might be a separate goal that could be easily measured, but also objectives could be doing more marketing and PR to increase those numbers. I mean, I like all the other goals too, but those are more qualitative instead of quantitative, and I would really like to see a goal for this next year be to...especially with a new hub, to be...you know, let's get...you know, especially once people get vaccinated, let's get the ridership back up, and let's get people off the road in their own cars...especially if they're using fossil fuel.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's a good TSA.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: That's all. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member King. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. My questions have been answered by the...or asked by the Members, so thank you so much. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So expeditious, Members. Okay. My turn. All right. Okay. My question is...okay. I have two questions. Follow-up question on the submitted questions, question two, and I know we'll get your response in writing, but you said a Transportation Analyst. When you submit your response in writing, will it include the exact position title and the amount?

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for that. It actually...so the position title is Transportation System Analyst, and it's an SR-24. It doesn't actually have the amount for the cost.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Do you --

MR. TAKAMORI: And I think it...I'm not sure if it got transmitted yet, but we can update it to include a cost if that's what you're looking for.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Do you have that information with you, the salary, fringe, and equipment?

MR. TAKAMORI: Not with me, unless you look at...unless you look at the Budget Details for...we have one Transportation System Analyst position currently, so it would be a similar cost in terms of salary. But not of the fringe, or...I think computer equipment, I think usually from a MIS standpoint, that's usually \$2,000 for new employees.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Yeah, that sounds correct. Okay. Mahalo for that information. And my second question is, would you be able to explain to us why the MEO items were not funded to the amount that they would need in order to continue

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

operating the services for our residents?

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for that. Okay. So with regards to the Human Services Transportation Grant that's general funded, our last conversation with MEO as that we asked for...as we're going through the Budget, we are looking to see where we can be most fiscally responsible. And so in our last conversation, MEO provided us the 5.8, but that...as Debbie mentioned, that is the most baseline, you know, budget that they can use. I guess...I guess with...so that's sort of why it was submitted through the Mayor's Budget as 5.8. And I guess as Debbie Cabebe mentioned, there are additional costs, so I think that's why she's come back with the additional request of reinstating some of those funding. But in our last discussion, it was the 5.8 that was requested. And then for the paratransit side, it's more of a contract salary amount in the sense that we...again, we pay based on the revenue service hour. We pay on revenue service hours billed to the County. And so the total amount that's currently in the paratransit contract, if they were to be allocated the three percent increase to the hourly rate, that would still fall within the allocated paratransit contract amount. So that's sort of what Debbie Cabebe was testifying on.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for that explanation. So after hearing what Ms. Cabebe said, would you agree that they should have the 400,000 more, the 6.2, so that they're not going to end up with \$150,000 deficit because of services that we're asking them to do?

MR. TAKAMORI: I think for the human services side, I think that it's...if they're needing that extra money because of the...because of their costs that they need to pay for, I can see why they're asking for it. For the...for the paratransit side, we're able to help them with our Federal funds, and so that's why we're able to help supplement . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . on that. But the...but the grant side is...it's slightly different, right? We don't...we don't really infuse . . .*(inaudible)*. . . a grant amount.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. That was my time. Members, any need for follow up? Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Director Takamori. I'm a member of the social media, Maui Bound, and there's a lot of talk about, I guess they shipped a lot of the rental cars off island because they didn't want to pay for additional registration costs. And so there's a lot of tourists coming with no transportation plans because I think the third-party bookers overbooked for rental cars. And I just was wondering, have you made any plans, or do you intend to make any plans to kind of address this need? Because even though there's a lot less cars, the roads are still pretty packed with the amount of tourists that we're seeing back. And I think, you know, it's a wonderful opportunity to keep the rental car numbers low and expand our ridership. And have you given any thought as to the future of that type of expansion?

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for that question, Member Paltin. We can definitely tell you that we have seen an increase in ridership on the...in South Maui, as well as in West Maui on our public transit system. We are trying to keep track to make certain if we can sort

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

of differentiate and figure out what times our buses are quite full because of the increased ridership, we can send out additional supplemental buses for...for the...for distancing purposes, using, you know, Federal funding. But in terms of your overall question, we've been talking about it within our office about how we can make this work for us in terms of, you know, lesser rental cars. I think what it comes down to is making public transit more convenient. We might have to invest more in terms of adding additional routes. I think one of the things previous though, just going through budgets from, you know, 2011 until now, a lot of it is, usually we look at it as signing into providing services for our residents first. But I guess you can also look at it as by providing additional services to make public transit more convenient, then that lessens the amount of cars on the roads, which then also has less impact on our residents as well. So I mean, I guess there's multiple ways of looking at it. And if you folks have any suggestions as well, we'll be happy to hear it. Anything helps at this point.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Are there any restrictions of Maui . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . County bus picking up at the . . .*(inaudible)*. . .?

MR. TAKAMORI: I didn't...I didn't get that. Sorry.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Paltin, you can repeat your question.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thanks. I just was wondering if there's any restrictions for Maui County buses to pick up passengers at the airport? Whether they're tourists or locals, it doesn't matter to me.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for that question. No, we actually have a bus stop at the airport, so two of our routes actually picks up riders at the airport.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I'll wait until my next turn. Thanks for the follow up.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Yes, I've actually caught the bus from the airport to the County building. But the...there's a policy about bringing luggage onto the buses...not really allowed. Not the big ones, anyway. Okay. Members, any need for follow up? Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. So Director, going back to the MEO request for human services, can you explain...I...the first thing that comes to my mind for human services are the senior citizens, which I know they're not needing, and they probably didn't, you know, have a need then for the cost to be escalated during the COVID. But can you explain the kinds of services that are provided through the human services as General Fund, right? It's not...it's a...the services?

MR. TAKAMORI: Sure. Yes. So I can answer that. And again, I think Debbie Cabebe's also on, and she probably can provide even better descriptions. But when...from the senior services, such as Kaunoa, because they don't have classes that are ongoing, there was a decrease in utilization for transportation to the center. However MEO, as they are community service agency, they have pivoted to also provide using their buses and

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

drivers to actually go and deliver meals, and...so they've kind of pivoted to actually still provide services to seniors, but maybe not transporting them, but transporting things to get to them. So that's sort of...I know that that's one of the base things that they've done because seniors are mostly staying at home. I'm not sure if there's anything else that you would want Debbie to provide further clarification on.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So on that, Director, the increase that MEO is asking for is because of COVID and our...all of...all...you know, our whole lives have changed a lot. So is this something that we could address later through the Department? Or you know, through my Committee for an increase, and not do an increase just because of COVID evolving and changing? So the human services is a grant, whereas --

MR. TAKAMORI: That is correct. That's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: -- paratransit is a contract --

MR. TAKAMORI: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: -- which makes it different, right?

MR. TAKAMORI: That is correct.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So we could address that if there's a shortage at that time later. Is that something that we could do? So it's more realistic.

MR. TAKAMORI: So I think that...I think that would be more of a budget question. I'm not quite sure how grants are typically funded. If you're partially funded for a grant, can you come back for a budget amendment for a grant, additional...to add additional funds to a grant? I'm not sure how that works.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: If we don't...so general funds come from RPT, and if we don't budget for it, then we're not going to be raising the money for it. So unless there's carryover savings, there won't be additional funding . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . in general...in general funds later on.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. And I'm just curious if...I didn't see if the document from the testimony from MEO has come forward to explain what her testimony stated in writing. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. And I'll...I saw...and we didn't say good morning to Budget Director Michele Yoshimura. Good morning.

MS. YOSHIMURA: Good morning, Chair. Just to add onto that, we...so if there is a budget amendment, they could...all of the budget amendments, we do need to certify additional funds. So it would be either reducing a category that's already in the budget to provide for the funds, or looking at additional revenue or carryovers. So that's the only way we could do a budget amendment.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Members on this item, I don't...I checked and I didn't see there was some testimony either, but we do have Ms. Cabebe on the line if anyone would like to ask her a clarifying question on this. Okay, I have a clarifying question. Ms. Cabebe, aloha. Mahalo for staying on. So my question on this, so...I guess two questions. One, so it was explained to us that you had proposed a 5.8 million to the Mayor, which is why the 5.8 million ended up in his proposal. And I guess what had you anticipated doing to cover the shortfall of, you know, the 400,000, I guess? So if what you're asking us now is for 6.2 million, and what you told the Mayor that you could operate the human services portion of your bus service at 5.8, then...I guess, what has changed from then to now?

MS. CABEBE: Thank you. Thank you for the question. So we were asked by Administration to submit our budget and to cut it as low as we possibly could, you know, barebones, you know, funding, so we...that's what we did. That would be no increases. That's assuming that, you know, costs are going to stay relatively flat...cost of operations. Subsequent to that, we received notification from the union asking for a reopener to our contract, and stating expectation to increase wages and, you know, working conditions, benefits, et cetera, for their members. And I understand right now, there is wage disparity between the human service drivers and the paratransit drivers. Because the paratransit drivers' contract is mandated, prevailing wage increase, and it comes whenever it comes. So some...the last few years, it...there's been two increases per year, which was part of my testimony. And this year, so far, there has been one. We don't know if they'll be another bigger in this year. So that was the reason for the increase. So you know, the Administration, you know, we were trying to be, you know, good team players, and we totally understand, but we will be going into contract negotiations, and so I am concerned that they're going to make demands on us that I'm not going to be able to meet. So that's the reason for that. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. So you received that notification after you submitted the 5.8 request to the Mayor. So if you don't get the 6.2 million that you're requesting in order to satisfy collective bargaining agreements that you're anticipating with the salary increases, what will...what will happen, basically? What will happen if you don't get that 6.2 million?

MS. CABEBE: That's very difficult to say because that's all part of the negotiation. So...but there is a...there is a strike clause in our contract. I don't know if they would use that. I mean, I would hope not but, you know, what we've tried to explain to the union from the very beginning is just . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . why we were hoping we wouldn't be unionized is just because we don't have a lot of control over the funding. We're not a for-profit business. We don't make our own budget. I can't bring in other revenues. That's what makes it very difficult. So that would be all part of the negotiation process. So I really...I can't speculate.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Cabebe. And last follow-up question to that. So...and I see Director with his hand up. So if you had received notification from the union prior to submitting your proposal of 5.8 million to the Mayor, would you have

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

then submitted 6.2 as your barebones, lowest possible, flat budget?

MS. CABEBE: Yes, ma'am.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for that clarification. Director Takamori.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you very much. I just wanted to seek clarification from Debbie on the conversation of...I guess, for the human services transportation grants, I think based on if there are available carryover savings from the current fiscal year, we would be extending that. Again, sort of what we did for the current fiscal year, so if there's any carryover savings that could assist with the human services amount as well. Do you know what that could be? Or would you still need that 400,000?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Cabebe, do you know what the projected carryover savings could be from the FY'21 grant?

MS. CABEBE: I would have to get back to you. That's kind of a fluid number, again, because it depends on if a bus breaks down and multiple things. So let me work with my fiscal officer, and I could send that information to Director Takamori.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, and to the BFED Committee. And then Ms. Cabebe, is it...would it be...is...do you project that it would be around 400,000? Would it be sufficient? Or would it be like 100,000? Because if it's not even close, then that would be good to know.

MS. CABEBE: I'm sorry, my fiscal officer just ran over here. She's giving me some information, so let me just confer with her one moment, please, if I may?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. Thanks. Mahalo, Ms. Cabebe. Okay. Members, any additional clarifying questions for the Director while we wait for Ms. Cabebe? Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Director. I just was wondering if the Visitor's Bureau has offered any assistance to, you know, let the visitors know that the bus does provide service from the airport. I was unaware and, you know, none of the posts I see about people that have not been able to secure a rental car. I haven't seen anyone say, hey, catch the bus you know. So I just was wondering, is there any kind of presence, or any kind of coordination with the Visitor's Bureau, Maui Hotel and Lodging Association, or anyone to get the word out about this?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Director?

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for the question, Member Paltin. So we've had a few meetings with Maui's Visitor's Bureau, as well as HTA, and we're trying to come up with a way where we can all combine information for our Maui Bus system to be either on their website, or especially for the hotels, when people are checking in or trying to reserve a hotel room, it would bring up transportation ways, such as our bus system instead of

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

rental cars. So we're currently kind of working with different agencies right now to see how we can get our bus system out there, especially through book for when they come back to Maui.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: And just to follow up on that, any thoughts as to, like, some sort of a cargo van for those with luggage or anything like that? I'd imagine some folks would be prohibited from riding the bus if they have too much luggage. And maybe that way you can charge more. I think, like executive shuttles would charge 500...or sorry, 50 bucks to \$100 from the airport to the West Side.

MR. TAKAMORI: So I know part of...part of the advertising for our bus system would be baggage limitations. So you know, we want and try and coach the visitors on, you know, don't be bringing huge bags. You know, come with the appropriate sizing. We haven't talked about adding on a...you know, that's kind of a different scope to public transit is to provide something like a bag truck, but it's more of coaching the public on how to ride the system.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. And I think it's also a matter of convenience. When I was planning to catch the bus from the airport to Wailuku. there was only one bus that came every hour. And so I scheduled my flight so that I would land, not missing the bus and having to wait a whole hour before catching it. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Okay. I see Ms. Cabebe...oh, Member Paltin, you were going to say something?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I just...I had heard them say that there were only two routes, is Wailuku and...where does the other route go to from the airport?

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you. For clarification, the two routes that provide service to the airport is the Upcountry Islander and the Ha'ikū Islander route.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Not West and South Maui?

MR. TAKAMORI: No. Those you would get to the transit hub, transfer to those routes to then get to the airport. So there's been discussion in the short-range transit time to add a airport route that would go from like the airport to, you know, maybe to the new service center, to the transit hub, and then up into Wailuku Town. So then you adding an additional, just dedicated airport route.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Weird.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. It's more resident base routes then tourist base routes, so...but we can, you know, have that kind of a more policy discussion outside of Budget if that's the direction that we would like to head.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Well, yeah. Yeah. But I mean, we got residents in West Maui and South

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

Maui as well, and it's a problem getting to the airport because then, you know, somebody's husband, or someone has to drive all the way to the airport and then all the way back out.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Ms. Cabebe.

MS. CABEBE: Thank you. And thank you for waiting. So my fiscal officer confirmed that it would be about 400,000, so that would be if we could utilize the carryover in addition to the 5.8, that would probably be sufficient. So I appreciate that opportunity. And Mr. Imada said he did upload the testimony, so if it wasn't then, I'll...we'll go back after and finish and try to do it again. I apologize. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Ms. Cabebe. Okay, Members. Any final questions? If not, we'll take our morning break. Okay, I see no hands. And then I think Member Paltin had requested Ms. Cabebe for her...oh, there, okay...for her priority proposal. So Ms. Cabebe, if you would...if you wouldn't mind, if you can, stay on after the break. So we'll take a ten-minute break, Members. It's 10:45 on April 14th, and we'll reconvene at 10:55. The Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee is now in recess. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 10:45 a.m.

RECONVENE: 10:56 a.m.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .(gavel). . . Will the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee please return to order? It's 10:56 on April 14th, and we are reviewing the Department of Transportation. Before I call on Member Paltin to present her proposal, I wanted to let the Members know that my thought is that we would...we are...we would be ending about 45 minutes earlier than I had scheduled this Transportation, and so Budget Director contacted the Water Department to see if we can take them up before lunch so that we could end a little sooner. Budget Director Yoshimura, were you able to confirm that Director Pearson would be able to join us a lot sooner than we had scheduled them?

MS. YOSHIMURA: Yes, they are standing by. As soon as we're ready, they're ready. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Excellent. Mahalo. Okay, Members. Any objections to that proposal?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Awesome. Okay. Okay. Member Paltin is...will be joining us in just a second. She's multitasking right at this moment. Oh, there she is. Okay. Member Paltin, I have three minutes on the clock for your proposal. Your proposal is number 52 on the matrix. It's Countywide, new funding. It would be found in your Program Budget on page 579, if it was there. Okay. Member Paltin.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I don't know if you folks remember last year, they had requested for four ADA buses, and we weren't able to provide those replacement buses. And so my priority, I felt kind of bad about that last year, so I wanted to restore half of that funding for MEO replacement buses. One 14-passenger, five wheelchair bus, and one 8-passenger, five wheelchair bus. And I just wanted to disclose that while my kids ride the MEO transportation, they're not part of the paratransit program. So if you want me to recuse myself on the MEO human services side, I will, but I don't think I need to on this side at all.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No. No need.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that disclosure, Member Paltin. I don't see any objections from the Members.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: And I did request Ms. Cabebe to see if she could provide comment, as well as the Director as well.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Okay. Director Takamori, comments?

MR. TAKAMORI: I don't actually have any comments. I...we spoke about this earlier in the meeting, so no new comments since then.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Ms. Cabebe.

MS. CABEBE: Oh, thank you very much for the opportunity. So just for clarification, the buses that we requested last year that were not funded were human service buses, not paratransit. So the...just a point of clarification. So the County provides the buses to whatever provider is operating the public transit and the paratransit. So those buses, the paratransit vehicles and the big public buses, are owned by the County of Maui, and they go with the contract. So whoever the vender is will have to take care of those buses, and then they have to maintain them and all of that. So the buses that we were asking for, Ms. Paltin, actually were for the human services program, but they weren't necessarily for the youth program. So there wouldn't be a conflict of interest for you in that regard. And so the buses we were looking at were some...one was really needed on Moloka'i, and the other one, I believe, was in Maui Island. So that was the request of funding for the last budget. So thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How much?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I put 235,000. They wanted four buses but, you know, knowing the budget situation we're in, I figured maybe two this year, two next year or something. If we . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . could . . .*(inaudible)*. . . first.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Members, questions for Member Paltin, the Department, or Ms. Cabebe. Member King, followed by Member Sugimura.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Well, my first thought was to ask the...Chair Lee if we could use her bus. Apparently, she has one. But my --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: It's not that good. It's not.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I thought so. But what I wanted to ask Debbie is, what have you been doing without those buses? How is that hindered your operations last year?

MS. CABEBE: Well, our mechanics have to travel more frequently to Moloka'i, that's been one. One of the challenges is, you know, we have a lot of repairs and maintenance, of course. Like Director Takamori said earlier that, you know, the longer you wait to replace it after its life expectancy, you know, requires more care. And then with COVID, particularly in the beginning, traveling there to do that work was very difficult. And we had tried previously to find vendors on the island that would do repairs, but nobody has the capacity to take in those big buses and do work. So --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Having that...

MS. CABEBE: -- we're limping along.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Having a new one would eliminate a lot of that extra work, is what you're saying? The extra mechanic work?

MS. CABEBE: Yes, ma'am. Particularly --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

MS. CABEBE: -- particularly on Moloka'i.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. That's all. Thank you.

MS. CABEBE: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah. Thank you. So the list that Member Paltin provided, it's not the...quite the same equipment then, based upon what Debbie Cabebe just said, right? What Debbie Cabebe...what...what equipment are you looking for? Because this says restore some funding for MEO replacement buses, 1 to 14-passenger, five wheelchair bus, and 1 to 8-passenger, five wheelchair bus. Please confirm.

MS. CABEBE: Thank you for the question. So those were both vehicles that were identified in the request last year. So I believe the 14-passenger one was the one for Moloka'i. It looks like now...because we had...we did a cost estimate, like if we didn't replace it right

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

away, like how much more it would cost every year. But it looks like maybe for one bus, that 135,000 perhaps. And then for the smaller bus, it looked like about, maybe 120,000.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So the smaller bus is a 1 to 8 passenger? So no wheelchair buses?

MS. CABEBE: No, they're both wheelchair buses, it's just the...there's a...they're different sizes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. I see. There's a comma in between the two. Okay. I see. So the cost estimates are...it's understated then. Okay. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah, I meant to write it not 1 to 8, like one 8-passenger bus, and one 14-passenger bus.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura, Member Paltin. Okay. So any other follow up? Members? Member Lee, you going to offer your bus? Just kidding.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, it will be good for one trip. Member Paltin, I don't have your list in front of me, so where would you get the funding from?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Last year it was slated to come from Highway Funds, and I wasn't thinking of being creative. I was going to try and find some money. But I guess if I can't find it in Highway Funds, I would...General or ARPA or whatever.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Just asking.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: And if I could clarify, Ms. Cabebe, the 235,000, you're saying it should be more like 250?

MS. CABEBE: If you would like to . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. My bad.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. I think I wrote down...my math was 255...135 plus 120. Okay. I see Director with...and Budget Director with their hands up. Budget Director.

MS. YOSHIMURA: Chair. Just for clarification, since this is the Human Services Transportation Grant, it won't be funded through that fund, it would have to be General. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: General? General?

MS. YOSHIMURA: General.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Well, it just cannot be Highway Fund.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Well, that makes my job easier.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Member King, was your hand up?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No, I was just...I'm sorry, I was just trying to turn my volume up.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I was trying to hear.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. All right. Any...any more questions, Members? Okay. Seeing none, that was the only priority proposal for the Members. So any questions? There was an amendment to the rates and fees for the public transit fares, reduced monthly pass, ticket book rates, and children under five. Did anyone have questions on those? Okay. Any questions on the grant revenues? Okay. And there are no revolving funds. Okay. Seeing no other questions, we'll thank the Department of Transportation for coming, and we'll invite Director Takamori to provide any closing comments or final thoughts.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you very much. Thank you for allowing us to come this morning to talk about our proposed Budget. We appreciate the support that you guys have given our Department over the years, and we look forward to continue working with you folks in providing the transportation here on...in Maui County. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Mahalo, Deputy Director. Aloha. And mahalo, Ms. Cabebe for serving as a resource personnel. Okay, Members. We'll take a quick break while we let the Transportation leave and then the Water Department come. Ten...five minutes? Ten minutes? Five minutes? 11:15, six minutes. We'll do six minutes. Okay. Okay. Members, it's 11:09. We'll return at 11:15. The Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee is now in recess. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 11:09 a.m.

RECONVENE: 11:17 a.m.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .(gavel). . . Will the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee please return to order. It is 11:17 on April 14th. And the next thing on our schedule is stretches. DJ Pajimola.

(Stretches)

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All right. Mahalo, DJ Pajimola, for our Department-themed music. All right. Okay. So we now are...will be reviewing the last department, Department of Water Supply. I see Deputy Director Helene Kau, but I don't see our Director. Deputy Director, will you please introduce who on your team you have with

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

you today?

DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY

MS. KAU: Thank you, Chair. I have Holly Ho, she's our Fiscal Officer. I believe that the Director will be joining us. He's in another meeting right now. And I do believe that we have our division heads standing by in the event that there are direct questions, they can dial into the meeting. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Deputy Director. Yes. And thank you so much for coming in a lot earlier than I had asked you to be ready for, so totally understandable that the Director would have a conflict. Okay. So we'll go right into the questions that were transmitted to your Department. The first question is regarding overall budget. 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 draft 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 those cuts have on residents?

MS. KAU: Thank you, Chair. With regards to A, it's not applicable as the Department of Water Supply budget is not funded by the General Fund. We operate on our own revenues. And B, also not applicable because again, we would just be cutting. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Deputy Director. Okay. So next seven questions are regarding operations and equipment. Question one, please explain what a stores account is, and explain why there is such a significant increase in this appropriation.

MS. KAU: Thank you, Chair. The stores account is used to purchase inventory for our warehouse. The inventory is an asset on our financial books. The account is used to stock the inventory and provide repair parts, such as leak repair plans, pipes, fittings, et cetera to our field crews for necessary repair and maintenance work 24 hours a day and seven days a week. The warehouse personnel oversee the inventory for the Department. The account has historically run short due to unanticipated cost increases and unanticipated system repairs. And this account has been supplemented by the water meter inventory account 6013. Funding is required for both accounts to continue with scheduled meter replacement, and to continue replacing broken meters throughout the County.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Deputy Director. Question two, what is the disposal plan for equipment and vehicles that are replaced? Are there records of the vehicles traded in or sold? Are there records of the value of County...are there records of the value the County receives in return?

MS. KAU: Thank you, Chair. Vehicles are replaced when it's no longer feasible to repair and maintain them, usually with miles greater than 150,000 and over ten years old. After a vehicle is replaced, our mechanics attempt to utilize serviceable parts from the vehicle.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

An online auction is conducted to offer retired assets to the community. After an item is sold, the asset is removed from our books, usually fully depreciated, and the amount is received...the amount received from the sale of the asset is recorded as revenue. Items not sold at auction are taken to our recycle center, Hammerhead Metals, and generally, we are subject to disposal fees. After disposal forms are processed, the vehicle, equipment, and/or assets are removed from our books. Each transaction is properly documented. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Deputy Director. And I'll welcome Director Pearson. Mahalo for accommodating us, and my apologies for calling you earlier.

MR. PEARSON: It's my apologies, and mahalo for accommodating me. I was scheduled for a panel discussion at 11:00, and you moved it up. So we're fine. I was able to participate and I'm here, so glad to be here. Welcome.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your flexibility. Okay. Question three, the Department is proposing a \$175,000 appropriation for a USGS monitoring program and groundwater availability study. Please provide more details on the monitoring program, and identify what areas the groundwater availability study will focus on. How much groundwater is the Department hoping to find as a result of this study?

MR. PEARSON: Yeah, so this question would be sent to our water resource and protection group. So I'll read Eva's reply. The purpose of the cooperative water resource monitoring program is to collect data needed to evaluate the status and trends of surface-water and groundwater resources in Maui County. Rainfall, stream flow, and groundwater monitoring stations include three monitoring wells in the Iao aquifer, one in Waihee aquifer, and one on Moloka'i in the Kaulapuu aquifer. Real time continuous-record stream flow monitoring stations on Halawa Stream, Waikamoi Stream, Kawela Stream, Kanaha Stream. Kanaha Stream is pending, we're working to get that installed. Suspended sediment monitoring on Kawela stream and rainfall monitoring at Puu Kukui. The USGS study would evaluate how groundwater availability may be affected by projected changes in groundwater recharge from land use and climate change. And groundwater withdrawals can be simulated from multiple aquifers in West and East Maui, including Launiupoko, Honolua, Ha'ikū, and the Makawao aquifers. Results of the study would be useful to indicate how much groundwater may be developed long term for each recharge scenario. The Department may need to develop up to approximately 13 million gallons per day of new groundwater sourced over the next 20 years. Or course, that's an estimate, but that's...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Question four, regarding the Upcountry water meter lands, A, the FY'18 budget included a condition that \$900,000 must be for professional services to assist the Department with projects furthering the goal of resolving the Upcountry water meter wait list. Please provide status of funds, outcome, and resolutions. And B, what are the Department's short-term plans for the Upcountry water? Is the Department exploring more resources and expanding accessibility for residential and agricultural use? How does the Department plan to meet goals of providing water to those waiting on the water meter list?

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

MR. PEARSON: Okay. This \$900,000 was provided to our engineering division. So I think the way Helene and I will work this is...I manage a few of the divisions, Helene manages a few. So if it's engineering, water resources, and plant operations, I'll just answer the questions; and then Helene can answer the other questions. So that's kind of how we'll do it, if you wonder why we're switching around. So on the question 4A, the contract for a private consultant to assist the Department with issuance of Upcountry water meters was executed in 2018. The total contract amount is 900,000, of which 172,554.12 has been paid as of March 18th of this year. In Fiscal 2020, the Department was able to meet the annual goal of 80 properties on the list receiving water meter offer letters. However, due to recent loss of some Staff and the initiation of the MAPPS training, which is an overall way to monitor, permitting and more, the ability to meet the annual goal is at risk. The Mayor has authorized the recruitment...we went outside and requested outside recruitment. The Mayor has authorized the recruitment of two civil engineering positions through open competitive recruitment. A successful recruit...through recruiting, we'll be in a better position to meet the annual goal around Fiscal 2022. Item B, you already read that question. There's a Department plan to meet the goal providing water to those who are waiting on the meter list...kind of answered that up in A, but short-term plans for Upcountry water include meeting water needs for residents and farmers. We will continue to work on water meter requests and pursue options for an additional source. We will explore additional resources and expand accessibility. Water supply for Upcountry is currently being met most of the time, with the exception of severe drought. Water supply Upcountry...now therefore, water supply Upcountry is more of a reliability issue than a source issue at the present. There are potential groundwater sources that DWS is considering. These include a possible partnership with the State on a well that is...the exploratory well is being drilled on Haleakala Ranch lands now, and another potential groundwater source is a well that's up Piihola Road and owned by Maui Land & Pineapple.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Question five, regarding the two expansion requests for \$59,557 in professional services to match grant proposals for East Maui water searching and preservation, was this grant money from the Waikamoi Upcountry East Maui source protection under The Nature Conservancy? Can you provide more information on these grants?

MR. PEARSON: Yeah, I'll just provide you some of the details. The 59,557 increase to 769,557 in FY'22 from FY'21 amount to \$710,000 is distributed between the East Maui Watershed Partnership and The Nature Conservancy, TNC, Waikamoi, based on target goals increasing in some project deliverables and other project expenses as follows: An East Maui Watershed Partnership...there's the three items here. Increase in ungulate control, traps up 50...must be 50,000. Increase in invasive plant control, Himalaya ginger. Increase 20 acres and endorse increase by 50 acres. Increase in community outreach is anticipated. Educational hikes...six additional hikes. Outreach events...nine additional outreach events...an additional 40 volunteer recruitments. Excuse me, the 50,000 that I mentioned at the very beginning is a...excuse me, it was 50 additional traps. I apologize. There is no money...just talking about the increase in efforts. For the TNC, Waikamoi, the increase in the weed control and the

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

eradication...the Himalayan ginger...they're going to increase another 13 acres. And personnel, they look to increase by 3.1 percent. And in all, they look to increase by nearly 2 percent.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Question six, has the East Maui source feasibility study that was proposed last year started? If not, please provide a status update.

MR. PEARSON: Yeah. Funds for the East Maui feasibility study were budgeted in FY'21 for the East Maui feasible...as of April, this year, just a week or two ago, the Department has consulted with plaintiffs from the East Maui Consent Decree on the scope of services for this study. And we anticipate procuring a contract to commence the study in the next few weeks.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Director. Question seven, please explain how leeward Haleakala forest restoration professional services were not in compliance in FY'19 and FY'20. Were the monies recouped?

MR. PEARSON: Yeah, this is...I mean, this isn't written here, but this is an ugly one. It's just unfortunate that they didn't meet the requirements of the contract, and we did our best, and it just continued on. So I'll read the wording, but just coming from my mouth, we did our best efforts to keep them in line, but it just...it was difficult at their time for whatever reasons. But okay. I'll read the words here now. The reasons the leeward Haleakala forest restoration project fell out of compliance include: three Fiscal '19 quarterly reports were not submitted, despite multiple reminders, arriving up to eight months late. The grantee did not respond to calls or emails until about a month before submission after DWS sent them a noncompliance letter. New deliverables were not included in the approval...approved proposal...were conducted in and out private lands of the project area. The original contract Form C. Deliverable reporting form was modified to add deliverables which was not allowed without approval through a project amendment. Other deliverables outside of the original proposal were not added to Form C while on...original deliverables was also removed without prior consent from DWS. So there was a lot of this going on that wasn't approved ahead of time or...funds for volunteer trips and outreach events during COVID-19 should have been allowed to lapse rather than mostly spent on meetings with land resource managers, decision makers, legislators, colleagues, and funders. Requests for payment of payroll incurred. Quarter 3 was added to quarter, which is not allowed...Quarter 4, which is not allowed. Again, it's a lot of bookkeeping and deliverable issues. Travel expense from Quarter 2 for Watershed Partnership retreat airfare was requested in Quarter 3. Expenditures that were not allowed for contract term were not reimbursed. So that kind of answers that last part of the question.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Director. The next question has lots of parts to it, so I'll read it separately. It's regarding capital improvement projects. Regarding the Wailuku Water Company system, A, has the Administration conducted site visits and inspections of the Wailuku Water Company system and infrastructure? If so, how many visits have been conducted, when, and by whom?

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

MR. PEARSON: The simple answer to that is no, there's been no site visits conducted.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Director. Part B, what percentage of the total water system infrastructure has been inspected?

MR. PEARSON: Kind of tie into that, no, that would be zero percent.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: C, is the \$970,465 expansion request for professional services the anticipated annual cost to maintain the Wailuku Water Company system? If not, what are the anticipated annual maintenance costs following the \$2 million purchase? D, if the County purchases the Wailuku Water Company, will the monies being put towards the maintenance of the system be deducted from the purchase price? E, in addition to funds to purchase the land and easements, how much more money does the County anticipate spending for taking over the systems, i.e., easements, maintenance and repair, liabilities due to property damage? And F, is the \$2 million amount for the Wailuku Water Company a confirmed price or a starting point? Is the purchase for the entire water system or a portion? If a portion, please identify them. When will the purchase of the lands be implemented?

MR. PEARSON: Yes, no, sometimes, maybe, and I don't know. I'll kind of...I'll kind of paraphrase your question, and then answer that...answer the question. So let's see. You started...I answered A and B. So C, is the 970 expansion request anticipated annual cost? No, not at all. The 970 expansion request was actually added to the original \$500,000 we had in last year's budget...or it's this year's, I guess, '21...that we didn't expend. So it's 970 plus the 500, so it's about 1.4 right now. We decided to add...I guess I'm supposed to read the words in. Okay, excuse me. The annual cost for maintenance is unknown at this time as the Administration is moving towards assessing the ditch system, and is planning to prepare a desktop business plan. DWS is requesting funding to cover any future costs for repair and maintenance or other unforeseen costs related to the purchase. And of course, kind of the key there is unforeseen. So that's why we put in a little money because we're moving closer to some activity. D, if the County purchases, will the money being put towards the maintenance of the system be deducted from the purchase price? These matters should be addressed during negotiation phase of the purchase. And I think there's another answer to address negotiation. In addition to funds...this is E...in addition to funds to purchase the lands and easements, how much more money is anticipated for taking over the system, the easements, the maintenance, repair, liabilities and property damage? Kind of the same answer as above, we anticipate answering such questions as these when we have results of the business plan and analyze such results in conjunction with the existing appraisal that was completed in 2018. Is the 2 million amount a confirmed price or a starting point? Is the purchase for the entire system or a portion? If it's a portion, identify. When will the purchase of the lands be implemented? No confirmed price for the purchase of this system from Wailuku Water Company. The Administration has been in discussions with Wailuku Water Company and for the acquisition of the whole water system, but no formal offer has been made. And I just want to kind of reiterate. I mentioned earlier in one of the answers that we're doing...looking...having requests for

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

proposal for the desktop business plan. We also have a second request for a proposal to do the on-the-boots, on-the-ground, boots-on-the-ground evaluation of the Wailuku Water system, which was the earlier questions. So the hope is that when we get this request for a proposal, we'll get approval from the owner, and we will go out onto the ditch system, do an evaluation, and then get results from that evaluation to have better answers for you, of course, for the first part of negotiating and costs and so forth. So those RFPs right now...are in review right now with the Administration. So it's not...you know, it's not talk. They've been written up and they're under review to be sent out.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay. That was the last question from the transmitted correspondence. We'll now go into the next portion of our process, which is to open the floor for Members, giving each Member five minutes to ask their questions regarding any of the programs: Water Administration, Water Department-wide expenses, Water operations, CIPs, and rates and fees. So there were some proposed changes to charges billed on actual costs, labor, transportation, patching, and material unit cost. All right. We'll start with the subject matter Committee Chair, Member Sinenci, followed by Committee Vice-Chair Paltin, and then we'll go to Member Sugimura. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. Mahalo, Chair, and aloha, Mr. Director Pearson, Deputy, and Staff. Thank you for hearing Members' questions. Yeah, just a couple follow-up questions. A follow up on Member Sugimura's question about the easements...with the Wailuku Water acquisition, are there concerns about private easements of the system or where the system goes over, traverses?

MR. PEARSON: Just...Member Sinenci, the simplest question...answer to that question is yes. Our Corp. Counsel did a pretty in-depth study of the easements along the ditch system, and they're in all different states. Some, there's easements; some, there's a line on a map. There is a concern about easements along the ditch system.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: That traverse private property?

MR. PEARSON: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. All right. Thank you. And then just following up with the purchase and I know this is a loaded question, but would this affect particularly the Wailuku sector of the water use development plan?

MR. PEARSON: You're right, it is a loaded question. But the water easement development plan looks at...and I think Eva's on the line, but I think I can answer enough to discuss the strategies on water use and the strategies related to the water source. So the source is going to be there. Someone else is going to manage it, but the strategies that are in place in the water use and development plan should be fairly consistent, no matter who's managing the ditch system.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Again, we can reach out to Ms. Blumenstein later. Thank you. And then, I just had another question. So we're proposing a LiDAR drone system

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

for the County. And I understand that the acquisition includes over 677 acres of the 'Īao Valley. Is this system you talked about...evaluating the system...is this something the Department could potentially use, the LiDAR drone system?

MR. PEARSON: I sure will not say no, because more information is more information. So I don't even know how we could utilize it, but I'm sure there would be a way. And Eva's probably jumping up and down, clapping, right now, so...

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. All right. Thank you, Director. That's all I have. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Sinenci. And I did see Ms. Blumenstein jump online. Okay, okay. Next is Committee Vice-Chair Paltin, followed by Member Sugimura.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. My first question is, when you were talking about the streams in regards to the question on the sheet, did you mean Kanaha on the West Maui side?

MR. PEARSON: Yes. Kanaha, yes. Yes.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And then real quick, Member Paltin, don't forget to mute after you ask your question. Okay. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. And then my next question is, so we're talking and we're dancing around the issue of the purchase of the Wailuku Water system. If we were to not purchase it, how would that affect County water delivery?

MR. PEARSON: That's a question I really can't answer, Member, because right now it's privately owned. And I don't know, or I'm not going to predict what the owners are going to do moving forward if it's not purchased by Department of Water Supply. You can guess. They could be purchased by others, he could maintain ownership. I don't know what other options there'd be, maybe a community ownership, I'm just guessing. I have no...I don't have an answer, but it would just be your guess is as good as mine, what could happen going forward?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. No further questions at this time.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. Keeping in line with the questions regarding Wailuku Water Company, Department kind of questions...and I had these questions in previous terms so I will ask it. Does your Department currently have the Staff to run the water system if we were to buy it? And would you need to create a new division?

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

How many? What kind of new employees would you need to hire? And have you discussed with OSHA and the union whether County employees can do the work to maintain the Wailuku Water Company system?

MR. PEARSON: I'll...I think those are all great questions. The simple question to the first one about Staff is...no. A division...I can't answer that. I would assume that it would be somehow under the Department of Water Supply. I don't think we'd create another division for just managing one source. A bunch of these answers also, I think, are hopefully going to come out in this desktop business plan study that, like I said, the request for proposal right now is being evaluated up at the 9th Floor...plan on talking with the managing director this week on...you know, on his view of the write up. So they're great questions, but there's really no answers that we can provide to you at this time. But hopefully, we're working to get the answers soon.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I guess that ties into the next question is, it seems likely that the County of Maui is looking towards purchasing the Wailuku Water Company. And what part is the State looking at? Do you have a breakdown of what the purchase breakdown would be?

MR. PEARSON: Generally, the State is looking at...I think they're looking at...at least in the past. I haven't followed much of this Legislative session. They've been looking at getting...what is this?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Conservation lands.

MR. PEARSON: Well, conservation lands, but they're looking at different funding to purchase these conservation lands.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Just the public lands.

MR. PEARSON: So public trust...yeah. So it would be bifurcated in such a way that the State would purchase the four large TMKs. And then the Department of Water Supply...or I should say the Administration, along with the Water Supply, would purchase the water delivery system.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: And conserve...

MR. PEARSON: I mean, that's kind of a general --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. PEARSON: -- general answer.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. And because we haven't done a site visit, so to speak, to check out the system, would that happen before we decide to buy it? Will the Department insist that we do that so we know what we're...

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

MR. PEARSON: Definitely. You got to know what kind of tires are on the Volkswagen, or you got to know if it's a Cadillac. So definitely, that's going to be a huge part of the decision making on what condition the ditch system is in. And are we going to require the owner to make improvements before purchase, or pay for improvements? You know, all this again would be part of the --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. PEARSON: -- negotiation for the purchase.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, very good. And then, as far as the title, you know, because it's such a large parcel of land, are we going to have the correct title reports? And I think it's not only...there's some private landowners, so all of that will be resolved before we purchase?

MR. PEARSON: Again, I'm not privy to all that type of detail, but I'm sure that has to be part of the purchase. You can't purchase something that you don't know what lands you're purchasing. So I'm...I'm sure that has to be resolved some way or another.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay, lots more work to do. All right. So...well, okay. We'll continue on with questions with Wailuku Water Company as, I guess, this term goes on. It sounds like...more to come. The business plan, the desktop business plan, will include what?

MR. PEARSON: Excuse me. The business plan will what?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: What will it include?

MR. PEARSON: Well, the, you know, the basics that are out there as part of his business. He has...Wailuku Water Company has...I have a folder in my office...30-some agreements with other water users. And of course, operational maintenance issues and access issues, easement issues would be part of that business plan. So I guess whatever the information that we, Department of Water Supply and the Administration, needs to evaluate where his business is, and what health it is at, should be part of that business plan.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. And one last question. Is there a situation where we have dams? You know, the...like, the Kaupakalua Dam situation, which I didn't even know there was a dam there, but does the Wailuku Water Company and that vast mountain that we look at have any situations like that that we should be concerned about, which would be part of our purchase?

MR. PEARSON: Well, the dam is the right word, but it might not be the right perception. There's a...if you drive up...let's say you're going to Wailuku Heights.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Kuikahi.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

MR. PEARSON: If you drive up Kuikahi Road and you...right when you get...right below the homes, you look to your left, and there's that large reservoir there where the goats are hanging out. That's part of the Wailuku Water Company system. And that's considered a dam because it retains water behind a slope. So that...and there's another one that's above Kapalua Plantation. That's another larger reservoir, and that's considered a dam. So I guess the answer to your question is yes, there are dams. And we don't know where he is...where Wailuku Water is with the date on managing those reservoirs. We don't...we don't have that information at this time.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Director.

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Greetings, Department. I only have one question for you, and it's in regards to page 605 in the Budget Proposal three-ring binder. It's under your Water Administration Program and the population served. It says the Water Administration Program serves the County of Maui except for Lānaʻi. And it goes on with other areas. Now, I understand, you know, the water system on Lānaʻi is a private company. But my question is in regard to LWAC, the Lānaʻi Water Advisory Committee. That...it was created in 1999 under Resolution 5...I think it was. But it was...it's been up there for years and years. And I've sat in on the LWAC meetings, and we couldn't get the company to come join us in...to the meetings. So I just want to...well, I'm just wondering. Is there any reasons now, in 2021, that this committee is not meeting? And is there anything the Department can do to get it up and running again?

MR. PEARSON: I'm not an expert on this, but I know...and I met with Butch Gima, I think it was, a while back at the beginning of two years ago. And I think that advisory committee was formed as a part of working on the water use and development plan, if I remember right. Does that sound right to you? You know more about this than I do, I'm sure. I don't know what it would take to get the committee back together, but I don't think Department of Water Supply sees the need to be part of this. And when this came up in the past, I know some issues were deferred to the Water Commission. And I know that Roy Hardy at the Water Commission had met with Lānaʻi people, I can't specifically say who, to discuss source issues on Lānaʻi. So I guess if I'd give you a simple answer, I'd say that Water Commission would be the first entity to go deep with on this issue.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you, Director. I will send you the resolution that specifically talks about the kuleanas of your Department. So I'll send that to you in an email. You know, when you talk about water being a public trust and a public trust doctrine...and I just always felt that we really needed to step it up for Lānaʻi. Even though it's a private company, that water still is in the hands of the public. So I'll send you an email in...with the resolution, and maybe we can move on from there. So thank you. Thank you, Department. Thank you, Chair. I have no further questions.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Johnson. Member King, followed by

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

Council Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Aloha, Jeff. Good to see you and Helene there. I actually just want to follow up on the Wailuku Water Company issues. If something happens with the State funding, because we don't know until the Legislative session ends and the Budget is secure, does that jeopardize our ability to purchase just the section that we need, the \$1.7 to \$2 million section?

MR. PEARSON: I think they're travelling on separate paths. So I'd like to give you...maybe it's a little bit qualified, but I think the answer is no, it shouldn't affect. Because if we're bifurcating the water to every system from the land purchase, then that means they're bifurcated. So therefore, the land purchase should be a separate path.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So if...

MR. PEARSON: My bigger...go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So if we don't get the funding from the State that's in the State Budget, and a PR representative in South Maui was very instrumental on getting that back into the budget, then we would just...we would still be focused on buying just the section of the water delivery. And then the owner would be trying to sell that land to somebody else possibly? Is that, like, what you envision?

MR. PEARSON: Of course, I'm not going to guess on what the owner's going to do, but your direct question seems...if they're bifurcated, can the purchase of the water delivery system still go forward? And I think it can. Of course, it's also at the understanding of the owner.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Well, that's what I was getting to is, was there an indication from the owner? And speaking of the owner, were you able to obtain documents as far as maintenance costs and, you know, the repairs that are needed and the ongoing maintenance? Because when we first looked at this several years ago, we were not able to get that information from the owner. So do you have that information now, as far as ongoing maintenance?

MR. PEARSON: No, we do not.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. That's really hard, because then, I don't know where that 970,000 comes from...that figure comes from if you have no idea what they're spending now. But I guess it doesn't...that money is still part of your self...your enterprise fund, right? So it's not coming out of the General Fund? And then, if you don't use it, it rolls back into your budget. That's how it...that's how that works?

MR. PEARSON: That's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Because it does...to me, it seems premature to assume anything when we haven't seen, you know, the information that we've been requesting for a few

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

years now from the owner. So those are my main concerns about it. And then the other one was...the other question I have for you is regarding the...you said...you made mention that you would be...it sounds like you would be turning the maintenance, the operations over to a contractor, like a subcontractor. And we've discussed in Member Sinenci's Committee about working with a community-owned company that might, you know, create that ESG model that we're looking for for water operations and water disbursement. Are you open to that, to looking at a community-owned company?

MR. PEARSON: Again, you know, that's another question I can't...it would be a shame if I'm not open to various options. And...and actually, the...the final decision probably wouldn't be mine. It would be back at the Administration that was doing the negotiation and was working on the purchase. But the answer...short answer is yes, I'm open to any type of process, and if it can work, and it's good for all.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. But that would be...that would be sort of an after the purchase issue, right? I mean, you purchase it first, then you put out an RFP for someone to run it, to operate it? Wouldn't that be how it would...the succession of that go?

MR. PEARSON: Well, likely, but I would think that if we're moving towards purchase, we should be more prepared than to react after the purchase. So I'd hope that we'd have our act together prior to the purchase on some way of maintaining it the day that we receive the asset.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

MR. PEARSON: So I don't know what that means.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: And the \$2 million to purchase it is part of your Water Department fund?

MR. PEARSON: Yes, it is. It's in the CIP section where the other 1.47 is in the operations side.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. All right. Thank you, Director, I appreciate those responses. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member King. Okay. Council Chair Lee, followed by Member Sinenci...no...yeah. Council Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you, Madam Chair. Hi, Jeff and Staff. I just have a question on source. We've been told by our consultant, Jeff Gilbreath, that we need 5,000 affordable houses as soon as possible, okay. I'm not sure how that could happen without any water or sewer capacity, but let's just talk about water. Where do you think that water would come from to service 5,000 homes?

MR. PEARSON: 5,000 homes are not going to be built overnight. And it's going to take a long-term process to develop that source. Some specific responses would be assuming some

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

of these affordable homes are central in Waikapu, that there's a source in Waikapu that the owner has indicated that they would consider dedicating the wells that they develop. Or we could develop additional wells to meet the sustainable yield in Waikapu to provide some source. I'm trying to be specific on some items. We're looking at developing additional source in Waihee. You, the Council, has approved an intergovernmental agreement for the Waihee aquifer to work with the State to drill a well. The Consent Decree...I'd like to think it's near the end of their decision making on the surface water for the Iao area, which likely will provide additional surface water at our Iao treatment plant. Longer term, I know it's not a very hot topic, and Member Sinenci is...and Member...it's not a hot topic, but we're looking towards the Ha'ikū aquifer in the future for additional source. That's not going to be tomorrow, but we're working on addressing that Consent Decree as the question in the write up was earlier. So if we can move towards that, work with Ha'ikū residents to eventually bring water from there...another...I don't want to call it a source of water, but we're always working towards conservation to reduce water use to allow for --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

MR. PEARSON: -- growth. So those are a couple answer I can give you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay, Jeff. So Jeff, let's say we're --

MR. PEARSON: All right.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- let's say we're hoping to develop 2,500 homes in the next six or seven years. Would you say that we need to partner with Atherton to help develop those wells and transmission equipment and lines to where the homes are going to be?

MR. PEARSON: That's kind of a tough question, Member Lee to, you know, sit here in public and say I got a water supply, I have to partner with Atherton, but I think that's a huge issue. And it would be very advantageous is we are able to do that, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. All right. Thank you. That's all I have. Thanks.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. I think I got everyone. Okay, my turn. Okay. My first question is regarding the \$3 per fire hydrant inspection charge that the Fire Department pays. How did you arrive at \$3 per hydrant? What does it...what costs does it cover? Is it just, like, the employees' salaries that do the inspection? And does it generate more revenue than would be needed for the cost of that?

MR. PEARSON: We asked Holly and Holly said 3 bucks. So that's what we did. We just did 3 bucks because that's what Holly said. No, I'm sure that...I don't...\$3 per hydrant? It likely doesn't even cover the cost, but I think we took the thing in the soup and then you end up getting...covering the total costs for the maintenance and efforts and the installations that we do. So it...yeah...3 bucks...you know, it takes you 3 bucks to start your car, so I don't know any specifics. I don't know if Holly has any specific answer to that.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

MS. HO: This charge has been around for a long time, and we can do another analysis of it to see what that true cost is, but I don't have the specifics on it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo. Yeah. I think it's like, several hundred thousand. I can't remember if it's like, 300,000 or 700,000...it's kind of a lot. So it'd be good to do an analysis of that. And don't worry, Ms. Ho. We won't let Director throw you under the bus on that arbitrary amount. Just kidding. Okay. For Budget Details, page 19-16, this is regarding professional services for the Moloka'i Hui Up!. It's \$150,000 for this appropriation. And I'm assuming that this would be to contract outside services to help with the...with writing...drafting the Hui Up! for Moloka'i. My first question is, was Maui's Hui Up! contracted out, or was it done in-house? I'll start there.

MR. PEARSON: Thank you, Chair. The second part of your question, was Maui contracted out? No. That was done in-house over five or more years, and the lines on Eva's face will prove some of that. So that's actually some part of the decision making, to contract out Moloka'i. It's just a huge undertaking. She's got a lot on her plate, so we decided to contract that out. And I think we're working pretty close to having a consultant onboard or if...we already do have a consultant onboard. We may already have a consultant onboard on that, so just getting started.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes, okay. Yeah, and I think...I think I may have heard who the consultant is. And I think it...it would be a good pick if that's...if what I heard is correct. Okay. So what is the proposed contract length for this RFP, considering that Moloka'i's Hui Up! is, like, about 20 to 30 years needing an update as well. So I'm assuming this one will probably be pretty involved as Maui's was, maybe not...I mean, it's not as big, but it's old and controversial.

MR. PEARSON: Everything's controversial, you're right there. Can I ask if Eva is on? I don't have any questions.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. Ms. Blumenstein is on. Aloha, Miss...

MR. PEARSON: Okay. I see her now.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Aloha.

MR. PEARSON: She can answer these questions better.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Thank you, Chair, for the question. Yes, you're correct. We have already procured a contract for Townscape to update the Moloka'i water use and development plan. We literally just kicked off our first few one-on-one meetings with community members. And yes, we foresee that it's going to be a long project period, a minimum of 30 to 40 months . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . the consultant was on this with us.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Ms. Blumenstein. Okay. Follow-up questions,

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

members? Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. I just was wondering, I was looking through the rates and fees, and some of the materials unit costs are going down, and others were going up. And I just was wondering. Have adjustments not been made for a while, or are these based on, like actual costs, or how did you come about these numbers?

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Thank you, Member. What happens is that at the end of the fiscal year, we look at the average carrying costs based on inventory purchases and whatnot. And then we add a small cost for us to maintain a Staff and the warehouse and whatnot. And those are normally what we present as proposed rates and fees. Now, if I recall correctly, we have not increased materials charges since the 2019 budget. Administration, at the time, didn't feel that it would be...you know, they didn't want to raise costs, understandably. And so this means that what you're looking at in the Ramseyered format actually represents costs at 6/30/2018 compared to June 30th, 2020 costs. Some of the costs went up, some of the costs went down. For example, in 2018, we used these gate valves that were of inferior quality. And so we no longer use those because we know that our members are saying, you know, we're installing them, they're breaking right away, we got to put in another one. It's just...no. It made no sense. So we purchased...we now carry gate valves that are far more expensive but, you know, they're not going to break literally a month after installation. So these kind of things affect the costs that you're looking at. And in some instances, the type of work that we're doing...for example, now with the meter replacement, we purchased a higher volume of certain parts and whatnot, so the price...you know, we get a better price. So these are the types of things that are affecting the prices. But basically, what you're looking at in the Ramseyered format is 2018 versus 2020. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: So it's when customers call for repair, they get assessed at the rate that's within this binder, that's who we're charging the rate to?

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Yes. The rates...the fee...the charges in the inventory are what we actually would charge a customer. Say, they call in, they have a broken...loose, you know, valve or something for their...going into their property. And we have to send customers out. It's a very small portion of our . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . revenues that we charge...the customers actually pay for our rates and fees.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. My time is up. I'll wait until the next go around.

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

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. My next question has to do with delivery rates to general water customers and water shortage rates. I just was wondering, the biggest volume of users...was there any discussion about...I'm on page 46 of rate totals assessment...about the highest users paying a little bit more as to assist with conservation? Or do you think that would offset the revenues in a negative impact?

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Thank you, Member Paltin. I think I understand the question. I'll take

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

a go at it. So the rates are generally structured in a manner that will allow...at the very lowest level of usage, we're able to be sure that some of the senior population or some of the very...consumers who are already very conservative are afforded, you know, a good rate, a lifeline rate, so to speak. And then, as you use more water, you incrementally pay more water. And as you said, at the highest tier, we're trying to encourage conservation. So I mean, once you start using a lot of water, you get charged more at that higher...highest tier. And that's, you know, the intent of the rate structure. Fortunately, not a whole lot of our revenue is at that highest tier, which means that for the most part, people are generally good about conserving and using water appropriately. Did that answer your question?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Yes. And would hotels be considered in general water consumers, or is it more of a commercial use for the hotel category?

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Hotels would be in the general water consumers. It's only single family and all others.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. All right. I have a follow up, and this is regarding carryover savings. Okay. So let's see. It says that we're estimating a carryover savings of \$19,535,117. My question is, how much do you aim...okay. I know the goal is to try to set the rates so that the projected revenue matches the projected cost of the Department. It seems that every year, there's...you know, the Department generates more revenue than the cost it budgeted for. FY'20...there was a carryover savings of 25 million. So noticing that pattern, like, is there a plan for, you know, generating more revenue than the cost, since it seems like we have consistently generated more revenue than our expenditures call for?

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Thank you, Chair. A couple of things, we always budget the carryover revenue into the ensuing year. But also, in BFED Committee, we do have proposed legislation to establish a revolving fund to address the impacts of climate change and sea level rise. It would be a capital replacement fund. And in the future, we're hoping that we can actually appropriate some funds, you know, some of the carryover savings perhaps there to address future needs that...you know, we know we're going to need a lot of money to address the impact of sea level rise. And so we're hoping that at some point, we can address BFED number 84.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Deputy Director. All right. And then, I have a few other questions, but they're more District-specific. So after Budget, I'd love to, you know, talk story with you folks about the plan for the Moloka'i Conservation Drought Contingency Plan on different quadrant phases. Okay. Oh, and I...I... . . .(timer sounds). . . I wanted to quickly add to...respond to Member Johnson that when I first got into office, I...I tried to reestablish the Moloka'i Water Advisory Committee, and there's a lot of controversy around water. So...so that was really tricky, and so we decided we would just wait until the Department started the update of the Hui Up!, which it just has. And so that advisory committee, I'm assuming, would...I would think

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

be put back together. But I guess I'll talk to the Department about that later. Okay. The next part of our process is a presentation of Members' priorities. There are two priorities; one from myself, and one from Member Sinenci, it's an alternate priority. My priority is Countywide, conditional language, and it's in the water...it's regarding the water rates. I emailed the Department a proposal, and it's to the rate structure. My proposal is to create a rate structure that would include a single-family residential, multi-unit residential, and non-residential categories. Single-family residential would be water service charges to single-family residential, refers to single-family and duplex residences with RPT classifications that have homeowner exemptions, long-term rental exemptions, or is classified as commercialized residential. Multi-unit residential is water services charged to multi-unit residential, refers to multi-unit residences, including apartments, condominiums, and townhouses unit...oh, sorry...with RPT classification that has a homeowner or long-term rental exemption, or is classified as commercialized residential. And non-residential would refer to any property not used for residential or agricultural purposes, which include RPT classifications that do not have a homeowner exemption, long-term rental exemption, or a classified commercialized residential. My proposal is to maintain the rates as was proposed by the Department. The only change in rate it...that I'm proposing is the temporary elimination of the Tier III for single-family residential. As we heard in response to Member Paltin's question, there aren't too many residence...single-family residences that hit that Tier IV for \$6.55. The reason behind temporarily removing Tier IV is to minimize the impact to families that may have lost their rental home or home during COVID. We...you know, we've heard from a lot of our constituents that they've lost their rental, and families may now be, you know, piling up into single-family residences. And I think during this time of the pandemic, it...I wouldn't want to charge them any more because they can't afford a rental right now, or their own home. So temporarily, you know, relieving single-family residents of that. And...and the rationale behind the structure comes because of the rate study, the 2013 rate study. When I had asked about charging more...the more egregious users, like hotels and resorts, my...the...the response that I received from the Department last budget was that the 2013 rate study didn't include that in the recommendation. And when I read the study, part of the scope of that study was to ask the consultants to help the Department with water conservation on single-family uses. And...and that was the parameter of that study, and not to figure out...and not broader than that. The second is to...because the County is making an effort to consolidate payments, so water, sewer, refuse collection, RPT, that it...there's...we're already moving in that direction of consolidating. So working with RPT, I anticipate, you know, wouldn't be as difficult. And the third is, the Board of Water Supply recently each stated that one of their highest priorities is to conserve more water from the most egregious water users, which are a lot of the hotels and resorts. Okay? All right. And then I'll ask for comments from the Department, and then after the Department, Members.

MS. KAU: Thank you, Chair. First of all, with regards to your suggestion or statement about a new integrated billing system, although the County could consolidate the manner in which bills get issued, the Department of Water Supply's billing system goes through a fairly complex process where, you know, we're utilizing meter reads and whatnot, and we have a separate billing system to calculate the appropriate bills, and then we, you

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

know, generate the...the bills for water supply and for sewer. Now in doing that, if we were to implement some of these changes that you're suggesting, first off, as...as we said, initially there shouldn't be much impact in revenue because you're not touching the rates. However, in order to segregate these classes of users, it would be a tremendous effort on our part to identify each of our users. Because again, it's not as though we could just import the information from RPT into our...you know, our very complex billing system. Our Staff would have to touch every single account every time there's a change made here, in order to, you know, ensure that they're falling into the proper class. So that...you know, I'm not going to say that we can't do it, but it would certainly be...it would...it would be a tremendous effort. And then also, to accommodate these changes, as our billing system is...is again very complex, we could do this, but I'm going to estimate that it would take a year, and at least \$150,000, plus thousands of hours of Staff time. And then on an ongoing basis, we would probably need more Staff to be able to, every time, you know, as you said, when the RPA adjusts, we'd have to go in and make all of these manual changes in the billing system. So it...it would...I...I don't know if...if there's perhaps another way that we can achieve your same goal and, you know, perhaps we could consider that as well. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Department. Members, any questions for me or for the Department? Oh, and then I...I forgot two things. One is that I looked at how the three other counties structured their rates. Kauai County still does only general water users. Hawai'i County does a...a...a different kind of a scheme. They use block rates, and our rates has all general users and then single family. And Honolulu actually has the single-family residential, multi-unit residential and the *(audio interference)*. Okay. Member Paltin?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I just was wondering if there's a written document of the proposal, separate from the matrix priorities. I only see in the matrix priorities that it says something water rate, and just was wondering if there's a...where the...if there's a written document on that, would be my first question for you. And my second question from Deputy Director Kau would be, would raising the highest tier be acceptable and very much hard work?

MS. KAU: I'm sorry, Member Paltin. What was the first part of the question again?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: What *(audio interference)* what tier on what category?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: On the...the general.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So there's only the two categories, right, all...all general users or single-family. So you want to raise the rate on Tier III, which is \$15,000...15,000 gallons?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah. Tier III for general users, as well as the highest tier for water shortage kinds.

MS. KAU: Thank you, Member Paltin. And you can certainly do that. But what becomes a bit

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

more complex is that whenever you're going to raise a tier a certain amount, what almost always happens is that you're not going to necessarily generate more revenue, but that becomes more forced conservation. And we've actually seen it where, you know, when you're going to increase the rates, people will conserve more. And so you could...you know, this would probably result in increased conservation, not necessarily generating more revenue. But it would, you know, perhaps touch up on, I believe, part of your goal to, you know, address some of the users that may be wasting water. And I don't think that there was any other proposal...sorry...with regards to your first part of the question. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I guess my question was, like, I would hope that would be the outcome, and it's not necessarily to raise rates. I would hope that folks go the conservation method, but do you know if there's a point at which it would negatively impact your operations? Or do you think that is where it is now, that it...it...that having the level at where it's at now is what you can afford. Whereas if we raise it, and people go the conservation route, would that negatively...like, would you have a...would you anticipate having a shortfall to cover your expenses for your Department?

MR. PEARSON: Oh, maybe Miss...Member Paltin, and I...I think you kind of hit it on the head, and it's great that you see that, that you walk a fine line. Because let's say you call it forced conservation by higher rates, then you force conservation, which is a fantastic thing for anybody, and then you reduce revenue. . . .(timer sounds). . . So how much revenue do you want to reduce at the expense of conservation, and there's no right answer. But of course, conservation is important and revenue...the issue of revenue at that rate ends, as Holly I think said earlier, there's not a lot of percentage of our revenue we receive at that highest tier. So I don't...I mean, I don't know how much it's going to take in the . . .(inaudible). . . to do all the efforts to make the changes, but I'm not too opposed to raising that higher tier at a higher rate. It's a small...I think it's a small expense, or a small loss of revenue. I'm kind of looking at both Holly and Helene as I'm saying that. But and...and the result...if the result is conservation, then yippee, you know, we'll...we'll give you the credit, or maybe Member...Member Rawlins, Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. But I see your point, and...and your point is well taken.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. And Members, the proposal was sent from BFED Committee at 12:28. Okay. Members, any other questions? Okay. Seeing none, we'll go to Member Sinenci's proposal. It's an alternate proposal.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. Yeah. We had other water supply to report for County engagement for the Wailuku Water System acquisition. As you know, we were...we receive a lot of testimony during the year from...from not just Wailuku residents. As you know, Maui is known for Nā Wai Ehā, the waters of...of Nā Wai Ehā, Wailuku, Waiehu, Waikapū and Waihe'e, and so we have a lot of cultural users of...of these waters. And so our proposal was...we did ask for 10,000, but...and it was just for if the Department could supply some Staff or...or commit to reaching out to the community for outreach and engagement purposes over the Wailuku water acquisition. Thank you, Chair.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Department, comments?

MR. PEARSON: \$10,000 doesn't go far. I...I appreciate and support the attitude and the direction of reaching out to the community. I think whether you put that proposal out or not, it's a must that the Administration and Water Supply reach out. Because if we don't reach out, it's going to...we're still going to hear from them, and the communication is going to happen whether...whether...I don't want to say whether we like it or not because we encourage it, but it's not going to sit idle. So I guess what I'm trying to say is, it's...the outreach is going to take place, all right. I don't know what \$10,000 might do, or how we would spend that. I mean, I'll take it, but I don't think that's the concern. The concern --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MR. PEARSON: -- is to ensure that outreach is enacted and done during the process of the Wailuku Water Company purchase. And I --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Director. Yeah. I...if...if you guys are okay with committing to community outreach and engagement, we're perfectly okay with that. Thank you.

MR. PEARSON: Let me just add that, of course, I'm speaking somewhat for the Administration right now, because the Administration is...my Administration is the lead on this. But I don't feel too uncomfortable speaking on what I said because I'm sure that, you know, my direct boss, remember...I mention Director Baz and the Mayor feel the same way.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Mahalo, Director. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Okay. Members, questions for Member Sinenci or the Water Department? Or Member Sinenci, are you withdrawing your proposal?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. We can...if...if the Director is committing to, you know, just to community outreach, we're okay with withdrawing the...the \$10,000. It was one of our alternatives. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. All right. I don't see any hands, and we're at bare quorum. So don't go anywhere, Members. Okay. There's one bill. So there...there aren't any grant revenue, special...special purpose revenues. There is one bill, a bill for an ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the County of Maui to enter into an intergovernmental agreement for a loan from the State of Hawai'i's Drinking Water Treatment Revolving Loan Fund for West Maui Source Development Fiscal Year '22 Budget ordinance. It's letter F on the BFED agenda, the bill. Any questions on that bill? Okay. Seeing no questions, that concludes our review. Okay. All right. I'll invite Director Pearson to share any final thoughts or closing comments.

MR. PEARSON: Final thoughts are positive. I appreciate Members, Chair, and Members of

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

the Committee on how we communicate, and I don't see any antagonism. I see support. I see questions that deserve answers, and I thank you for the...the way we've worked together on the Budget. And I...and it's...it's a joy to work it this way, as some budgets I've worked in the past where it's not that much fun. So I sincerely thank you. I appreciate Helene and Holly, and actually the Staff that didn't have to speak much today, but it...it was a...a good experience, and we look forward to continuing to work together with...with the Council.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. The feeling is mutual. Mahalo again for being with us today and answering all of our questions. All right. Okay. And then I'll...I'll turn off your video for you. Okay. Okay, Members. It's 12:38. We did talk about having the discussion of Members' priorities. I think Member Molina said that he would return after lunch, and that was one of the items that we had talked about last night between Member Paltin and Member Molina, and I think, maybe, other Members would like to have that discussion as well. So...and I'd also like to have a few other discussions, particularly on the American Rescue Act funding, and I'd like to wait until Chair Lee returns, so I'm thinking we take a lunch. And then when we get back, we can have this discussion. I don't anticipate it taking longer than an hour. So that's my hope. So how long would you like...would you like to have lunch until 1:30, 1:45, 2:00?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: 1:45.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: 1:45.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: 2:00.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Fine with whatever.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay. All right. I have...I...I have three different numbers. I got a 1:30; I got a 1:45; and I got a 2:00.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Let's go 2:00 then.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yes. When would Chair Lee...do we anticipate her returning from her . . .*(inaudible)*. . . you know . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I am not sure. . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- didn't mention.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay. I...I think it's okay if we go to 2:00. I think that would give Member Molina a little bit of time to join us as well. And I'm not super sure how long Chair Lee was going to be. So we'll go 2:00. And then we'll aim for adjourning the meeting at 3:00. Member Sinenci, question?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: But...thank you, Chair. Did...did you want us to have a final of our ten priorities, or this is just a discussion --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- discussion period.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. So it...it...it's...this discussion would be to help you make a decision on your ten priorities.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. So we're still on for tomorrow's submittal?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: At noon. Yes. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: At...okay. Great.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Gotcha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So that way we can have that discussion on the American Rescue Act funding. And, you know, so that we can hear, to ensure that, you know, conditions would be allowed, and so that if any of the Members have duplications and want to figure out who's going to be the one to submit that as their top ten, then we can, you know, sort that all out at that time. Yeah? I...I...I...I thought that would be something that the Members would be appreciative of. Okay. All right. Any last questions before we break for lunch? All right. Member Paltin?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Oh. What time are we coming back at?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: 2:00.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: 2:00. And the goal is to adjourn the meeting by 3:00. Okay. All right. It's...oh, Member King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, yeah. I was just waving goodbye to everybody. I thought we were ready to leave.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All right. Okay. So we'll be back at 2:00. It's 12:42 on April 14th, and the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee is now in recess. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 12:42 p.m.
RECONVENE: 2:04 p.m.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .(gavel). . .Will the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee please return to order. It's 2:04 on April 14th. Hope the Members enjoyed their lunch. Okay. All right. So we're going to go over our priorities, just to sort out who, you know, will be introducing what for tomorrow at noon. Before we start with that, I'm going to call on Corporation Counsel, Ms. Toshikiyo.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Do you see me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I do, and I hear you.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Okay, good.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So the question is, does the Council...or I guess I should say, would it be illegal or impermissible for the Council to add conditions to the rescue funds, the American Rescue Act funds?

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Thank you, Chair, for the question. So based on my reading of the Charter, no, it would not be illegal for you to condition the ARPA grant. But I do want to caution, and just be very mindful of potential unintended consequences, because many conditions that you put on it still must comply with the parameters of the grant, which we don't have that information now. So, you know, just as you're going through this process, and you're thinking about, you know, projects that you would want to fund, just to think of what could happen if, you know, we do get guidance that we're not allowed to use the funds. So that's one concern. And the other is also that just...I was reading the Act, and I know that there are all different pots of funds from this...this plan that the County may be entitled to. So, you know, I'm not sure if by funding a project with the monies directly for the County, would that affect our ability to chase after other funds of the plan.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Ms. Toshikiyo. And so if...when the conditions are received by the Administration, if any of the conditions Council puts on it, the Mayor would be able to amend...transmit a Budget Amendment to --

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- cure the...the problem? Okay. Okay, Members. Any questions for Corporation Counsel? Okay, very good. So everyone's clear? Oh, Member Paltin?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Sorry. So she said it would be...it would be legal for us to condition the

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

money? It's okay? And then, how's about the...a caveat, like, they call it, she said about it was to be careful that it's within the parameters, but we don't know the parameters yet. Like, if we make the condition, and we say subject to the parameters of whatever it is, would that be like, a...a failsafe kind of measure?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The failsafe is the Mayor's ability to amend the Budget after it's adopted.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. So then, don't worry too much that we don't know what the parameters are right at this minute?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So Chairman, I'm...I'm wondering if we could set a ceiling on our conditions for now, since we don't know all the details of the Rescue Act. But we do know that the purpose of it is to stimulate the economy with projects and jobs. So we...we do know chances are buying a toaster is not permitted, but buying a...a concrete hauler or something is because it relates to construction, infrastructure, and the promotion of jobs. So...so that everybody knows that, but...but I think we should set a ceiling of something like 10 percent or so. So we don't disrupt any plans that these...you know, some of these monies could be used to leverage more Federal funds. So the...the idea is not to proviso all of it, but a portion of it, a reasonable portion of it. 10 percent sounds reasonable to me.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, Members. Chair Lee has proposed a maximum amount of 10 percent of the funds. Okay. Lots of hands. So I'll go to Member Molina, Member King, and then Member Paltin. Member Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah. Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I mean, I...I can support Chair Lee's recommendation, 10 percent. I just had another question, maybe it's been answered already, but can we restrict the use of these funds for a specific purpose, you know, assuming we do some provisos? Or is it still kind of a...a shot in the dark at this point?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I...I'm sorry. You're...you're saying can we restrict the...yeah. So --

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: The...the use of the funds for specific purpose?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. So that's what Corporation Counsel --

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: What counsel said, okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- clarified for us, that we --

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- if we had, like, conditions, so long as, you know, they're...there's an argument to be made that it would belong. So Chair Lee's example of a toaster, you know --

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Right.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- like, would probably not pass muster for, you know, justifying use of the funds, so as long as you can try your best to tie it to the purpose of that...because we don't have the conditions just yet. When the conditions...when we do get the conditions, I think the closer you can make it to what...you know, what we kind of anticipate that...that...it being, then the better chance that it would stay in. Otherwise, you know, the...the Mayor would just, you know, have that amended out.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Well...well...well, I...I'll...I'll definitely stay away from the toasters, you know.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Good idea.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Okay. Thank you. That answers my question.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molino. Member King, and then Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, darn. I was going to put that into my...my wild card, but I guess I won't get to ask for a toaster. So...so we're talking about 10 percent of the 35 million?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Because we also don't know what we're getting from the State. And so...and then what...and then what...how would we do that so that everybody has equal access to that pot? So, I mean, if one member proposes a \$3 million item, then that kind of shuts out the rest of us. So I...I don't know if there's...there is a process for making sure that everyone, you know, or...or we just propose everything, and then we figure out...you know, we go back to it and figure out what the priorities are. And I guess that may be a questions for you, Chair...Budget Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member King. All right. So my plan for that process would be similar to my plan with Open Space funds. There were several Open Space funds proposals, and I have compiled them into one spreadsheet. So when that item comes up, we can decide together, you know, which items would end up as a condition, and which items wouldn't, because I think the amount of proposals exceed

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

the amount of funds that is available in Open Space. So, you know, we'll...we'll figure that out together. We can prioritize, and then we can vote on which one, and perhaps, you know, reduce the amount, and then that way we can stay within, for Open Space, what is allocated for, or projected to be an Open Space this fiscal year. And then for the American Rescue Funds, you know, we can figure out how to stay within the 3.5 million.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. So we'll work on that together as a...as a group and not...because my biggest fear was, we're going to go down the list one at a time, and then we vote on something, and someone else's comes up, you know, I...I just want to make sure that we're doing it collectively so we get our top priorities as a Council. So yeah, really appreciate that approach. And then the other thing I wanted to ask, and maybe this is a...this...it's a rhetorical question, but aside from the things that are economic development for the ARP that we also can propose things that are COVID related that are, you know, kind of changing the way do business because of COVID. I mean, that's the whole...that's one of the points of the...the Fund, I think. So I just want to make sure that's there agreement in that. Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. So I think...so your question is whether we would prioritize the conditions that have a direct relation to COVID. I think as we were talking, we were talking about how the conditions will likely be a lot broader than the CARES Act and CRRSAA funds. And so if it stimulates the economy, if it creates jobs through infrastructure, so...so these two things, you know, may not be COVID, directly COVID related. Whereas, you know, reimbursing, you know, or...or...or funds for lost revenue, you know, if that's going to be something in there. I don't...I didn't see anyone proposing that, but --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- infrastructure and economic development are...are two items that have been proposed, and, you know, I think if Members want to take that gamble, that it'll be part of the condition that we get from the State, then that would, you know, be something that *(audio interference)*.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Thank you. That answers my question.

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

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: My question was answered. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. All right, Members. Okay. So we'll go to our priorities so that we can sort out, with the duplications, who would be proposing what and, you know, how much, and all that stuff. Okay. So Member Paltin and Member Molina, I think that was the rental assistance. Member Paltin proposed 500,000, Member Molina, 1 million. Okay. So who would like to speak first on...I think it was in Member Molina's court. I think Member Paltin kind of left the preference up to you, Member Molina, on how you would like to move forward?

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Well, you know, Madam Chair, I don't mind, you know, we can go each...500 each from each member, I mean, if that's...that's cool. I mean, I don't mind sharing the love.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So 500,000. And so Member Paltin would make one of her new funding proposals 500,000 for rental assistance, and Member Molina, you would put 500,000 as one of your proposals? Okay. And then, it'll be a...a total of a \$1 million. Okay. Very good. The next one I think...did we sort out the LiDAR? We did, yeah? Member Sinenci would be proposing that.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yep.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. All right. And then Member Sinenci, you'll come back with the adjusted amount for decision making. All right. Those are the two that I remember off the top. Were there any others that...okay. Member King? And then followed by Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yes. I think the...the item that I share with Member Molina is the Community Advisory Committees, which was already used as an example. And so I think we decided to, kind of, share the load on that one too. It...it was originally at 260 for ten months, and then we dropped it down to nine months. So it...it...it came out to 240 total. So that would be, like, each of us finding 120,000 for just on that.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So Member King, the sorting out won't be for, like, how we're going to figure out how we're going to fund it. It's going to be who is going to submit it as a proposal.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So will you also be submitting it as a proposal, or will Member Molina...Molina alone be submitting it as one of his top ten?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah. I think he and I decided that we would both submit it as one of our top ten.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Each of us.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Was that okay, Member Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All right. So --

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Share the love.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Share the love.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay. So much love. We can do this all together. Look at that. All right. Member Paltin, you next.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Just after looking at things, I wanted to withdraw my Kaohu Street drainage outlet and share with Member Johnson the Lāhainā LEAD Program for District 20.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Paltin, was that on your initial submittal?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: The Lāhainā LEAD one? No.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So for Member Sinenci and Chair Lee, the LiDAR proposal was on their ten and alternate, so the 15 that was submitted on April 1st. Member King and Member Molina also submitted the committee...advisory committee idea on their 15. And then you and Member Molina both submitted the rental assistance as one of your top 15. So this would be a totally new one for you, Member Paltin, that...that wasn't included in your...your first 15. Member Paltin?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Oh. Actually, Member Molina's wasn't rental assistance as his original submittal, his was home acquisition funding. So I was wondering if I could just...I mean, really the point of submitting it with Member Johnson is to share the load on the finding of the money. I don't want to change his proposal at all. I just want to give him some of my money cuts so he doesn't have to work as hard.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. So we're not sorting that part out right now. So if you...so Member Johnson, if he's going to submit that as one of his top ten, which sounds like he will --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: If...if we could be amenable, she can just take them, and she can --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No. She can't.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh. Okay. All right. Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That wasn't the rules. Okay. So the rules are that if you submitted it on April 1st, then that's one of your...along the way it can...it can be amended, as long as it's, like, in line with the intention, you know. So like, you know, Member Sinenci is going to be changing his LiDAR amount based on feedback from the Department. I understand that the home acquisition and rental assistance are two different programs, but they...they kind of were similar enough in the purpose, which is to help, you know, individuals into homes. And...but the Kaohu Street Drainage and the LEAD program are not similar at all. So it wouldn't...you...she wouldn't be able to

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

share that item with you. She can help you to fund that when we get to that part in...in decision making, but she cannot take that as her priority proposal because she didn't...it wasn't part of her 15. Okay. So Member Johnson's going to include that as his top ten --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- and then we . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Okay. Good. Okay. Okay. Any other duplicates so that we can sort out who will include it as a top ten proposal for tomorrow's submittal at noon? And then Member Sugimura is listening. Her video is not showing, but she can hear us, and DOT wants a new EP. Would that be infrastructure related from Rescue funds? Okay. So...oh, I don't know. . . .*(inaudible)*. . .it with...I'm submitting it, partial withdraw. Oh. Okay. So that was a request from the Department, Member Sugimura. So we have a few requests from the Department, and...oh, okay. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Oh, okay. Okay. So the...the DOT request is part of the departmental request that I told the Members that I would keep a list of. And then when we get to decisions week, we could vote on it then, and it wouldn't take up any of the Members' priority proposals because it was a request that came from the Department. Member Sugimura reminded me that with the Independent Development Account, the IDA, she and Pro Tem Tasha had a duplication, and we...we decided to go with...oh, I don't remember...oh, yeah...Member Sugimura, and then Pro Tem Tasha withdrew, and that we would...Member Sugimura also has a bill for the IDA. Okay. All right. Any other duplicate?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I have a question about the thing.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: So would Ms. Cabebe's five point...I think it was, like 5.8 to 6.2 or something like that, does that count as a Department request? Or no, because it was MEO shortfall?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that question, Member Paltin. I think we had...we got that sorted out during our review with Transportation, that there...Ms. Cabebe let us know that there would be enough carryover savings that would carry a...they project about enough. So about 400,000, so that it would cover that cost. So we wouldn't need to add that to the Budget.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Oh. And...and are we sure that the carryover savings would be allotted to them? Or would it go into the General Fund and they'd have to...are we sure that the carryover would go to them?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. So it sounds like that's what they did last year, where MEO had the carryover savings from that grant, and then it was just put toward their grant again. I mean, I guess there isn't, like, a...100 percent certainty that that would happen, but it sounds, like, it...it's been past practice. So it has happened before, and I...I would trust that the Administration would do that again.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

Okay. Member Sugimura has another question. Veterans came back and said they would need \$2,000 more. How would that be handled based upon your process? So from 20,000 to 22,000. Okay. Well, I guess if the Department made that request, we could vote on it. Oh, okay. Okay. Okay. Oh. And then just to clarify, the carryover savings would be from the FY'21 grant that MEO currently has. Okay. Any other duplicates or needing...Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I had an alternate, and I know you...a lot of the Members don't have an alternate, but it was...it was in regards to a mental health Kokua Safe Haven service. And I noticed on Councilmember Tasha Kama's number 19 on her matrix, it says 250,000 for unsheltered population appears to be increasing by the Administration, propose a 250,000 increase in Budget for homeless program. I'd like to further increase it by another 250,000. Her program and my program are...seem very similar, but mine was an alternate. So I don't know, I...could...could I earmark to have 128,000 in that 250,000? Is there a...I'd like to include her in the process. I'm just trying to figure out how, as a duplicate, it kind of does seem duplicative, if you will.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So in my notes, I think...well, yours was for...what...what number was yours, Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: On mine, it was in the alternate column, and I know --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh. It's --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- a lot of folks didn't get that. There was 293 alternate columns. So it was mental health Kokua Safe Haven services program. And the actual number increase was 128,576. And if we could maybe proviso that money in that grant under Tasha Kama's proposal, could we do something like that maybe?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. I...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: If you'd like, I can read out the specific things of...of my proposal was mental health Kokua Safe Haven, two beds. No. Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Yeah. I...I...I don't want to speak for Pro Tem Kama, and...and I...I think that's --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. I understand.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's my issue is, I don't...she's not here to --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. I understand that 100 percent.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- you know. Yeah. It...it's not my place to...to say. Sorry. Oh. You're muted?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I'm sorry.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: We could revisit this in the future if you like, or I can write...send her an email and get back to the body if you'd like.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. I don't know. I...yeah. I...I'm giving her space right now. I...I...I don't really want to...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. I understand that. Of course.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All right. Okay. Any other items the Members need to sort out with the other Members? Okay. Okay. Does anyone have any questions on what will be needed for tomorrow at noon? Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I...I had one item that I did in consensus, heard that there may be a delay from the...it was a cost share from the State. They...there's a delay at the State level...a ban. I don't know if we were able to...we've got...we didn't propose...we had some alternates, but nothing for the district. We had a shovel-ready project for the district, but it wasn't a substitute.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So what...what is your question?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: If we...if...I mean, if we'd consider a substitute for the senior ban because of the delay at the...at the...the...the State. Maui --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. So --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- oh. Go ahead.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So your...your...your alternates, you know, whatever your alternates are, if you withdrew or for any purpose, you know, the...your five new funding proposals and your five condition proposals are...aren't working out, you can take whatever you have in your alternates and substitute them in.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. But I can't substitute one that I didn't provide on April 1st?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: If it's new funding, no. If it's a conditional proposal --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: You can.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- you would be able to use your wild card.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But hopefully, whatever that wild card is, you ask the

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

Department for feedback on that, so that the Members, we're able to hear the feedback from the Department.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay. All right. Any other questions? Okay. Any questions on anything else? If not, I'm going to adjourn? Oh, Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Can you review one more time what exactly we're going to do tomorrow?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sure. Tomorrow we will not have a meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Good job, Members. Good job.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, Friday.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, Friday.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, Monday. Monday.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Monday. Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: When...when are we going to have the next meeting?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Well, okay. All right. Let's just...let's just go through the schedule. Okay. So tomorrow, no meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: At 12 noon, your top ten: five new funding priority proposals, five condition, up to two district of each. And then the rest Countywide, and that will be for tomorrow. And then, for Friday, we have Council meeting, and then we have a public hearing at 6:00 p.m. on the Budget. Okay. And then on Monday, April 19th, it's my mom's birthday, and we're going to...we're not going to be doing the certification presentation. So it's...it...the schedule is posted on Granicus. It'll be a little adjusted, and I will send that out. So we're going to go through the OCS, Clerks, Auditors, Corporation Counsel, MEMA, and DEM's Budget, and we'll go through the way that we did it last year. So we'll go through each program, and I'll ask if there's any proposals to the Budget or provide a condition that wouldn't change the Budget total, expenses total. And as we go through each program in the Department, or each division in the Department, if a Member has a priority proposal, we'll take that one up at that time. And then we'll vote on it, and then we'll add it. When we complete our...our final review during decision making on each Department, we'll share screen OpenGov to show all the Members the amendments that we made to the Budget. Yeah. And then on

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

Tuesday, we'll...we'll receive the presentation on certification from Finance.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Are you presuming that everybody will get all of their ten priority items in the Budget?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I...but it...it'll all be submitted, and we will consider it.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Will the...the add-ons, the cash add-ons take priority? I mean, like, which ones do we actually discuss and debate? So all ten are up for discussion?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mm-hmm. Yep.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And then when we complete our review of all the Departments, we'll see where we're at with how much we change. So any reductions that we make, and we'll do the formula, for the majority that vote in favor of the reduction will share the amount of that reduction to go toward their priority items. And then when we get to RPT, we'll figure out if we would need to raise rates and where. Okay. Member Paltin?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I got two questions. The first question is, did you send us the memo about how we...like, the instructions about how to go about the cuts and using that to fund the proposals, and I didn't find it in all of my emails, or it didn't get sent yet? First question.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. So question one, no, I didn't have time to do that yet. I was going to use this time this afternoon and tomorrow to...to draft that up.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Second question, all of the stuff we turned in, I think, April 2nd, we can modify it slightly? Like...like, say I'm withdrawing my district proposal for Kaohu Street because it's already funded, I can move one of my over proposals into a district...I mean, one of the ones that is written that I submitted as a Countywide, I could move it as district, or could I also change it? Like, it's the same proposal, but change it from an add funding to a...what was the other one besides add funding?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Condition.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Condition. Could I...I mean, it's the same proposal, but I'm just changing it, maybe, from Countywide to district, or add to condition, and like that, but it's the same proposal?

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: All right. No more questions. Thanks.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Paltin. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So the alternates are no longer in play?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Well, the alternatives would take the place of any items that you would be withdrawing from your top five. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: This is a lot of rules to remember. You're confusing us on purpose.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's all in the memo...all but the last part about how you're going to fund it...that part is real quick. I'm just going to draft that up after.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But everything is in the memo. Member King, followed by Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Sorry to prolong this, but I just wanted to double check...I think...I heard that we're going to be doing the certification on Tuesday...and is that at 9:00?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Testimony is at 9:00. And then when we complete testimony, then we would...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. So the meeting...okay. But the meeting starts at 9:00. And then what is Monday again? I'm so sorry to ask again, but I'm getting confused about all these different dates.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No, you don't have to memorize all of it, it's on Granicus.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. But I just wanted to know for right now...for Monday, I heard you say it's your mother's birthday, so happy birthday to her. But what...did that mean we're not having a meeting?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm sure my mom would enjoy that, but no. So starting on Monday, it's decisions week. So on Granicus, the calendar and the schedule is there. I've taped my calendar and schedule on my wall, so that's how come you see me like looking up sometimes. That way I had easy access to it, and it shows exactly which departments I'm proposing we take up.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, but we're starting on Monday with that.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. All right. Got it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah...starting at 9:00 with testimony. Okay. Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, sorry, I just had another question. One of my alternates, the Department said they would get back to me on like a cost estimate...I think it was the safety around parks in West Maui. And so if I submit this tomorrow at 12:00, and I don't have the number, would I say Department's discretion or something? Like, are we going to get all the *(audio interference)* from the Departments by tomorrow?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: What an estimate.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. So...I don't know if...you know, I don't know what's going on with the Department, if they're going to be able to get that information to you or not. And I hope Members will take this as a learning lesson, that if we use the same process next Budget Session, that you work with the Department well in advance to find out the amounts and what, you know, like these things would cost before. And then that way, when we get into Budget Session, you'll have that information. So...yeah. Chair Lee recommends an estimation. Chair Lee. Some sage advice.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I had to leave...I had to leave the call before your meeting ended...did you vote on this Water Fund Fee Rate?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. We voted and we passed it already.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You passed it already? Oh, okay. Because I did hear you ask about why wasn't commercial or hotel resort up for consideration, and I didn't hear the answer. What is the answer? Why was only single-family being changed?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, because of the 2013 Water Rate Study. That was the Department's request to the consultant.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So apparently there is a lot of people using up to 35,000 gallons a day? I mean...yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: 35,000 gallons? Not a day, probably a month.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, it's a month. So I didn't read the 165-page...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And why not? Why not? You should've given it to Ms. Paltin to read.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I posted it. I scheduled it on...that was at...in February. So it's on Granicus, the 2013 Water Rate Study. And they're in the midst of completing another study, but I don't know what the directions were on that, and I didn't want to

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

get into too much detail.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I just wondered. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You're welcome. Okay. Any other questions, Members? Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: You know when you said decisions week starts on Monday? Were we supposed to just do our ten priorities by tomorrow, or are we supposed to write out also the rates and fees proposal as well?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So if you're planning to propose an adjustment to rates and fees, then when we get to that section, we'll do that at that time. And then hopefully, you know, the Department provided feedback on the proposal to adjust rates and fees.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Did you want it...did you want us to submit something written out, or just orally propose it?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Well, I guess it would depend on the complexity of it. If it's like one small thing, then it probably wouldn't need to be written out. But if it's, you know, like a whole fee structure change like I proposed, then I think Members would appreciate having it written out so that they can follow.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. And just submit it that day that the calendar says we're addressing it...or do we need it much ahead?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I think again, it would depend on the complexity of it. So if it's something, you know, like that's not as significant or complex, then I think it would be fine to submit it that day that we're taking up that Department and making a decision. If it's again, you know, a lot more complex and it would be a significant change...and like Deputy Director Kau stated, would take tons of hours of, you know, employees' time to make that transition, then it would...you know, I think if you can give the Members a little more time, I think the Members would appreciate that.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. And I wouldn't be proposing something that we didn't run by them in the questions phase...like for example, how Planning noticed the fee study that they had about...and I spoke to them somewhat about like hybridizing it like, you know, for non-essential do cost recovery and for other things. So it's not anything that we hadn't talked about, but maybe I should write it out just...like my reasoning and stuff and what I'm proposing and why...and like that?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sure. An Amendment Summary Form is always helpful, I think, for the Members to track. If your proposal is to change it from, you know,

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

capping...removing the cap of 4,900, then it sounded like, you know, Director McLean didn't have too much of an issue with that. If it's changing the amount from \$13.75 to \$15, it sounded like that was...\$13 is a pretty arbitrary amount anyway. So that...you know, like she didn't oppose it. So...yeah. If you want to do an Amendment Summary Form, I think the Members would appreciate that so that they can follow along with you best, and perhaps you would get more support so that the Members understand what it is that you're proposing.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah, yeah. I just...I was going to attach maybe the fee study that she referenced from January 2018, and then pull out the cost recovery section for things that are not essential, you know, like it's not essential that you get a short-term rental permit, it's kind of a, you know, extra luxury deal...and so what is the cost recovery fees on that kind of thing. And then...so that'll be...I'll submit the fee study, my proposal, and the reasoning as my own ASF, not something that like OCS Staff would make an ASF for, right? Is that what you're saying?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. So you would do the ASF for your office. If you're proposing to enact the...what sounds like an entire different cost recovery scheme...I don't know...yeah. So just take into consideration the level of discussion that we would have to have. It...you know, like because we haven't taken that up in Committee prior to Budget Session...so there may be a lot of discussion because that's something kind of new. And I don't...it didn't sound like any of the Members reviewed that cost recovery plan, you know, assessment. And okay...yeah. So if it ends up being like, you know, something that I think Members would prefer to discuss outside of Budget Session, then it may end up doing...you know, like I'd likely anticipate my proposal for the Water Rate Study to be discussed outside of Budget. But you've given the Members a heads up, so if Members are interested in that, they can review it over the weekend. Member Molina, you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: No, Madam Chair. I know you and your Staff want to get started on things, and some of us want to get going with our priority. So simply put, can we call you...if no more meeting tomorrow, can we call you prior to the...you know, the deadline, or over the weekend if we have questions on anything related to the Budget...is that cool with you and Staff? I mean, we don't have to all ask our questions now, right? Because there may be questions I might think about later on, maybe on Thursday or Friday. So...because I know you want to get started too on your process too today.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. I will be available to the Members anytime.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And my Staff is also available to your EAs, if your EAs...

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Great...okay. I'm going to get started. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member King.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Sorry, I don't want to prolong it either, but I do want to ask this question from Member Sugimura because she's having network issues. So her question was, it sounds like decisions week will take up to the Departments in the same order as deliberations. And will the Departments be there...be present for decisions week?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. So we will take up the Departments in alphabetical order as they appear in your Budget books...and the schedule again is posted on Granicus. And as we did last year, we took up decisions week without the Departments.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, without the Departments. Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I think she's listening, but she just can't...she just can't...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. I got her text...now. Okay. So just as last year, we didn't have the Departments...that's why we reviewed the Departments in this two weeks prior to decisions week, because we're not going to have the Departments with us.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: All right.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I just had a question. Can we go ahead and kind of substitute between the proviso five and our priority five as well?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Say that one more time?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: We've got our ten, but five is for Countywide and district, then our proviso...our limitations ones that comes from already budgeted items. Can we at this point kind of switch between the two?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Like for instance...like I had a couple under the Open Space Fund. Now that I'm learning that I might not be able to use the Open Space Fund, can I switch it over to one of my priorities?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So for new funding instead of a conditional proposal.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, yeah. Right. Correct. I'm just hearing now that I might not be able to get some of my . . . *(inaudible)*. . . we haven't discussed which ones will make it through for the Open Space Fund.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, I think we decided...Member Paltin asked that question a little bit ago, and that would be permissible.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay, any other questions? Okay...and yeah. And the discussion is good because I'm sure, you know, the Members kind of share similar questions. So if you ask the question now then we can all get the answer one time instead of, you know, all seven...eight of you...seven of you calling me individually with the same question. So it's okay. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: How would we know if we're going to duplicate the same questions? Anyway, in response to Mr. Sinenci, I think all of us have to sort of...as we go through decision making, we have to begin to really prioritize what we're going to propose. And we cannot do too many cash add-ons, so we're going to have to put our heads together to figure out creative ways...creative ways to not spend too much cash. Because the idea is to try and keep the \$828 million at \$828 million, right? Isn't that the goal? Yeah, to try and keep it flat with as many priorities as we can included in the Budget. That's going to take a lot of creative thinking when the time comes. But I feel confident. We put our heads together, we've looked at the Budget, you know, from A to Z so, you know, we should know where the money is.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: That's all I have to say.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. And then...yeah. We'll take up RPT, which is where most of the, you know, funding comes from, general funds. And if, you know, there are any proposed adjustments in RPT, we can take it up at that time.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. And we may catch a few more dollars on next week, Tuesday. Is it Tuesday we're going to get the certification information? Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Hopefully we'll pick up another one or two million dollars?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We'll get that information on Monday, April 19th, but we won't get the presentation until Tuesday.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. All right. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Oh, okay. Staff reminded me that it would be better for questions to go through BFED Committee to prevent any appearance of Sunshine Law violation. Okay. Okay. All right. So, yeah. You can contact OCS Staff or you can contact my Staff. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I'd rather call you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. I think those are all the questions. Yeah...okay. All

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

right. Member Paltin. Okay. So it's 2:57...again, we don't have a meeting tomorrow. You all earned the day to go through the Budget, and prepare your priorities and any proposed reductions in the Budget tomorrow, and then we'll see you all on Friday at 9:00 for Council meeting, and then 6:00 p.m. public hearing for Budget. Okay? All right. Oh, Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: So public hearing at 6:00 p.m. is when everybody can testify on anything Budget related...like call all our friends or whatever and say we want to hear from you, or is that anything Budget related...like RPTs and everything?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Uh-huh. Yeah. So 6:00 p.m. this Friday, public hearing on anything in the Budget. Okay. All right. Don't make us stay there until midnight now, Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I not driving.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All right, Members. I think that's everything. All right. Look...we stayed within the hour. Good job. Okay. So seeing no questions, we'll see everyone on Friday at 9:00 o'clock. It is 2:59 on April 14th and the Budget, Finance, and...wait. Staff, did I forget anything?

MS. MILNER: Chair, could you just say the words that the meeting tomorrow is cancelled please? Just to be on the safe side.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. The meeting...the BFED Committee meeting tomorrow at 9:00 has been cancelled, so no meeting. Okay. Anything else Staff?

MS. MILNER: Mahalo. No, we're good.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: And Chair, next meeting, next Budget meeting Monday, March...excuse me, April 19th.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Yeah...okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And so 9:00, April 19th on Monday, we'll have testimony again on anything in the Budget . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Oh, Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: The 6:00 p.m. meeting link is the same as the Council link, or its own complete own link?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm not sure.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: But it's not Budget link, right?

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's not...it's not the BFED Committee link for sure. The public hearing link, I'm not sure if it's the same as the Council. It looks like Chair Lee may have that information? Oh, you're on mute. You're on mute, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I pulled the wrong agenda up so...we can get back to you. We can...Kathy or James can get back to you.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay, sounds good. And then for all next week on Decisions Week, we have testimony every day, or is it going to be the recess, adjourn, recess, adjourn, or...I mean is it recess or is it adjourn?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. So there will be an opportunity to testify every day at 9:00.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Thanks.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We will be adjourning every day...Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and then we will recess on Friday, and then reconvene on Monday if necessary. We'll make that determination on Friday. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I do have the number now. You just want to wait for the link?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: She wanted to know if it's the same link as the regular Council meeting link.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, Ms. Milner put it in the chat for us because she's the bomb.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes, it is.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And it is...it's the same. And yes, she is the bomb. Mahalo, Ms. Milner, you're so on it all the time. Okay. And then I do see Member Sugimura was able to reconnect. Member Sugimura, did we get all of your questions, and are you okay? You're on mute.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I got it. I've been listening. Thank you for helping me.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Of course, anytime. Okay. Okay, Members. I think it's safe to adjourn now, yeah. Okay. All right. I think we're good now. We're good. All right. It's 3:02 on April 14th, and the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee is now adjourned. . . .(gavel). . .

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

ADJOURN: 3:02 p.m.

APPROVED:



KEANI N.W. RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ, Chair
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee

bfed:min:210414:

Transcribed by: Beth Keesee, Amanda Self,
Melissa Zimmerman, Stephanie Petersen &
Terianne Arreola

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

CERTIFICATIONS

I, Beth Keesee, hereby certify that pages 1 through 9 of the foregoing represents, to the best of my ability, a true and correct transcript of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not in any way concerned with the cause.

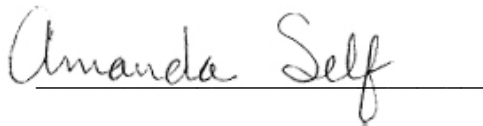
DATED the 20th day of May 2021, in Wailuku, Hawai'i



Beth Keesee

I, Amanda Self, hereby certify that pages 9 through 35 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.

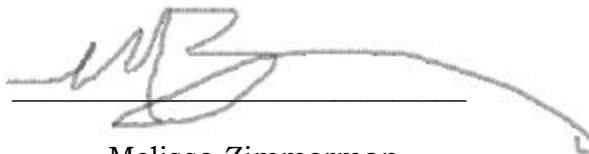
DATED the 20th day of May 2021, in Wailuku, Hawai'i



Amanda Self

I, Melissa Zimmerman, hereby certify that pages 35 through 51 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 20th day of May 2021, in Wailuku, Hawai'i



Melissa Zimmerman

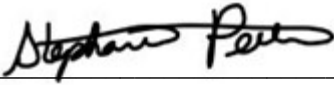
BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 14, 2021

CERTIFICATIONS (Continued)

I, Stephanie Petersen, hereby certify that pages 51 through 68 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 20th day of May 2021, in Wailuku, Hawai'i



Stephanie Petersen

I, Terianne Arreola, hereby certify that pages 68 through 77 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 20th day of May 2021, in Wailuku, Hawai'i



Terianne Arreola