

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND
TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE**
Council of the County of Maui

M I N U T E S

Online Only via BlueJeans Link

July 20, 2021

CONVENE: 9:02 a.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Michael J. Molina, Chair
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member
Councilmember Kelly T. King, Member
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member (arrived at 9:20 a.m.)
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Member

EXCUSED: Councilmember Tasha Kama, Member

STAFF: Shelly Espeleta, Supervising Legislative Analyst
David Raatz, Supervising Legislative Attorney
Kasie Apo Takayama, Legislative Analyst
Pauline Martins, Committee Secretary
Lenora Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk

Ellen McKinley, Executive Assistant to Councilmember King
Evan Dust, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kama
Lois Whitney, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kama
Davideane Sickels, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kama
Sarah Pajimola, Executive Assistant to Councilmember
Rawlins-Fernandez
Stacey Moniz, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Johnson

ADMIN.: Gary Murai, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the
Corporation Counsel
Richelle Thomson, First Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department
of the Corporation Counsel
Ipo Mossman, Executive Assistant, Office of the Mayor
Michele McLean, Director, Department of Planning

OTHERS: Patrick Blackburn
Mike Moran
Lucienne deNaie
Ikaika Blackburn

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Joseph Blackburn II
Zane de la Cruz
Kaleialoha Moss
Scott Hansen
Michelle Lelle

PRESS: *Akaku Maui Community Television, Inc.*

CHAIR MOLINA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . The Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee meeting for July 20th, 2021 will now come to order. I'm Mike Molina, your Committee Chair. It's now time to take Committee roll call. Let's start off first with our Committee Vice-Chair, from the island of Moloka'i. Good morning, Council Vice-Chair and Committee Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez. Aloha.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair, mai Moloka'i nui a Hina. And Chair Lee's not here, so I guess we'll continue with bonjour kākou.

CHAIR MOLINA: Hey, sounds good to me. Bonjour kākou back to you, okay. All right, thank you. All right, let's go now all the way to upcountry Maui up in the land of jacaranda, the beautiful jacaranda. Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Bonjour kākou everybody. Good morning. Yes, I actually am in Kula this week, I think, I'm going to be here. Good morning, everybody. Nice to see all of you.

CHAIR MOLINA: Good morning. All right, let's go out to West Maui and say bonjour to Member Paltin. Bonjour.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Bonjour and aloha kakahiaka kākou mai Maui Komohana.

CHAIR MOLINA: All right, right on. Back at you. And let's go to South Maui and say bonjour to Councilmember Kelly King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Bonjour, comment allez-vous? That's a question.

CHAIR MOLINA: Hey, como allez-vous [*sic*].

COUNCILMEMBER KING: That's a question, that means how are you.

CHAIR MOLINA: Oh, maika'i. . . .*(laughter)*. . . We getting fancy here this morning. All right. And let's go out to East Maui and say bonjour kākou to Councilmember Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Hey, bonjour, monsieur, and aloha kakahiaka mai Maui Hikina.

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CHAIR MOLINA: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. And let's go to Lāna'i and say hello to Councilmember...and bonjour to Lāna'i Councilmember Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Bonjour everyone. Bonjour kākou, and looking forward to a great meeting.

CHAIR MOLINA: No pun intended, right, of course? Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No, definitely intended.

CHAIR MOLINA: . . .*(laughter)*. . . All right. Okay, we have... excused this morning we have Council Chair Lee, I believe she'll be joining us at some point this morning, as well as Councilmember Kama. And moving on to additional introductions, from Corporation Counsel, we'll be joined this morning by Mr. Gary Murai, as well as Ms. Richelle Thomson. From the Office of the Mayor, Mr. Mossman, the Community Liaison, will be joining us for several of our agenda items this morning. And from the Department of Planning, Director Michele McLean. And I'm ably assisted as always by my fantastic Committee Staff, Shelly Espeleta, as well as Kasey Apo Takayama, David Raatz, and Pauline Martins. And we also have...I believe we have...maybe Mr. Wilton Leauanae could possibly be joining us as well. Members, we've got a full agenda today, but I'm confident we can complete business by 12:00 noon. And of course, we have a 1:30 APT meeting under the leadership of Councilmember Sinenci to follow. Right now, let's go over the rules for public testimony. Again, oral testimony via phone or video conference will be accepted. Testifiers wanting to provide video testimony should join the online meeting via the BlueJeans meeting link, which is [BlueJeans.com/175115369](https://bluejeans.com/175115369) as noted on the agenda. Testifiers wanting to provide audio testimony can participate via phone by dialing 1-408-915-6290 and entering the meeting code that I just mentioned to you earlier. The Committee intends to keep the same meeting link and phone number for future GREAT meetings this term for the ease and convenience of Members and the public. Written testimony is, of course, always highly encouraged, and you can use the eComment link listed for today's agenda on mauicounty.us/agendas. And instructions on how to submit testimony via eComment can also be found at mauicounty.us/ecomments. And basic rules for oral testimony, you'll be given three minutes per item. If you are still testifying beyond that time, I will kindly ask you to complete your testimony. And when testifying, please state your first and last name. And if you are testifying on behalf of an organization or if you're a paid lobbyist, please inform the Committee of that. And please do not use the chat function during the meeting for, you know, well...I don't want to call it unnecessary chat, but anyway...chat should be used...should not be used to provide testimony or chat with other testifiers. And of course, while others are testifying, please be courteous by turning off your video and muting your microphone while waiting for your turn to testify. And for those of you who just simply wish...want to view the meeting, you can turn your television on *Akakū* at Channel 53. And I remind Committee Members, Administration, and the public to please be patient if we run into any technical issues during the meeting. So

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with that said, I'd like to call upon Ms. Espeleta to announce our first testifiers...first two, I should say. Ms. Espeleta.

MS. ESPELETA: Good morning, Chair and Members. Your first testifier is Patrick Blackburn for Item 2(15), and he'll be followed by Mike Moran for Item 33.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay, good morning, Mr. Blackburn.

. . . BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

MR. P. BLACKBURN: Good morning, Mr. Molina. How are you?

CHAIR MOLINA: I'm fine. And you?

MR. P. BLACKBURN: Doing awesome.

CHAIR MOLINA: All right.

MR. P. BLACKBURN: Another beautiful day on Maui. Can't complain.

CHAIR MOLINA: Yeah. Please go ahead with your testimony.

MR. P. BLACKBURN: Okay. So my testimony this morning is for the Cost of Government Commission. So my dad, Joseph Blackburn, right, full disclosure...my father, Joseph Blackburn, is applying for the commission member's position that is currently available, and I'd like to just give testimony in favor. Basically if what you're looking for for a commission member, the number one thing I can say for him is, he's fair, all right. He likes to work out issues on both sides, which is what I think we all like to look for, right? Not looking at only Council side or special interest side, you know. It's what ways can all this get done correctly. And especially when it comes to cost of government, that's huge, especially nowadays. I've also had the privilege of working with him not only on a personal setting or personal note as my dad, but in a professional setting as well. So basically what he does on the daily is budgets, is dealing with costs, you know, in regards to homeowner's associations and subdivisions. And so, you know, he knows what it takes to basically balance budgets, you know. How can we make it work so that we're not overcharging the people or the members on each way, while at the same time, making sure that the projects and the things that need to get done for the subdivisions itself, you know, are accomplished, you know. And I believe truly and wholeheartedly that that will translate perfectly to the Cost of Government Commission. You know, being able to look at cost, being able to look at balances, you know, how does it affect the end users at the end of the day which would be, you know, the taxpayers of Maui County. But at the same time, you know, are we able to get done what we're trying to get done from the Council's side, from the Government's side. You know, making sure that at the end of the day, everybody's able to meet in the middle and accomplish

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everything, you know, for the goal, which is, you know, the County of Maui and its people.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Thank you very much for your testimony, Mr. Blackburn. Now, hang on, let me ask the Members if they have any need to clarify your testimony. Members, any need to clarify Mr. Blackburn's testimony? Okay, seeing none. Thank you very much for your testimony, Patrick.

MR. P. BLACKBURN: Awesome. Thank you very much.

CHAIR MOLINA: Thank you. Ms. Espeleta, go ahead and announce our next testifier.

MS. ESPELETA: Mr. Chair, your next testifier is Mike Moran for Item 33, and he'll be followed by Lucienne deNaie for Item 34.

CHAIR MOLINA: Good morning, Mr. Moran.

MR. MORAN: Good morning, Chair Molina and Committee Members. Mike Moran for the Kihei Community Association. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Item GREAT-33. Even back in the 1950s, there was community interest in represent...local representation. That was before there was a County Council. It was before there was an incorporated Kihei Community Association. It was an informal group trying to get their concerns addressed. And talking to some of the descendants of those guys that were doing it, I asked them that question, well, what was the prime concern? They said roads and water. And that was back in the '50s, so some things don't change so much. And a very sadly this morning, we see on South Kihei Road...actually last evening, we had another pedestrian fatality on South Kihei Road, a hit and run, an older gentleman struck and killed on the road. So yes, we still have road safety concerns. And we're hoping that this Committee will give the local community more direct voice than rather indirect voice. But we had a recent interview with a UHMC Manoa student who was conducting a survey, getting community input on coastal roads on Maui. And they came to us as one of the participants for South Maui, so of course, we expressed our concerns. And one of her comments or questions was what's KCA's judicial? And I said, well, you know, we have no judicial authority, we're just a volunteer group. She said, well, how do you get things done? And I said, well, just through advocacy. And we realize that this South Maui is only going to be an advisory committee, but at least it's another step in the right direction for giving voice to the community. And some ask, shouldn't we really be striving for our own planning commission? Well, maybe that would be the next step. I don't think we want to take a giant step, but this may be a step in that direction, to give stronger voice to local community. So we realize you're only discussing it today, so we just wanted to give our input on the discussion. And of course, the key is the Council will be appointing five members, and we'd like to get clarity, how does that process work? Does the nine members get together and come up with five names or whatever? So I think I'm probably at the...I'm waiting for the bell . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . to ring that time is up. So thank you very much everyone. Aloha.

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CHAIR MOLINA: Thank you very much, Mr. Moran. Right on time. Hang on, we have a question for you from Councilmember King. Proceed.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Aloha, Mike. You're getting really good on your timing on your testimony. So I wanted to follow up with your testimony on the South Maui Advisory Committee. Two things. One, do you think seven members is going to be enough to represent all of South Maui? That's what's in the bill right now. We have the same number as the Hāna Community Advisory Committee, which is probably about a tenth the size of South Maui. And then my other question...oh, if you can answer that one, I have one more question for you.

MR. MORAN: Sure. I...as you well know, Councilmember King, because you instituted our informal group where we met for two years...about...I guess over two years now, we went back and forth with that number. And granted, when it's just an advisory group, some people say, oh, well, I don't want to participate, you know. So it's...and it's always a challenge to get volunteers. And when people look at that and see a five-year commitment, it's tough. So yeah, comparing it to Hāna in one sense, well, no, seven is sure not enough. But on the other hand, it's so difficult to get people that will number one, commit, and then will follow through. We hear you as Councilmembers ask that question of just about all the Committee...various Committee people that participate. Are you going to show up? You going to do it? So at this juncture, I think seven...I think seven, it does seem small, but I think so. And then with the expectation of people are clamoring then maybe go up, but I think seven may be sufficient at this time.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, great. That's good to hear. And then the other question I had for you is in the Affordable Housing Committee yesterday, we were talking about the powers of the committee being only advisory, but there was a proposal on the Comprehensive Affordable Housing Plan to have the...to create these advisory committees in all communities and have them actually be the ones who decide on the Affordable Housing Fund for projects in their district. So you don't have to answer me right now, but I just thought maybe if you could mull on that and tell me if you think that's a good idea to have that....just, you know, issue that authority to the advisory committees.

MR. MORAN: Well, honestly, Councilmember, I was listening to that, and I heard that comment. So personally, I have been pondering it, but as I'm speaking for the association, I have not brought that to the board yet. And you know, to be fair, that's it. I don't speak for the association, the board does. But we will discuss that, and maybe in future meetings, we can give a reasonable comment on it.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

MR. MORAN: But thank you for addressing that matter.

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

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay, thank you very much, Member King. Members, any other need to clarify Mr. Moran's testimony? Seeing none, thank you very much for your testimony, Mr. Moran.

MR. MORAN: A hui hou.

CHAIR MOLINA: A hui hou. Okay, Ms. Espeleta, please announce our next testifier.

MS. ESPELETA: Mr. Chair, your next testifier is Lucienne deNaie for Item 34, and she'll be followed by the last testifier signed up to testify, Ikaika Blackburn for Item 2(15).

CHAIR MOLINA: Good morning, Ms. deNaie.

MS. DENAIE: Good morning. Aloha kakahiaka. I'm testifying on behalf of the Ha'ikū Community Association, and it's nice to see all of you again this bright, rainy morning here in Huelo. We are very thrilled that this advisory board has come this far, and actually has been added to the County Code, and we just want to offer our support as you discuss the process in appointing the members. It does seem that it would make sense for the Councilperson from the area to try to do a recommendation list of a number of folks, probably more than the five that are needed for the Council's consideration, simply because they're in contact with a lot of folks in the community. But however you choose to work it out, we're happy to participate, and we do have people interested in Ha'ikū, and we would love eventually to have some amendments done to the County Code that would allow to have two alternate members. There are some boards and commissions that have alternate members. I think the Urban Design Review Board has alternate members. I think the Engineering Commission has alternate members. And these alternate members would attend all meetings, and if they did...but they would not vote. But if one member could not show up, then you'd have a well-informed in placement, and you would never have any quorum issues because you'd always have, you know, a couple of extra chances of filling in missing members to achieve quorum. So that's about the only comment we have to offer right now. We have a little subcommittee at the Ha'ikū Community Association that has been tracking this, and would be happy to reach out through our networks and urge people to apply for the position once there's an application posted. So mahalo for your considerations.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Mahalo for your testimony, Ms. deNaie. We have a question for you from Councilmember King. Proceed.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Aloha, Lucienne. Thank you for being here again. Sometimes I wonder where you find the time because you do so much other stuff, I know, in your personal life. We're all waiting for the book on Mā'alaea.

MS. DENAIE: Yes.

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: But I just wondered if you could...just wondered if you could think about the same question I asked Mike Moran as far as the potential authority of the community advisory committee to approve affordable housing projects, you know, the Affordable Housing Fund requests for projects in your district.

MS. DENAIE: Yeah --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: And I know you...

MS. DENAIE: -- happy to take that under consideration. As Mike said, you know, one person can't speak for the whole association. And usually on things like that, we go back to our community and try to hear what our community says because we're just one voice, you know, of the community. At least those who choose to participate. But that's really, I think, a good thing to think of for the future.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, great. Thank you. Thanks for your testimony on the alternates. I think that's a great idea.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay.

MS. DENAIE: Mahalo.

CHAIR MOLINA: Member King. All right. Members, any other need to clarify Ms. de Naie's testimony? Okay. Also, I'd like to thank you as well, Lucienne, for your contributions, you and the association's efforts, with regards to the advisory committees for Pā'ia and Ha'ikū as well. Thank you so much. You guys put in a lot of time. Especially you. So mahalo. All right. Okay, very good. Thanks again for your testimony, Lucienne. Before we go on to our next testifier, Chair would like to recognize our Council Chair and purveyor of multicultural greetings, Chairman Lee. And by the way, your Council Vice-Chair did a wonderful job in covering for you and providing us a morning greeting while you were away. Good morning, Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Good morning. And the official greeting is talofa from Samoa to all of you. Good morning, my dear colleagues. Sorry I was late, I had...I'm on my phone. I...my computer's not cooperating today.

CHAIR MOLINA: Oh, we've all had that problem too. No apologies necessary. Talofa back to you, Chair Lee. Right on. Okay, Ms. Espeleta, please announce our next testifier.

MS. ESPELETA: Mr. Chair, your last testifier is Mr. Ikaika Blackburn for Item 2(15).

CHAIR MOLINA: Good morning, Mr. Blackburn. The sound is...

MR. I. BLACKBURN: Good morning.

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CHAIR MOLINA: Oh, there you are.

MR. I. BLACKBURN: Good morning, Chair.

CHAIR MOLINA: Good morning.

MR. I. BLACKBURN: I just...

CHAIR MOLINA: Please proceed with your testimony.

MR. I. BLACKBURN: Good morning, Chair and Councilmembers. Aloha mai kākou, talofa lava, malo e lelei, kia orana, ohayo gozaimasu. We do 'em all. We do it all over here, gang. My name is Ikaika Blackburn, and I'm here to testify on a character reference on the nomination for my dad, Joseph Blackburn II. I have the privilege of sharing his name, Joseph Blackburn III, so don't get us confused sometimes. But I'm just here to speak on his behalf on his nomination for the Cost of Government Commission, and why I believe he should be there. My dad has always been financially responsible. My dad has always been someone who has been in the community as far as in government. He's been a public servant, he's worked with Maui Electric, he holds a vast knowledge of the 'aina that we have here, as well as the workings that government has within our land that we have here on our beautiful Island of Maui. And as all you...as all of you are aware, it's important to have people that have that kind of 'ike, that have that kind of knowledge to intertwine the different workings that we have, that government has, as well as our 'aina constituents, our people that live on this island. So that's why I feel that he's a strong proponent for this position. If we're looking for integrity, he's the man. He's the definition of integrity, he's always been. He will never falter when it comes to integrity of doing what's right. And we all know being righteous and being pono is a very...it's a hard commodity to find by...to come by. And so, you know, he's been someone I've always looked up to for that. And which is why I model myself after that kind of integrity so that I can uphold those values, you know, not only as a person, but as a servant for our community. And so those are some of the reasons why, you know, I'm just giving this character reference on his behalf. But to have someone with his background with Fire Department, with hazardous materials, with Maui Electric, homeowner's associations, real estate, understanding all of those things is why I believe he has the knowledge and 'ike to be in that position and be a great asset to you guys, our County Council. That's all I got. Mahalo.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay, mahalo, Mr. Blackburn. Members, any need to clarify Mr. Blackburn's testimony? Okay, seeing none, mahalo for your testimony. Oh, excuse me. Hang on, we have a question for you from Councilmember Sinenci. Proceed.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And aloha, Ikaika, for providing your testimony in support of your dad. Just was wondering, I mean, is he...I thought he wanted to enjoy his retirement, but he's still got some work left in him? He's okay with

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volunteering for this Commission?

MR. I. BLACKBURN: You know, he's always been okay with serving the community. And that's something that, you know, I know a lot of people see and we want more people to see, is that this has never been about personal gain, it's just about...it's just been about serving the community. Which is why he still coaches community basketball leagues, which is why he's still involved in so many things. Trust me, I'm trying to get him to slow down too, but I just cannot. I hope that I can keep up with him when I'm his age. But he just wants to serve the community and the community that he lives in and he's part of. So yeah, he's well. He's ready to go.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, mahalo for that. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

MR. I. BLACKBURN: Thank you.

CHAIR MOLINA: Thank you very much, Member Sinenci. Members, any other need to clarify Mr. Blackburn's testimony? Seeing none, I want to thank you, Mr. Blackburn, not only for your testimony, but for your hard work as a member of the Maui Fire Department. And please keep up the great music as well.

MR. I. BLACKBURN: Thank you, Councilmembers, for all your guys' service, for everything you guys do. Keep it up. Be blessed. Aloha.

CHAIR MOLINA: Aloha. Yeah. Ms. Espeleta, please announce our next testifier if we have any.

MS. ESPELETA: Mr. Chair, Ikaika Blackburn was your last testifier signed up to testify.

. . . END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Thank you very much for that. Last call for any testifiers. Going once, twice, three times. Seeing none, Members, if there are no objections, the Chair will close public testimony for today's agenda. Any objections?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. And any objections to receiving any written testimony as well?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS

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CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. So ordered. Very good, Members. Thank you.

**GREAT-2(15) NOMINATIONS TO BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS (COST
OF GOVERNMENT COMMISSION) (CC 21-42)**

CHAIR MOLINA: All right, let's get right down to business. And we'll start first with GREAT Item 2(15). This relates to the Mayor's nomination of Joseph Blackburn II to the Cost of Government Commission for a term expiring on March 31st, 2024 to fill a vacancy due to the resignation of Michelle Del Rosario. The 60-day deadline for the Council to approve or disapprove this nomination is July 26, 2021. The Chair's intention today is to possibly take action on this item at Friday's Council Meeting in order to meet the July 26 deadline. So today's purpose, Members, is just a Q&A with Mr. Blackburn, and then this Friday we'll make a decision because of the upcoming deadline. We will have now first to give opening comments before we recognize Mr. Blackburn, I'd like to call upon the Mayor's representative, Mr. Ipo Mossman, for any opening comments. Mr. Mossman, good morning.

MR. MOSSMAN: Good morning. Talofa lava, aloha no, and I just want to say nice to see you, Chair Mike Molina and all Council people. It's very...it's a pleasure again having the opportunity in introducing the Mayor's selections and nominees. Mr. Joe Blackburn, I think what the two sons have done, Patrick and Ikaika, pretty much rounds up the integrity, the strong family values, the community service that this man has brought to the table. We're very excited to have him as the Mayor's representative, and hopefully through the Cost of Government. And with that, I would just like to welcome Mr. Blackburn and say thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Thank you very much, Mr. Mossman, for those opening comments. And of course, now we have the man of the hour, Mr. Joe Blackburn II on the call. Good morning, Mr. Blackburn.

MR. BLACKBURN II: Good morning, Chair.

CHAIR MOLINA: Good morning. First like to take maybe about a minute or two to tell us something about yourself and why you'd like to be a member of the Cost of Government Commission. Please proceed.

MR. BLACKBURN II: Thank you. My sons basically summed it up, and who I am is I'm part of a wonderful family. My wife, Shirley, works upstairs. More importantly, I met a man named Kalua Kaiahua, who is her dad. And he introduced me into what it means to be part of the community. And along with my dad, they both instilled in me the importance of giving back. And I've been lucky enough to work in every...you know, in the Parks Department, Fire, Police, Maui Electric, and then today, I have my own small business. And so it's given me insight into everything. And then for 40 years, I've helped kids. That's my passion. Helping out middle school boys and girls to get through the rigors

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of middle school. And at the end of the day, you're going to...what you see is what you get. I know when people ask questions what answers they're looking for, but I will look back on my experience, my knowledge, my education to help me formulate my responses. And cost of government, I think, affects everybody today, and I'm hoping I can help in that arena.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Thank you very much for your opening comments, Mr. Blackburn. For the record, myself, Councilmembers Rawlins-Fernandez, Johnson, Sinenci, and Paltin requested your appearance this morning for questions. So I'll lead off first. And Members, I'm going to give everybody up to three minutes, which would include Mr. Blackburn's response, yeah, due to we're sort of pressed for time this morning, we got a large agenda. So my one question for you, Mr. Blackburn, is have you had a chance to review any of the Cost of Government Commission reports or observed any of their meetings? And if so, can you just briefly tell us your thoughts and what you would recommend if you were a member of the Cost of Government Commission?

MR. BLACKBURN II: I've reviewed some of their audits. I was especially interested in the fire safety audit. And I reviewed their agenda, and I've reviewed their mission. And my suggestions would be, once I get into the Commission, to see what their focus is and where they want me to provide expertise. I think it's a little premature to say what I can do. I think I need to learn a little bit more. But I like the idea of looking at the homeless problem. The fire safety audit was interesting. I didn't see anything in there about the fact that a lot of the overtime is mandated by union contracts. So yes, the answer is I have looked at quite a bit, and I'm kind of excited.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Thank you. Thank you for that response. And speaking of time, this is one Commission that has to produce a annual report for the Council --

MR. BLACKBURN II: Yeah.

CHAIR MOLINA: -- so you may be asked on your off time to do some research and analysis. So timewise, you're okay? You can...you have the time to serve, yeah? Shouldn't be a problem?

MR. BLACKBURN II: Shouldn't be a problem, I like to read. And so if I can get it in a printed version or on a pad, a lot of times I'll sit and just read. That's how I learn.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. All right. Thank you very much for your responses. Okay, let's go to Committee Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez. Questions for Mr. Blackburn?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Mr. Blackburn. Mahalo for your continued willingness to serve our community. So Chair Molina already asked a couple of my questions. I usually ask three questions, one Member...Chair Molina asked. Another is attendance, but I'm pretty sure it...you're okay with attendance. Chair Molina also asked how you intend to contribute, but asked in a different way, so I'll ask

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again. How do you envision yourself contributing to the Cost of Government Commission?

MR. BLACKBURN II: I'm lucky, I got to work in jobs a lot of people only dream about. Safety Director of Maui Electric, with the Fire Department, I also went to Moloka'i and taught the firefighters there. I actually helped build that little house at Ho'olehua for the fire station. So my contributions will be based upon my experience in government, but then moving on to private business, how it impacts private business. So that's where I feel I can be a tremendous contribution. I've been to Lāna'i. I was a policeman on Lāna'i. So I have a background in all the districts. I worked in Kihei, I worked in Lāhainā, I responded to Hāna. What a wonderful place. Scary when it gets dangerous though. So how I can contribute is education and background based upon the agenda items that are brought before the Cost of Government Commission.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your response. I have two more questions. One is, so you mentioned that your wife works upstairs, and she works in the Budget Office. Do you see that as a potential conflict with you sitting on the Cost of Government Commission?

MR. BLACKBURN II: No, because she tells me what to do, I don't tell her what to do. I don't see it as a conflict at all. I think her being in Budget is her thing, and my being in private business is mine.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo.

MR. BLACKBURN II: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then my last question is --

MR. BLACKBURN II: Sure.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- so you kind of mentioned it again. In 2019, when we were reviewing the Wailuku Civic Complex/Parking Structure, in your testimony, you mentioned the Ho'olehua Fire Station --

MR. BLACKBURN II: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- and that you worked to get that up and going in Ho'olehua. And that, you know, since you did that for my island, that I would...I owed you a vote for the Wailuku Civic Complex because the...Wailuku is your area. And that was . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . kind of concerning to me because that's...you know, a favor for a favor is not generally how, you know, government should operate. It should operate in the sense that, you know, you're going to vote in a certain way because it's the right thing for the community and not because you're, you know, returning a favor to someone else who's now in a decision-making position. So I heard my timer, but I'm

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sure the Chair would give you time to respond to that concern.

CHAIR MOLINA: Yeah. Yeah, proceed, Mr. Blackburn. You're free to respond.

MR. BLACKBURN II: Okay. I didn't see it as a tit for tat. What I saw it as is that I tried to help your community, could you try to help mine. That particular situation was very difficult because the Mayor at the time had cut the construction money. All we had left was planning money. And that's the CIP process. So, you know, in my mind, I was trying to educate you to the fact that when funds were available, we need to move forward because there may be a day where the next Council, or Chair, or Mayor says no. And so that was just a way of saying hey, things can get done if you want to think outside the box. I didn't look at it as a tit for tat, I looked at it as something that I worked hard on for your island, and I was hoping that you would work and look at our situation here.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Blackburn. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Mahalo.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for the extra time.

CHAIR MOLINA: Mahalo. Thank you. Okay, let's move on to our next Member who requested your presence, Mr. Blackburn, and that would be Councilmember Johnson. Questions for Mr. Blackburn?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Good morning, Mr. Blackburn. Thanks for coming down.

MR. BLACKBURN II: Good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I was looking over your application, and it's...one thing that piqued my interest was your work with low income kids in the central area, I assume the Wailuku-Kahului area. And I appreciate your efforts in doing that. Can you speak to the amount of money the Government is spending to help folks who...kids that need it the most. Do you feel it's adequate? Are we putting our funds in the right way towards helping people who are low income?

MR. BLACKBURN II: That's such a tough question, Councilperson Johnson, because I deal more with the kids. I mean, I see the families, I see the struggles that the family has. As to how Government funds are being spent to handle these families. I don't really have a concrete answer for that. What I can tell you is it's been my passion to help these kids. I go to the housing...you know, I don't have any right now, but I used to go to the housing projects to pick them up. We make sure they have uniforms, we make sure they have shoes. So on my end, in my little world, that's what I try to do. If I get on this Commission, I think it would be enlightening for me to work with you to find out

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where the monies are going and how we can do it better. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So I'm just trying to get clarification with that idea of what you mentioned is that you want to find that it's being spent well, of course, but you don't have a position if it's enough or not enough; is that correct?

MR. BLACKBURN II: That's correct because I haven't started looking into the matter. And that's why this Cost of Government Commission kind of excited me. I don't want to say things to you that I don't have knowledge of. And at this point, I have knowledge of the kids and their struggles. As far as the family goes and how they get their income and how they receive assistance, I'm not very informed on that.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay, Mr. Blackburn. Thank you, Chair. I have no further questions. Thank you for answering my questions, Mr. Blackburn.

MR. BLACKBURN II: Thank you.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Thank you, Member Johnson. We'll go now to Member Sinenci. Questions for Mr. Blackburn?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And aloha, Mr. Blackburn, and thank you for your willingness to serve. For us, you mentioned East Maui. And so I know one of our greatest issues since the restrictions have been lifting is a lot of the tourism that are coming and inundating our Hāna Highway into Hāna. And last year, we did receive a recommendation from the Cost of Government to kind of defund the MVB, and just to stop promotion more of our small...our rural communities. And I just wanted to get your feedback about mitigating tourism as we move forward.

MR. BLACKBURN II: The tourism industry brings people to the island that impacts especially our rural districts, and I would say probably the Hāna area and Keanae the most. Because they're led to believe that this is paradise, and that there's no danger in paradise, and they get themselves in a world of trouble. And so I think the idea of trying to figure this out and educate people is a great idea. Putting it on the planes, you know, and having a PSA, that makes a lot of sense. At the end of the day, there's still going to be people out there who are going to go on the bamboo trails, who are going to go up to the pools, who are going to fall off waterfalls. And I just want to make sure that our resources are in place to properly respond to these type of incidents, and that we listen to the people out in the Hāna area. Because my experience has been without them and without their guidance, especially in emergency situations, a lot of times, we have no inkling as to how to get to places and how to get people out. We knew where it was, but Hāna is a vast area of four-wheel drive roads and it's all...it was always exciting to go to down there, let's put it that way.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo.

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MR. BLACKBURN II: But you're exactly right. Exactly on the right track.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo for that, Mr. Blackburn. And then, you know, I did present to the Cost of Government Committee last month, you know, the State has put up some no parking signs to mitigate the illegal parking on the road. However, the County, we still need to look at the backside of the road from Hāna going out to Ulupalakua side.

MR. BLACKBURN II: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And there are some definite safety concerns and sections that are still not paved without any safety barriers. Would you support to the County receive American Rescue Funding to address some of the County's section of the road going up to Ulupalakua?

MR. BLACKBURN II: Oh, absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MR. BLACKBURN II: I've responded on those roads, and it's scary.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you. Thank you for your responses. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Thank you very much, Mr. Sinenci. Member Paltin, questions for Mr. Blackburn?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Blackburn, for your willingness to serve. Many of my questions already been asked and answered. I just have a few more.

MR. BLACKBURN II: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It seemed...just clarifying that majority of your interest and expertise is in...cost in the Fire and Public Safety Department. Do you have other departments that you have interest or expertise in as well?

MR. BLACKBURN II: I was...my first job was with Kenji Kawaguchi out in Lāhainā at Lāhainā Civic Center. And I learned a lot about Parks and Recreation. Parks and Recreation was actually my first love. And anybody who works in Parks and Recreation knows the pay isn't very good, so I moved on. But that was my first love, and that is an area I have tremendous interest in.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And what is your perspective on expanding Parks with the looming sea level rise slated to take out a lot of our recreational areas?

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MR. BLACKBURN II: That's a situation that I think impacts the whole community and, you know, beach parks were always the crown jewel of where our people want to go. So I think we need to look at this. We need to forecast where things are going to be in 30 or 40 years, maybe even 20, and look at where we can acquire lands that will mitigate the impact of sea level rise.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And we recently seen a presentation about the twin engine hoisting helicopter. Just wondering if you had any opinions on that, about the...by the Fire Department on that type of new helicopter?

MR. BLACKBURN II: What type of helicopter are they looking at, Councilperson Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I guess these ones have twin engines and a mechanical hoist instead of, like, the kind --

MR. BLACKBURN II: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- where you rappel or static line down.

MR. BLACKBURN II: I'd have to look at it. It sounds like it's an A Star or something along those lines. It's preferred by many fire departments to have two engines and to have the mechanical hoist capability. I'm in love with the Hughes 500 just because it's so small and so maneuverable, you can get into places these bigger helicopters can't. So I'd have to really truly look at the pros and the cons. My preference is for what we have now, but these helicopters are fairly old. And I can tell you when something goes wrong, it's pretty scary up there. But it's interesting. I haven't looked at what they're proposing. I would be interested in that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. And last question, you know, sometimes we deal with controversial issues and I was just wondering if you could give us a little summary of your approach to conflict resolution amongst colleagues. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

MR. BLACKBURN II: Well...I work with...in a small business, and we do have our disagreements here. And at the end of the day, I realized that it's more important sometimes to listen, and that's probably the biggest way to resolve conflict in a small business. It's something I still struggle with at times. I have a very strong mind, but to me, listening and trying to envision what the other person is looking at and then converse in a way that's acceptable to both parties.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Mr. Blackburn. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Thank you very much, Member Paltin. Okay, that concludes our line of questions from the Members who requested your presence. Before we excuse you, Mr. Blackburn, I'd like to ask Corporation Counsel, just in relation to a question that

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was asked by Committee Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez about the potential conflict. And I want to thank Mr. Blackburn for disclosing to us that his wife does work for the Administration. Ironically, the person that you would be replacing today, Ms. Del Rosario, was asked to get an Ethics Board opinion because I believe at the time she was working for Member King...am I correct, Member King, at that time? I forgot who on the Council made that recommendation. So Corporation Counsel, I personally don't see a conflict at this point, but any thoughts, should Mr. Blackburn along the way seek an advisory opinion from the Ethics Board? I guess, Ms. Thomson or Mr. Murai, if you're on the call.

MS. THOMSON: Sure. Thank you, Chair. So, you know, at any time, you know, we usually advise our board members to be, you know, very liberal in seeking Board of Ethics opinions, you know, that there is truly no harm in it and that often it will, you know, give peace of mind both to the board member and also to the community about certain situations that may or may not be conflicts. So we would encourage that.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Thank you for that response. So Mr. Blackburn, I guess along the way you can make a request to just get an advisory opinion from the Board, and that way they can tell you if they perceive any conflict and so forth. But at least from where I stand, I don't see anything from you being on the Commission that would, you know, I guess cause a conflict unless there's something financial involved with any type of decision making. Member King, your thoughts.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, I think this is even probably more questionable than the case of my assistant being on one of the...on this board or commission because it may be that this Commission is delving into some of the cost of various departments that are part of the Administration. So having a spouse that works for the Administration could possibly be perceived as a conflict. So when Michelle Del Rosario was being appointed, it was with the caveat that she would seek the opinion of the Board of Ethics. So I think we should do the same thing here and just to err on the side of caution, and to make sure that there's no even appearance of something that's improper. So I would hope that Mr. Blackburn would be okay with seeking that opinion and getting...you know, going through the same motions that Michelle went through. Are you okay with that, Mr. Blackburn?

MR. BLACKBURN II: Yeah, don't we have to do that anyway? Don't we have to fill out, you know, as a board...you don't have to anymore?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: You don't have to go to the board...this would be a request from the Board of Ethics --

MR. BLACKBURN II: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- to make a decision on whether there's a conflict. And then you go and you appear at their meeting and, you know, many of us Councilmembers have

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done the same thing --

MR. BLACKBURN II: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- for certain decisions that we're making or, you know, votes that we're...you know, to make sure that there's no conflict. So it's not an attack on you, it's just, you know, erring on the side of caution. Let's make sure that the Board of Ethics has looked at this and can say whether there's a conflict of interest or not.

MR. BLACKBURN II: Okay. Yeah, I don't have a problem. Is that a County board or a State board? I forget.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: It's a County board.

MR. BLACKBURN II: County board.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: And that was...that would've been my question would be that, you know, are you going to be able to...as a member of the Cost of Government, to be able to look objectively at issues that may arise, you know, studies that your commission may do on the Administration or, you know, the various departments of the Administration regardless of your...you know, your attachment to someone who works for the Administration.

MR. BLACKBURN II: I don't have...I don't believe there's going to be an issue, and I'll go ahead and ask the County Board of Ethics an opinion on whether me being on the Cost of Government Commission would be a conflict with my wife working in the Budget Department.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Great. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

MR. BLACKBURN II: Thank you, Councilperson. Yeah.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Thank you, Member King. And thank you, Mr. Blackburn, for willingly wanting to seek an opinion from the Ethics Board. Just to be safe. I don't think it would do any harm. So...all righty. If...with no other questions related to Mr. Blackburn's nomination. And as I stated earlier, Mr. Blackburn, decision making for your nomination will take place at this Friday's Council meeting. And I want to thank you for taking the time to respond to questions from the Committee.

MR. BLACKBURN II: Thank you. All right, Council Chair and Cost of Government Committee Members. Thank you very much. Have a great day, and hopefully you'll get done by 1:00.

CHAIR MOLINA: Yeah.

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MR. BLACKBURN II: I'd like to get done by 2:00 today if I can so I can go coach. Thank you.
All right.

CHAIR MOLINA: Thank you very much, Joe. Okay, Members, so as I stated earlier, no objections to deferring this item and decision making for this Friday related to Mr. Blackburn's nomination. Any objections?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS. (Excused TK)

ACTION: DEFER.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Thank you very much.

**GREAT-2(16) NOMINATIONS TO BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS (LANAI
PLANNING COMMISSION) (CC 21-42)**

CHAIR MOLINA: All right. Let's move on to our next Committee item, which is GREAT Item 2(16). This relates to the Mayor nominating Zane de la Cruz to the Lānaʻi Planning Commission for a term expiring on March 31st, 2026 to fill a vacancy due to the passing of John Ornellas. The 60-day deadline for the Council to approve or disapprove the nomination is July 26, 2021. And like Mr. Blackburn's nomination, the Chair's intention today is to just do a Q&A session with Mr. de la Cruz, and then decision making will take place at this Friday's Council Meeting due to the July 26 deadline. So that's it. Chair would like to recognize Mr. Mossman to give us a brief overview of Mr. de la Cruz's nomination to the Lānaʻi Planning Commission. Mr. Mossman.

MR. MOSSMAN: Oh, thank you, Chair Mike Molina. And I know we had talked, Zane had come about, and Councilmember Gabe Johnson had basically had some nice words to speak about him. But Mr. Zane de la Cruz is a Lānaʻi resident, and he comes from a very solid community, family members. And we are...again, great nominee from the Mayor's Office in introducing Zane de la Cruz as our nominee for this...for the Lānaʻi Planning. And I will turn that over back to you.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Thank you very much, Mr. Mossman. I see Mr. de la Cruz on the line right now. Good morning, Mr. de la Cruz. Okay, I think...yeah, there we go. If you could unmute yourself. Good morning.

MR. DE LA CRUZ: I'm back.

CHAIR MOLINA: Fantastic. Thanks for being here. If you'd take about a minute or two, just share something about yourself and why you'd like to be a member of the Lānaʻi Planning Commission. Please proceed.

MR. DE LA CRUZ: Yeah, you know, I was raised here on Lānaʻi. Left when I was 18 to pursue

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work and eventually an education out on the continent, but always had plans of returning home, living here. And, you know, just for as far as being on the Planning Commission, it's just really more...I see it more as a civic responsibility to just try and add some input for people who are raised on the island to try and have some hand, like, some sort of control over what happens in our community.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Thank you very much for your opening comments, Mr. de la Cruz. Right now I'd like to recognize the Lānaʻi representative, Councilmember Johnson, to open up the line of questioning. And for the record, not only Councilmember Johnson, but also Councilmembers Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and Paltin requested your presence here this morning for questions. So Councilmember Johnson, if you will.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Good morning, Members. Good morning, Zane. I stand in strong support of Zane de la Cruz to join the Lānaʻi Planning Commission for many reasons. First off, the de la Cruz name is well known on Lānaʻi, and you can look in my background, and that is the mural on our school for the 1950 strike, the pineapple strike over affordable housing led by de la Cruz's family. And I don't know if it was your grandfather or your great-grandfather, but they...he comes from a good bloodline of people who stood strong for the working folk of these islands. So I stand in strong support of his nomination. Zane has been...done some really interesting work on Lānaʻi. He's worked in conservation, he's worked at the horse ranch, he's of this island, and I think that is really an important voice to have on the Lānaʻi Planning Commission. My only question for you, Zane, is my understanding is you still...you work for Pulama Lānaʻi. So how do you balance the needs of the community versus the desires of the company?

MR. DE LA CRUZ: That's a solid question. I started working at Pulama about two years ago now. In all honesty, like, for this position, I'm more worried about losing my job than not being in favor of the community. It's one of those issues where, you know, Pulama definitely has their own agendas in how they go about doing things. And one of the reasons I want to be on this committee is that...to try and make sure that the growth and development that happens on the island has favorable outcomes for the community. So as far as, you know, having, I guess, a conflict of interest, being employed by the person...the entity that is probably going to be 99 percent of the issues brought to the commission or the committee, I would say I'd have...like I would...I would definitely try to apply my best judgment to it. And if there was an issue, like, I would want to speak openly about the issues that come up. But if need be, I guess I would, like, recuse myself from a vote if it was too contentious. But as far as I can see it now, I don't think that I would be overly favorable to the company when it comes to a controversial decision. . . .(timer sounds). . .

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. My time's up, Zane. Thank you for answering my question. I just want to add one last thing before I go. He's a young guy, and we need the young voices on the committees. So once again, he's got my support. Okay. Thank you, Chair. I have no further questions.

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CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Thank you very much, Member Johnson. Committee Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez, questions for Mr. de la Cruz?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. And aloha, Mr. de la Cruz. Mahalo for your willingness to serve on the commission. You had a lot of testifiers testify in support at the last GREAT Committee meeting, and shared with us that you went away for school in your...Arizona, and then returned to contribute to the community, and I have a lot of respect for that. I hope that, you know, Pulama Lānaʻi doesn't...you know, that your employment isn't going to be affected by any of your decisions, but I really appreciate your response that your loyalty would remain with the community who holds you accountable, but I hope it doesn't jeopardize your employment. So there's three questions...well, four questions. First, who is John de la Cruz to you? Because he's also sitting on the Commission.

MR. DE LA CRUZ: John de la Cruz is going to be my uncle. He's my father's brother.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And then do you foresee any concerns with your attendance?

MR. DE LA CRUZ: No. Because the committee meetings are third Wednesday of the month, so yeah, I don't see any issues with that.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, great. Have you attended any of the Lānaʻi Planning Commission meetings or reviewed their minutes?

MR. DE LA CRUZ: Yes, both. I...

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MR. DE LA CRUZ: Yeah, like just through periods of time when issues have come up, I've gone to different meetings and reviewed minutes for them. So yes.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So you're very familiar with what they do, what the kuleana is and what your kuleana would be in joining the commission?

MR. DE LA CRUZ: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, great. You know, after joining, they also provide training so that you can get up to speed with parliamentary procedure and different applicable laws. My last question is about how you foresee contributing to the Commission?

MR. DE LA CRUZ: One, I like to be informed on decisions that I participate in, so I would definitely spend a great deal of time and effort into understanding the issues that are

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brought forth. And I would try to balance, you know, the nuance of most likely the developer who wants to do something with the needs and the benefits to the community that it would provide. So --

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo --

MR. DE LA CRUZ: -- I guess just --

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- for your response.

MR. DE LA CRUZ: -- kind of a . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . like a controlled, logical response to the situation. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Wonderful. Mahalo, Mr. de la Cruz. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Thank you very much, Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez. Okay, let's go to our next Member, Mr. Sinenci. Questions for Mr. de la Cruz?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair, and aloha, Mr. de la Cruz. And mahalo for your willingness to serve on the Lānaʻi Planning Commission. The last time I was there, I took a bunch of students to visit Lānaʻi and I remember an uncle, I believe Albert Morita, that kind of took us around and showed us a lot of cultural inventory on the island. And so I just wanted to include some of the...including some of the petroglyphs and Keahiakawelo, the Garden of the Gods. And so I just wanted to get your take on the continued conservation and preservation of the Lānaʻi historic sites.

MR. DE LA CRUZ: I'm assuming your question is in regard to my interest in preserving things of that nature?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: What's your thoughts about...right, the cultural inventory and the protections of those inventories?

MR. DE LA CRUZ: I think, like, preserving, you know, our cultural sites or stories are, you know, very important to just the identity of the community. And like with Uncle Al, you know, I would...I used to spend time with him to go over the old 1800 surveys, going out and finding the old markers. I worked with or volunteered with the Lānaʻi Cultural...Lānaʻi Cultural Center, you know, doing their summer program for the kids, getting some outdoor engagement place based learning stuff in place. Because like there's...like what's the point in living someplace if it's a generic place, right? Like if you don't have the history of it, if you don't kind of live in that space, then you might as well be living in, you know, any town. Why live in...why live on Lānaʻi if you know nothing about it, if you want to preserve what came before you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo for that. You definitely should add that to your resume as well. And then second...finally, you know, the Council supported expanding

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agriculture production on Lānaʻi, and hopefully to help to acquire some of the State properties for more agriculture. So what is your feeling about, you know, enough farmers on the island? And are interests enough to expand for the usage of those State lands?

MR. DE LA CRUZ: Agriculture on Lānaʻi is tricky business, primarily because we're a very dry place.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: The water?

MR. DE LA CRUZ: Yeah, water availability is . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . but I think if it can be done, especially on the local scale to provide for Lānaʻi, not looking at anything too expansive. If we're doing small scale diversified ag, you know, that's something that I'd be in great favor of, and I think there is --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, great.

MR. DE LA CRUZ: -- support in the community for it.

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

CHAIR MOLINA: Thank you very much, Member Sinenci. And finally, let's go to Member Paltin. Questions for Mr. de la Cruz?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. de la Cruz for your willingness to serve. My first question is, do you believe in sea level rise or...and/or climate change?

MR. DE LA CRUZ: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Second question is, are you familiar with the Lānaʻi Community Plan?

MR. DE LA CRUZ: Several iterations of it, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And the most familiar, do you have access to...I mean, not...the most recent, you have access to it? Are you familiar with the most recent one?

MR. DE LA CRUZ: I do not know if I have access...or if I've read the most recent iteration of it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And just, I guess, do you...what do you know about zoning plans?

MR. DE LA CRUZ: Not...like...sorry, could you restate the question?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Like, what is your knowledge about County zoning layers and their relationship to the community plan?

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MR. DE LA CRUZ: I'm not familiar with it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. What kind of things do you hope to do on the Lānaʻi Planning Commission? Like, what is your goals, purpose, or...

MR. DE LA CRUZ: I guess my goals, like, would be...I don't have any direct or concrete goals I wish to accomplish, it's more wanting to provide...I perceive myself as a...like, a Lānaʻi boy, like someone who grew up in the community, wants to be here. And so I just want to be able to provide that perspective to the commission.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So --

MR. DE LA CRUZ: And...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- I guess, you know, there's nothing wrong with not knowing too much about zoning going in, but what would your resources be if you had a question on an issue that came up to you? Like, how would you go about trying to get the answers? Like it's a technical...

MR. DE LA CRUZ: Like if it was something...so let's say...let's take your zoning question in particular. My first resource would be going to existing commission members and trying to get an idea of what their knowledge base is and how they obtained it. And for my own edification, I would then try to see...like if they said, you know, it's in this section, or this chapter of County law, then go and find that particular parcel of information . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . and go over it myself. And if there's any conflict or discrepancy with the two explanations, I would try to discuss it with the other members. Or I'm assuming that the County will have some form of expert at the meetings, because that's how it's been before, and discuss with them if I need any clarifications.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you so much for answering my questions and your willingness to serve. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Thank you very much, Member Paltin. Okay, I believe that's it. If no one else has any pressing questions for Mr. de la Cruz. Okay, I'll allow the Members who did not request your presence, I'll allow one question to be asked. Okay, Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. I don't really have any questions for Mr. de la Cruz. I have a question for you, though. Can we get an opinion from Corp. Counsel on having family members serve on the same commission? Because I seem to recall this coming up in the way past before I was on the Council. Personally I'm not a fan of dynasties, and I'd like to see, you know, us make decisions not based on family. But I understand that it's a small island and it's probably hard to find, you know, people who aren't related or don't have a strong tie to each other. If this becomes a trend, I could

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see us having boards and commission filled with family members, and I don't know that that's a good direction to take. But I want to make sure that it's legal.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Thank you, Member King. Corporation Counsel Thomson?

MS. THOMSON: Thank you for the question. Yes, there would be nothing illegal or, you know, a violation of the Charter as far as having family members. I was privileged to...I've been advising the Lānaʻi Planning Commission for some years now, so I'm very familiar with Mr. de la Cruz's uncle, and he is a valuable member of the Commission as well. So I don't see a direct conflict that way. You know, typically conflicts, you know, as was discussed previously, maybe with employment, you know, and certain applications coming before that commission or just given the nature of the island. But we're equipped to deal with those too.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. All right. Thank you. Thank you for that information.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Thank you, Member King. Mr. de la Cruz...

MR. DE LA CRUZ: Could I make a clarifying comment?

CHAIR MOLINA: Go ahead. In response to Member King's question?

MR. DE LA CRUZ: Yes. And I fully understand the hesitancy that you have. But it's...it is one thing, like for a small community, that it happens. But the other thing, I did feel a little uncomfortable when Councilmember Johnson introduced me because I do not like to trade on my family name. I prefer to be judged by my own merits, and I....and because of, like, the legitimate concerns that you have, and people like you have, I don't really like to lean on the accomplishments of my father and grandfather. I guess it's a hard balancing act because I also don't want to seem like I'm trying to hide or do something clandestine, but...yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

MR. DE LA CRUZ: I just wanted...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No, I appreciate...I appreciate that, and I appreciate your understanding that it was just an objective comment, it was nothing personal. But, you know, it was a...I don't know what you mean by people like me, but...

MR. DE LA CRUZ: Just people who are in, like, a position to...who need to be able to say, like, that this...that we aren't creating a political dynasty.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

MR. DE LA CRUZ: Because I also feel that that's not a...like a...we're a democracy, we're not

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a...yeah, we...yeah. Sorry. I was...I've been working night shift this week, so my brain's not entirely in place.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I really appreciate your comments, so thank you for that. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Thank you, Member King. And hey, we appreciate the discussion on this. And you know, I can certainly relate to that. I had...back in the 1970s, I had two uncles that were elected to the Maui County Council, and they both served. So I'm sure there might have been some issues about, you know, family relatives serving on the same board. So I can certainly understand this situation. Committee Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez, a question --

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

CHAIR MOLINA: -- or your thoughts on this matter?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Mahalo, Chair. I just wanted to quickly comment as, you know, the Councilmember from another island with a small population, that I come from a very big family on this island. And that was one of the reasons that I married someone not from this island so that I wouldn't end up marrying my relative. And so, you know, it's unfortunate that Mr. de la Cruz here shares the same name, you know, because here, you know, we may have different names, but we actually are really closely related. And so it...we would likely end up without enough people to serve on our boards and commissions if we had a policy where if you're closely related, you know, you cannot serve on the same boards. So for Moloka'i that would not be a good policy, and I...and for Lāna'i, I would think that it would be the same because there are generational families that are rather large, and it's hard to avoid having relatives serve on the same board. So I just wanted to share those thoughts and that although you're related...you know, for example, my mother and I have very different views on certain issues. So just because we're related doesn't mean we always align on matters. Mahalo for this opportunity to share a little bit of perspective.

CHAIR MOLINA: Thank you very much, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Okay. So Mr. de la Cruz, so I guess my question to you with...although I'm not sure how the other Members feel, but are you okay with just seeking an advisory opinion anyway? I mean, I personally don't see any major conflict, unless there's some...you know, something to do with employment or any financial issues. I guess for me, I'll just leave it up to you if you'd like to play it safe. Like we had the previous nominee before you, although the --

MR. DE LA CRUZ: Oh, I --

CHAIR MOLINA: -- circumstances were different.

MR. DE LA CRUZ: -- I would welcome it, like the -- yeah.

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CHAIR MOLINA: Okay.

MR. DE LA CRUZ: Yeah, having like an open and clear discussion about it I think would just be better all around.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay.

MR. DE LA CRUZ: I would welcome it. I'm assuming you mean the Ethics Committee.

CHAIR MOLINA: Yeah, the Ethics Commission.

MR. DE LA CRUZ: Yeah.

CHAIR MOLINA: To put in --

MR. DE LA CRUZ: Commission, yes.

CHAIR MOLINA: -- a request to have them provide you an opinion and their thoughts on you serving on the same board with a relative. So thank you for that. And some of us on this Council have had to go before Ethics Boards because of any potential perceived conflict, so it's actually a helpful tool. It provides much more clarity. So anyway. Okay.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR MOLINA: Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sorry, I'm just...I'm concerned about this precedent we may be setting, just because I don't know where the clear line...so like I shared, you know, my brother and I have...my brothers and I have different last names. So unlike, you know, Mr. de la Cruz here, who shares the same last name as his uncle, you wouldn't know prima facie that my brother and I are siblings because they have different last names than me. And so is the precedent that we're setting that if you happen to have the same last name as someone who currently sits on the board, you have to go before the Board of Ethics, or are we going to dive deeper into family connections to find out what the relationships are to people on the board who may be closely related, but do not have the same last name?

CHAIR MOLINA: Again, I'm just stating as an individual. And like I just suggested to Mr. de la Cruz, basically up to him, you know. I, for one, can still continue to support Mr. de la Cruz with or without the Ethic's opinion, but it's, you know, up...basically if you feel more comfortable with getting an opinion, I don't see anything that the Ethics Board could find at this point of a conflict. But, you know, that's...because we've had precedence set already with Ms. Del Rosario first, and then now Mr. Blackburn, so I just thought I'd kind of put that out there for Mr. de la Cruz's consideration. And at

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least...and I appreciate him being very transparent about it as well. So Member King, before we excuse Mr. de la Cruz.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, I just wanted to say, you know, my concern was the legality of it, and I'm satisfied that it's not...that we're not doing anything that's not allowed by law. So I don't have a problem with this...with his association with a relative on this commission if it's legal. My concern about the previous discussion we had had more to do with the conflict because of the work situation and a possible...how it might possibly influence a decision. So just wanted to let you know, just as an individual Councilmember, I'm okay with it without him seeking an opinion.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Thank you, Member King. And also too, just in case there may someone else...so say we confirm Mr. de la Cruz to the Planning Commission, then they have to deal with a very tough issue. So this way, it could quiet anyone who may say oh, look at this, there was, you know, the perception of conflict because two relatives voted for the same thing, yadda yadda yadda. And that way Mr. de la Cruz can point to an Ethics Board opinion, for example, that stated that, you know, there was no conflict. So just in case for coverage purposes. But again, I leave that up to you Mr. de la Cruz if you'd like to seek an opinion in the future. So I'm...for me, it's not a mandate as far as my decision making on your nomination. So okay. All right. Last question before we close. Committee Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: My apologies, Chair. I just wanted to state this for the record and for the benefit of the public is that most times when we talk about conflicts, it's financial conflicts and not, you know, close relative arbitrary conflicts. So when we talk about financial conflicts, which is in the Charter, for example, Ms. Del Rosario getting a...you know, because of her employment. And then Mr. Blackburn because of his spouse's employment. And the previous Fire Commission nominee because her spouse's employment. And so those are all financial conflicts, and I didn't hear any kind of financial conflict with Mr. de la Cruz. So that...I just want to say that for the record. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Thank you very much. Okay, thank you very much, Mr. de la Cruz, for taking the time to respond to questions from the Committee. Like the previous nominee, the Council will be making a decision on your nomination at this Friday's Council meeting. So again, thank you very much for spending a lot of your time here with us this morning.

MR. DE LA CRUZ: Thank you for having me.

CHAIR MOLINA: All right. Thank you. Okay, very good. Members, all right. With no objections, we'll defer this item for decision making at this Friday's Council Meeting. Any objections to deferral?

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COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS. (Excused TK)

ACTION: DEFER.

CHAIR MOLINA: Very good. So ordered.

GREAT-2(17) NOMINATIONS TO BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS
(MOLOKAI PLANNING COMMISSION) (CC 21-42)

CHAIR MOLINA: Members. We're moving close to our break time but I believe...hoping we can get the next item out, and then we'll take a...our morning recess. And the next item is GREAT Item 2(17), that is related to the nomination to the Moloka'i Planning Commission of Kaleialoha Moss for a term expiring on March 31st, 2022 to fill a vacancy due to the passing of John Sprinzel. The 60-day deadline for the Council to approve or disapprove this nomination is August 23rd, 2021. And I believe we'll first recognize Mr. Mossman and...followed by Ms. Moss to provide us comments and respond to questions. Mr. Mossman.

MR. MOSSMAN: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR MOLINA: Your comments on the nominee.

MR. MOSSMAN: Thank you, Chair Molina and Councilmembers. Ms. Kaleialoha Moss is a resident of Kaunakakai in Moloka'i, and the...she is self-employed along with her husband. She has sent in an application that we...that the Mayor wanted to make sure that, you know, her decision to do her...give back to the community is well received. I would love to make sure that I give her an opportunity to speak her piece, but having a bachelors from Hawai'i Pacific University, again, we'd like to, you know, just say aloha for her nomination by the Mayor's Office. And I'd like to turn it back over to you, Chair.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Thank you very much, Mr. Mossman. And I see Ms. Moss on the call right now. Good morning, Ms. Moss.

MS. MOSS: Good morning.

CHAIR MOLINA: Good morning. I'd like you to take about a minute or two to share something about yourself with the Committee and why you'd like to be a member of the Moloka'i Planning Commission. Please proceed.

MS. MOSS: Okay. So I was born and raised on Moloka'i, went away for college, came back after I was married. My husband and I have three daughters. In fact, one it's her birthday today, so after this we'll be going and having fun. And then we started our own businesses. So we own a couple businesses here. Our main one is auto repair shop,

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and then a laundromat. And we're very grateful to our community, because without the community, we wouldn't be able to have these businesses. So I saw this as an opportunity for me to give back to my community by serving on the Commission, and to help be involved in some of the decisions that are made that shape our community, our businesses, and our island.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Thank you very much for your opening comments, Ms. Moss. I'd like to recognize our Council Vice-Chair and Moloka'i island representative, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, to ask questions of you. But before that, for the record, not only Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez, Councilmembers Sinenci, Johnson, and Paltin also requested your presence this morning. So proceed with your line of questioning, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Ms. Moss. Nice to see you. Mahalo for your willingness to serve on the Commission. I already know the answer, but I'm going to ask you for the records. Do you foresee any concerns with attendance?

MS. MOSS: No. Because we own our own businesses, I'm pretty flexible, and I'm able to attend when needed.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. And I'm pretty sure you've participated in Commission meetings before, but for the record, have you participated in any of the Commission meetings, reviewed any of (*audio interference*) know what would be expected of you as a member of this commission?

MS. MOSS: Yes. I mean, I don't know everything, but yes, I...we actually have been involved with the commercial property that we own and different things that have had to come before the commission or before Council. So I've attended meetings, I've had to testify, and participated in meetings that interested me, you know, and asked questions. So yes, I basically know how it goes.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Yeah, I look forward to working with you and the other commissioners on addressing interim zoning on our island so that we can get that resolved. The Council...no, the Commission just gave feedback on Moloka'i's maps. And it'll be coming to Council soon so that we can start taking steps toward addressing the problems of the interim zoning that was meant to be temporary, but it's kind of permanent. Okay. And then my last question is regarding how you foresee contributing to the commission.

MS. MOSS: So as I said, you know, I'm a business owner, we've been in business almost 11 years. I've had to go through, and am still going through, changes in our community plan, changes in zoning, things like that. So I kind of understand...not fully, but I kind of understand the processes. And I feel like when other business owners or community members come in front of the commission, like I kind of feel I understand, like, what they had to go through, so that's something that I feel like I can kind of contribute in

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that way. Also, I'm pretty...I feel like I'm pretty fair and honest, and I like to hear both sides so I can make an...you know, a good opinion on where I should stand. So that's another thing.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Awesome. Mahalo. Well, I am in full support of your nomination, and will be voting to confirm you at our Council Meeting this Friday. I think you would be a tremendous asset to the Commission with your background, experience . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . and being born and raised Moloka'i, business owner, and as she said, you know, she's a...she has an analytical mind. So mahalo, Ms. Moss, and mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez. And for the record, we don't have to wait until this Friday's Council Meeting to make a decision on Ms. Moss. We do have a deadline of August 23rd, 2021. Sorry I didn't mention that earlier, but we can make a decision on her nomination today. All right. Moving on to our next Councilmember who requested your presence, we'll go to Member Paltin from West Maui. Questions for Ms. Moss?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Moss, for your willingness to serve. I guess my main question is, I recall in 2019 that we had forward, I think, one of your property change in zoning from interim to the Planning Commission. And I just was checking if that had already been heard, and like if not, and you were sitting on the Commission, you would recuse yourself if it was a property that you had that was going before the Moloka'i Planning Commission?

MS. MOSS: Yes. So there was a Council-initiated change in zoning because our current commercial property is interim, and we are trying to, you know, change it to business country town, or...yeah. And so that has not gone in front of the Commission yet. I am hoping in the next couple months it will go in front of the Commission. And if I am sitting on the Commission, I will excuse myself from voting.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Oh, wow, I thought we referred it in 2019.

MS. MOSS: I guess things take a long time. . . .*(laughter)*. . . I don't know. There were some things that we had to do on our side, such as notifying our neighbor. I did all that. So we turned in our paperwork last year or...I can't really remember. I have, you know, hired a consultant to help me with this. So I guess things just take longer than I thought. So we're still in that process of changing the zoning, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Wow. I mean, I guess we could take it up because it's been longer than 120 days but, you know, I'll let you --

MS. MOSS: For me? No. . . .*(laughter)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I don't know, I mean, I got a lot of Charter deadlines, but I guess

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that's cool that you're...you are willing to recuse yourself if your own property comes up. I guess my main other question is do you believe in sea level rise and climate change? Because the planning commissions are tasked by the State with a special management area and things like that.

MS. MOSS: Yeah. So I mean, I think that it's pretty...you know, you can see it, that the sea is getting higher, the tides are higher now, you know, we have these king tides, things like that. The erosion, that is something that I think is obviously seen. On Moloka'i, we have places where the roads are starting to be, you know, eroded away. So yes, that is something that I think is happening. It feels like it is getting warmer. I mean, I don't...it feels like every year it's a little hotter in the summer, you know. So yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And are you familiar with the term SLR-XA or the sea level rise exposure area?

MS. MOSS: No, I am not familiar with that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And so if there's zoning terms or community plan or things . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . that you aren't aware of...I just was going to ask, like, who would you turn to, or how would you find that info. But my time is up, so...

MS. MOSS: Okay. You want me to answer?

CHAIR MOLINA: Yeah, go ahead, Ms. Moss, if you'd like to provide a quick response.

MS. MOSS: I mean, sure. I would just...either I would research it on my own or ask. I'm sure there's training involved. I've heard that there is training, so hopefully I'd learn some of that in training. Also, asking fellow commissioners. Even, like, our planner, our Moloka'i planner, like that. I would reach out and ask if I don't know the answer.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you so much for answering my questions. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Thank you very much, Member Paltin. Let's go to Member Sinenci, questions for Ms. Moss?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And aloha, Ms. Moss, for your willingness to serve. Just looking over your resume, it looks like you were a community council chair for Kilohana. I take it that you're on the East side of the island --

MS. MOSS: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- if I'm not mistaken. Oh, okay. And then I know your district Councilmember had proposed the fire station out in Mana'e side. So is that a need for your community out there?

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MS. MOSS: Yes, it is. And I did attend...I listened in and asked a couple questions on one of the most recent meetings that Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez had. But yes, it is. I know that the fire station is not...it needs to be redone. The building itself is not good. But as an East end resident, we want one to stay on the East end and close. I've had problems in the past trying to get homeowner's insurance because they don't count our fire station as a fire station because it's only manned by, like, two people or something. And there has to be some certain requirement to be considered a fire station. So even though currently the current Puko'o Fire Station is only one mile down the road, I've had insurance companies giving me a hard time trying to get insurance because they saying it's not a real fire station. But there has been times I've had to rush my own baby to the fire station, so having one...she had stopped breathing, my mom had to give her CPR in the car. Like having it so close was, you know, lifesaving, I think, for us. I mean, we're 17 miles away from town, so imagine having to get all the way to town. So having a fire station on the East end that is safe for our firemen to be in, you know, and close for our community is very important.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo for that, Ms. Moss. And the only other thing is that all I remember about Hawai'i Pacific University was that they had the best luaus.

MS. MOSS: I don't know that I ever actually went to a luau there. . . .(laughter). . . But I really did enjoy it, you know.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo. Thank you, Chair.

MS. MOSS: Thank you.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Thank you very much, Member Sinenci. So secret's revealed, Hawai'i Pacific, great luaus. Okay, we'll keep that in mind the next time we go to O'ahu. Okay. Let's go to our last Councilmember who requested your presence. Councilmember Johnson, questions for Ms. Moss?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Good morning, Ms. Moss. And I appreciate your willingness to serve. So I just have a two-part question. I know...I've heard you speak that you've been following the Moloka'i Planning Commission for some time. So can you give us an example of a commission decision that you agreed with, and then a commission decision that you disagreed with or thought you could...they could've done a better job on it?

MS. MOSS: Oh. Kind of a tough one. Only because sometimes, you know, I do worry...I have worried in the past about taking positions on especially issues that could be contentious in our community. Especially when I have things that are coming in front of the Commission. So I need to make sure that, you know, I kind of stay neutral. So...gosh. (audio interference) That kind of threw me off. Well...

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I could rephrase the question.

MS. MOSS: I don't know. Okay, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: How about this one, what was the most important decision that you've seen come across the table of the Moloka'i Planning Commission?

MS. MOSS: The most important...I know in our community, one of the big issues were the STRs. And that was something that I tried to stay neutral in. I think that the Commission listened to what the community said and voted with what the majority was saying. I'll be 100 percent honest, I was hoping for a little more wiggle room in it, only because...for myself, I would love to own one one day as, you know, a resident of Moloka'i. But I understand that it's hard because of how it was being done now, and 98 percent of the current STR owners weren't even from here. They didn't live on island. So I understand that that was, you know, difficult. So...but that was, like, a really big one. I feel like the community came out and was not in support of STRs, and I believe that the Commission listened to what they had to say and voted accordingly.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well I really appreciate your honesty, Ms. Moss. That's really what I was just trying to get to. See how...you know, how do we deal with these, you know, tricky situations where, you know, sometimes...I wish it was all roses, but sometimes we have some communities...this side and that side and, you know, . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . as a commissioner, you're going to have to balance that. So that was just me trying to get...just me trying to get to how you think about problem solving. That's all. There's no slippery questions here. I just wanted to get to your...you know, your heart and soul on that. So thank you, Ms. Moss. I'll...I support Ms. Moss'...you know, big time. That's good to hear that she's willing to take on those kind of issues. Mahalo, Mr. Molina. I have no further questions.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Thank you very much, Councilmember Johnson. So I believe this completes the line of questioning for Ms. Moss. And with that said, Chair's going to recommend adoption of the proposed resolution to approve the nomination of Kaleialoha Moss to the Moloka'i Planning Commission for a term expiring on March 31st, 2022. Chair will entertain a motion for that.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So moved.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR MOLINA: Moved by Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez, seconded by Council Chair Lee. Committee Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez, any comments on the motion?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I'll keep it short, I know you have a long agenda. But I think...I just wanted to thank Ms. Moss again for coming before us, and responding to some of our hard questions. But I think, you know, like your responses

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were on point, and I appreciate your candidness. And I think, you know, like I said earlier, she would be a great addition to our Commission. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay, mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez. Any other comments on the motion to approve Ms. Moss to the Moloka'i Planning Commission? Seeing none, Chair will call for the vote. All those in favor, signify by raising your hand and saying aye.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED AYE.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. All those opposed? Okay. Chair will mark it eight ayes with one excusal, Member Kama.

**VOTE: AYES: Chair Molina, Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez,
 Councilmembers Johnson, King, Lee, Paltin, Sinenci,
 and Sugimura.**

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember Kama.

MOTION CARRIED.

**ACTION: ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION TO APPROVE KALEIALOHA MOSS
 TO THE MOLOKAI PLANNING COMMISSION.**

CHAIR MOLINA: Congratulations, Ms. Moss. Your matter will go to the full Council for a final vote in the near future. And thank you for taking the time to respond to questions from the Committee.

MS. MOSS: Thank you.

CHAIR MOLINA: Mahalo. All right, Members, I think we've reached that time for our morning recess. So Chair will call for a recess. Is two minutes enough time, Members? Nah, just kidding. Chair will give you...let's see, let's go 15 minutes. Let's come back at...16 minutes. Let's come back at 10:55, okay? GREAT Committee meeting is in recess. The time is 10:39, we shall recess until 10:55. Meeting in recess. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

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RECESS: 10:39 a.m.

RECONVENE: 10:55 a.m.

CHAIR MOLINA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . The GREAT Committee meeting for Tuesday, July 20th, 2021, is now back in session. The time is 10:55 a.m. Thank you very much for that well-needed respite, Members.

GREAT-15 APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSION ON HEALING SOLUTIONS FOR HOMELESSNESS (CC 20-502)

CHAIR MOLINA: We're on our next agenda item which is GREAT item 15. And, of course, this relates to the nomination to the Solutions...Healing Solutions for Homeless. And we've had several developments over the last 24 hours. For the record, we had five nominees or applicants listed, the Chair's been informed that there have been three withdrawals over the last 24 hours for this Commission. For the record, I had a conversation last night with Jelena Dackovic. She indicated *(audio interference)* organizational matter. *(audio interference)* work with the homeless in her capacity as *(audio interference)* Maui. And then this morning, I was informed that Kevin Nagasaki and Laurie Ridle both withdrew. I'd like to get confirmation on that. Staff, Ms. Espeleta, can you further expound on that?

MS. ESPELETA: Mr. Chair. Yes, nominee Laurie Ridle, she did email the Committee restating her intent to withdraw.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Thank you very much for that. So that being said, that leaves us two applicants, Mr. Scott Hansen and Ms. Michelle Lelle. I called all of the applicants last night and invited them to the proceedings this morning to provide just a brief overview of themselves personally, and why they would like to be considered for this Commission. I believe I see Mr. Hansen on the line. Is Ms. Lelle on the line as well?

MS. ESPELETA: Mr. Chair, she has joined...

MS. LELLE: Aloha. Yeah.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay, she is there?

MS. LELLE: Can you hear me okay?

CHAIR MOLINA: Yes, we can hear you very good.

MS. LELLE: Hello?

CHAIR MOLINA: Thank you, Ms. Lelle, for making yourself present.

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MS. LELLE: Hi, good morning.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Can you hear us, Ms. Lelle?

MS. LELLE: Yes, sir. Thank you so much for having me.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Very good. Very good. All right. Let me proceed first with getting some details with this particular matter. Members, if you recall, the Council passed Ordinance 5230, which amended Section 2.31.020 of the Maui County Code, to require each of the Council's nine appointees to demonstrate experience that is relevant to this Commission in one of the Councilmember residency areas. And Members, if you will recall, in order to receive additional applicants from the West Maui residency area specifically, the application deadline was extended to February 19, 2021. The Council moved forward with appointing eight of the nine commission members with the adoption of Resolution 21-59. And in addition to that, the Mayor named his two commission appointees at the Council meeting of March 5th, 2021. The focus of today's discussion is to make a recommendation for the last pending seat for a term expiring on March 31st, 2024. And a copy of the board listing for this Commission has been uploaded to your Granicus. And attached to the proposed resolution posted on today's agenda are Exhibits A and B. Exhibit B contains the names of the applicants who applied by the February 19th, 12:00 noon deadline. And Members were emailed a copy of these applications for review back in March 2021, and again last week, for preparation for today's meeting. At the end of today's discussion, the name of the Committee...the name the Committee recommends to fill the West Maui residency area seat will be placed on Exhibit A. So at this time, since we now are down to just two applicants, the Chair would like to ask first Mr. Scott Hansen to just provide a one to two-minute overview or summary of himself, and also to tell us why he would like to be selected to this Commission. Good morning, Mr. Hansen. Please proceed.

MR. HANSEN: Good morning. Good morning. Thank you. I think most of you know that I am the Executive Director of Maui Rescue Mission. And so we decided that Jelena Dackovic and myself that she should probably continue to do her street outreach while I do these kinds of things. So I have been working the homeless community for over six years. I started in New York City. I worked there for quite some time before coming here to Maui. The whole reason I'm on Maui is for...to address the homeless community as the Executive Director of Maui Rescue Mission. What we do at Maui Rescue Mission is the biggest point is to collaborate and to work with others that are also trying to solve this problem and deal with this issue. So for me to be on this Commission, I think it's important to link arms with other people that are trying to collaborate and solve this issue. We've made great strides in the last two years that we've been working primarily on the West Side. I do live in Ha'ikū; however, the majority of the work that we've been doing currently is in the West Side. And we've been serving approximately 100 or so people a week on that side. So I think that my experience, both in New York and since I've been on Maui, would be an asset to this Committee, and I think that...I hope that I

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have a lot to offer. And I would also just like to link arms with people and understand all facets of what is being done to address this issue.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay --

MR. HANSEN: And...

CHAIR MOLINA: -- thank you very much. Oh, go ahead, Mr. Hansen. I'm sorry.

MR. HANSEN: No, I think that's about all I have. I would love to answer any questions you guys have. Thank you, Council.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Thank you very much, Mr. Hansen. Okay, Members, now I would like to invite Ms. Lelle to give us an overview of herself and why she would like to be considered for this Commission. Ms. Lelle.

MS. LELLE: Thank you very much. I appreciate the opportunity. I lived on West Maui for the last ten years, and in that time, I've been fortunate enough to be a mother, as well a business owner, and really see how homelessness has impacted our lives. My children attended the Boys and Girls Club, which is a beautiful mix of some children that were well off, but also some children that lived within the homeless shelters nearby. Separately, my business that I own downtown for several years ultimately was closed due to issues with homeless people that were not having their needs met that affected my business. Most recently I had donated a plot to the Hungry Homeless Heroes, and was working with them to help caretake my community garden spot to go feed them, as well as provide for my own family. And I feel like I bring a unique perspective because I have served on other councils as one of the directors and founding members of the Hawai'i Farmers Association beginning in 2017, and we passed legislation last year, and I resigned from the board in January. So I would like to address this issue specifically because even as recent as this past weekend, my son, who is autistic, had fled a center here on O'ahu and was missing for a couple of days, at which time, he himself didn't have a place. And so I can recognize from both mental health needs all the way to food and community support needs. I'm one of the parcel owners at Honolua Bay, and there one of the gentlemen that is a descendant is also homeless, but living on the property and...you know, so I've been helping to support him for over a year and a half, and really see where the . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Native Hawaiians need to have more support as well, and how that can play into the overall community planning to make sure that business owners and homeless people can really work together to find the solutions. We're a small community, and we have the resources to do it, we just need the right communication and legislation. Thank you so much.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Thank you very much, Ms. Lelle, for your opening comments. So Members, the Chair is going to proceed in this fashion. I'd like to now recognize West Maui Member Paltin to offer the Committee a recommendation. Ms. Paltin.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. You know, I'm very grateful for the willingness to serve of these folks. My first choice would have been Jelena Dackovic, but hearing this morning that she has withdrawn her application, for me, I would go with...I would recommend Scott...Mr. Scott Hansen. You know, he had his application in in the very beginning. Very familiar with his work, and I just feel that, you know, with his network and resources could really further the goals for the West Maui area. Although I am very grateful for Ms. Lelle's application as well. For this term, I would recommend Mr. Scott.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. So, Member Paltin, would you like to frame that in a motion?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sure, I move to *(audio interference)*

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Motion made by Member Paltin to place the name of Mr. Scott Jansen [sic] --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR MOLINA: -- on Exhibit B and to approve. Is there a second?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay, seconded by Chair Lee. All right. Very good. So at this point, Members, I'm going to have some flexibility to ask the nominee, Mr. Jansen [sic] any questions that you may have. I believe since Member Paltin already stated she's quite familiar with Mr. Jansen's [sic] work, I'm going to open it up to any other Members who may have questions for Mr. Jansen [sic] so if you could make yourself available, Mr. Jansen [sic] in the event we have some Committee Members with questions. Members, Chair's going to reduce the time, sorry, to two minutes because I know we have a couple of other items and I do want to get you out of here on time. We have a question or two for you from Member King, Mr. Hansen. Go ahead, Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Aloha, Mr. Hansen. Thank you for applying for this very important Commission. How long have you been on Maui? You said you've been here working mostly in West Maui, but you didn't say how long that was.

MR. HANSEN: Oh, yes. So I took the position of Executive Director for Maui Rescue Mission in May.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Just how long...just give me...

MR. HANSEN: May 19...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: If you can just give me...

MR. HANSEN: So I've been on Maui since September 6th of 2019.

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay.

MR. HANSEN: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So two years.

MR. HANSEN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: And what are your plans for...I mean, is this it? You're planning to stay here?

MR. HANSEN: Yes, yes. This is my full-time plan.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, and you actually...you know, you don't have to go into detail, but you have ideas for Healing Solutions that you aren't seeing happening right now?

MR. HANSEN: Absolutely. Absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, so you have some proposals to make for going forward if you get on this Commission?

MR. HANSEN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. And then do you have any plans to relocate to West Maui, or are you planning to stay in Ha'ikū and just continue working in West Maui?

MR. HANSEN: For now, as long as I have my three children, we're probably going to stay Upcountry and keep them in the schools they're in. But you know, if it ends up that I move out there, that's definitely a possibility, but no current plans.

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

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Thank you very much, Member King. I saw Member Sugimura with her hand up, but before I recognize her, Chair would just like to restate the motion. It should be the motion is to amend Exhibit A to the proposed resolution by inserting the name of Scott Hansen, West Maui, for a term expiring on March 31st, 2024. So just wanted to get that into the record appropriately...to make sure the motion is framed appropriately, I should say. Okay, let's go to Member Sugimura. Questions for Mr. Hansen? Proceed.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you, Chair. I think this is a question for you if I could. So Maui Rescue Mission, do they receive funding from the County of Maui currently? I'm just wondering if there might be a conflict of interest if they do. Especially with the important work he's doing, I don't want this to hinder his good work. We heard a

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presentation from him before.

CHAIR MOLINA: Oh, you know --

MR. HANSEN: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Just curious.

CHAIR MOLINA: -- I'll turn that question over to Mr. Hansen.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay.

CHAIR MOLINA: Go ahead.

MR. HANSEN: Thank you. Yes, currently we do not receive any funding from the County or the State. It's all private churches, as well as community members and small grants.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. And I wonder then if he was to be on this Commission, and if there was funding opportunities available to him, would this hinder him or stop him from being able to apply because he's on this important Commission? I'm just curious.

CHAIR MOLINA: Maybe . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Maybe it's a question for Corp. Counsel maybe.

CHAIR MOLINA: Corp. Counsel.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah.

CHAIR MOLINA: I guess...Mr. Murai has rejoined us. Mr. Murai, can you respond to Member Sugimura's question?

MR. MURAI: Member Sugimura, could you restate your question please?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So Mr. Hansen, he is in charge of...Executive Director, whatever your title is, I apologize, Maui Rescue Mission. And he does work with the homeless right now. You may have heard him saying that he does get private funding--congratulations on that--and primarily churches. And just because of the nature of us and the work that we do, the Council, and we provide funding opportunities, I wonder if...if Mr. Hansen then was on this Commission it would hinder him from then being able to apply for County grants or opportunities within this . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

MR. MURAI: Thank you. Mr. Chair, if I may, I'm not sure whether Mr. Hansen's organization...well, I'm sorry. I don't know what role, if any, the Healing Solutions for

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the Homeless Commission would have in reviewing or approving applications for grant funding. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . But should that come up, then I would suggest to...you know, assuming for the sake of discussion, Mr. Hansen is a member of the commission, and should that situation arise, he may consider whether to seek guidance from the Board of Ethics. As Members are well aware, the Board of Ethics looks for potential financial conflicts where, you know, Mr. Hansen's...any board member's participation may give the organization an unfair advantage. And as, you know, Members are also aware, it kind of depends on how the matter comes up before the board or commission. You know, does it come together as a package where one appropriation would fund multiple organizations, or would it be organizations coming to seek individual appropriations? So I'm taking a long time to say it's not black and white, and I would say that it is very case or fact specific. However, any member of the commission should consider the nature of their outside relationships, financial relationships, and whether they may participate in the discussion, whether they may vote on the matter or not.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Thank you for the question.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: That was my question. Thank you very much.

CHAIR MOLINA: All right. Thank you very much Member Sugimura. Members, any other questions for Mr. Hansen? We'll go with Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I just want to stand in strong support of Scott Hansen's nomination. Maui Rescue Mission has worked really well with my office. I've gone out with them and saw what they're...what...the work they're doing. So I just want to be real quick and real short. I stand in strong support for this nomination. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Thank you very much, Mr. Johnson. Members, any other questions for our nominee to the Homeless Solutions Commission, Mr. Hansen? Okay, Committee Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I don't have any further questions for Mr. Hansen, but I just wanted to state for the record, following up on Member Sugimura's comments, that there are other commissioners that are part of organizations that receive grants --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, that's right.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- from the County, including Family Life Center, which is actually one of the required seats is to have someone from Family Life Center, you know, the Homeless Commission...you know, the Alliance on Homeless...something like that. Anyway, so because we have individuals that also receive County grants, that as

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Mr. Hansen is going to be required to go before the Board of Ethics, that the other commissioners would also need to do the same. That's all. Consistency. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR MOLINA: Yeah. Thank you, Committee Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez. Very good point. Members, any other questions for Mr. Hansen at this point prior to the Chair's recommendation? Okay. Excuse me...well, the recommendation's already been made. We do have a motion on the floor, let me clear that up. So we do have a motion on the floor, which is to approve Mr. Hansen for a term expiring on March 31st, 2024. If there is no other questions for Mr. Hansen, then the Chair will call for the vote unless someone else would like to speak to the motion to support. Okay, seeing none, Chair will call for the vote. All those in favor, signify by saying aye and raising your hand.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED AYE.

CHAIR MOLINA: All those opposed? Okay, thank you very much, Members. The vote is eight ayes with one excusal, Member Kama. Congratulations to you, Mr. Hansen, your matter will go to the full Council for a final vote in the near future. Very good. Good job, Members.

**VOTE: AYES: Chair Molina, Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez,
 Councilmembers Johnson, King, Lee, Paltin, Sinenci,
 and Sugimura.**

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember Kama.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION APPROVING SCOTT HANSEN.

CHAIR MOLINA: All right. Members, we are on our last two items for the day. And if there are no objections, I'd like to take up GREAT Items 33 and 34 simultaneously. Any objections to that?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

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GREAT-33 APPOINTMENTS TO SOUTH MAUI ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CC 21-228)

GREAT-34 APPOINTMENTS TO PAIA-HAIKU ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CC 21-229)

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Well, that was loud and clear. I will...if you recall, Ordinance 52-10, copies of which are attached to Items 33 and 34, established two new advisory committees to the Maui Planning Commission, one for the South Maui Community planning area, and one for the Pā'ia-Ha'ikū community planning area. And in accordance to Section 2.28.050(b) of Maui County Code, to be eligible to be a member of this advisory committee, a person must be a resident of the relevant community plan area for a period of at least 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the appointment. And under Section 2.28.050(c) of the Code, the advisory committee must consist of seven members. Council is responsible for appointing five members, the Mayor is responsible for appointing the remaining two members. And under the same section of this code, the terms of the advisory committee are five-year terms, except initial terms must be staggered with four members each receiving five-year terms, and three members each receiving three-year terms as selected by lots. Now, today's discussion will focus on the process to appoint the Council's five members each to the South Maui Advisory Committee and the Pā'ia Haiku Advisory Committee. And as I mentioned earlier, the Mayor will be responsible for his own process to appoint his two members each to the advisory committees. The Chair, together with Councilmember King, worked with an advisory group over many months on the bill that eventually established these two advisory committees. So therefore, the Chair will propose using the version of the board application transmitted to Items 33 and 34, copies of which have been uploaded to the Granicus. And after today's meeting, the Chair will issue a press release advertising the call for anyone interested in applying for the South Maui or Pā'ia-Ha'ikū Advisory Committees. OCS Communications Staff will work with Administration to post a link to the applications and information about the advisory committees on the County's website. And as noted on the bottom of the application, I propose completed applications to be emailed to the great.committee@mauicounty.us with a reference to GREAT Item 33 if applying for the South Maui Advisory Committee, or GREAT 34 if applying for the Pā'ia-Ha'ikū Advisory Committee. And applications may also be dropped off in a drop box located in front of the County building, or faxed or mailed to the Office of Council Services. The application deadline will be 4:30 p.m. on August 23rd, 2021. And once applications start to come in, the GREAT Staff will send links of the incoming applications for your review prior to a future GREAT meeting, which will be scheduled to discuss and consider the individuals who applied by the deadline. So I've said a mouthful, I'd like to now recognize my colleague from South Maui, Councilmember King, if she has anything else to add to the process.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Well, I think that was pretty good. I guess my one thought on...you were pretty thorough, but on the three versus five years, that we would give the Mayor's two appointments...one would be a three-year, one would be a five-year, and then the remaining five split up between the three and five-year, you know, appointments if that's

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amenable to everybody on the Committee. I think that would be a fair way to do the Mayor's appointments.

CHAIR MOLINA: Yeah, I think that's palatable for me. Members, any comments on Member King's suggestion? So basically, the Mayor's two appointments, one would have a three-year appointment, the other five. And then amongst our five nominees, I would presume, what, three would get five years, and the other two would get three years. Something along those lines; am I correct?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah.

CHAIR MOLINA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I think that would be great. And, you know, we have...we have...from South Maui, we have a list of people who have been serving, and some of them wish to continue to apply. So I guess I would just send the application out to all of them, and ask them to apply to the GREAT Committee.

CHAIR MOLINA: Yeah. Yeah. And I guess then at that future GREAT meeting when we're considering the applicants, we'll do what Member Rawlins displayed for the Homeless Solutions, we'll draw lots to see who gets the five year and the three year. Simple but very innovative process, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. So Members, any objections to that caveat added to that process by Member King?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No objections.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay, very good. Members, any other comments on what the...on this Chair's recommendation for these two matters? Okay. All right. So basically then, if there are no other comments, then Staff, again, the deadline for all applications to come in will be August 23rd at 4:00 p.m. And upon the receipt of those applications after the deadline, we'll summarily issue all of the applications that come in over time for your review, so by the time we get to the meeting itself, many of you will have had the opportunity to look at the applications. And you are free to certainly call all of the applicants as well to do some questionings before the actual meeting. I'm looking at potentially a timetable of around maybe September of taking up all of the applicants or the process of addressing the applicants. Something I wanted to add, Members, you know, because these two advisory committees are in my district and Member King's district, I would just like to throw it out there, if no one has any objections, to leave the nomination process to myself as the area representative for Pā'ia-Ha'ikū, and Member King, if you have any objections to that. Now, of course, you can state your concerns if you are not in support of our recommendations with your vote in Committee. But I would ask for that consideration, if you could leave that up to us, then by the time the meeting comes, myself and Member King will submit five recommendations to the Committee for consideration. Any objections to that process?

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COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Just a question. Would we be seeing all the nominations? Like how sometimes when the Mayor has nominations, point was we didn't get to see all the nominations (*audio interference*)

CHAIR MOLINA: You mean from...out of the Mayor's Office?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No, no. Out of the Council choices.

CHAIR MOLINA: Oh, yeah. They would be public documents. We could...you know, upon the meeting, it could be disclosed well prior to the meeting. I'm trying to recall how we did it with the Homeless Solutions. I believe all the applicant's names were made public, if I'm correct. Staff, can you confirm that for me in the call?

MS. ESPELETA: Mr. Chair, just to clarify the process that we used for the Homeless Commission, once applications came in, they were saved to a OneDrive, and Members were given access to that OneDrive to view all applications that came in by the designated deadline. And I believe...I have to recall. I believe we did list...yes, we did list all applicants who applied for the Homeless Commissions, and that was all part of the public record.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. So I guess we'll do the same for this, these two advisory committees, if there are no objections. Now, as far as the Mayor...as far as disclosing all of the applicants, now I believe he's only entitled to submit the names of his nominees. Now, it's certainly up to him if he would like to make...list all of the applicants public out of his office. That would be strictly up to him and his Staff. So we can certainly ask, but again, ultimately it's the Mayor's call as it relates to his nominees if he wants to disclose the names of all of the applicants and the people who applied out of his office, through his office for the two positions from South Maui and Pā'ia-Ha'ikū. Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah. Thank you, Chair. Yeah. Thanks for asking that, Member Paltin, because it's certainly something we've been asking for. And so we should set the example and make those names, you know, known. Hopefully the Mayor will also have access to the list of applicants in case he wants to make any, you know, the folks that apply to the GREAT Committee, maybe he would want to pick applicants out of for his choices. But the other thing I wanted to bring up is that I believe that we put into the Budget the extra staff that the Planning Department needs to support these two...and I think we made them ten-month positions.

CHAIR MOLINA: Yeah.

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

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CHAIR MOLINA: Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So...

CHAIR MOLINA: This is a great segue because I do have Director McLean on the line --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

CHAIR MOLINA: -- if you'd like any...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, yeah. I was just going to ask how that was going because that would indicate that we would start in the beginning of September. But if we're only going to appoint these folks, it looks like we would be starting in October. But it doesn't mean that they can't put those hires in place for training or whatever to prepare them, you know, by September 1st because that would be...that would be a ten-month period from September 1st to the following June 30th. So that's great if she's here and she could maybe tell us, you know, how they're doing on hires.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay, yeah. Thank you. Director McLean, if you could provide us an update on this matter for the Committee.

MS. MCLEAN: Sure. Thank you, Chair. Thanks for asking. We are planning, hoping to have the staffing in place and ready to go starting in October.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay.

MS. MCLEAN: We did secure additional office space in One Main Plaza with the FY'22 funding that the Council provided. So we have the space secured. We are cockroaching cubicles and all kinds of components from other departments that are moving to the service center, and we're just grabbing whatever we can. It's going to be a little bit of a hodgepodge, but we will save as much money as we can getting that set up. We have created the position descriptions, forwarded them to DPS for approval. We also have to consult with HGEA because it will involve a reorganization. Because we have new supervisors and new supervisory duties, we're going to be creating a different section in our current Planning Division that really focuses on boards and commissions. So that will be the boards and commissions secretaries, as well as the supervisor, just to coordinate all of those agendas and all the timing. So because the supervisory duties will change, it's consultation with HGEA. We don't anticipate any problems with that, but it's the process that we have to follow. So all of that is underway. It's been going smoothly so far, knock wood. So with those being okayed then, we would be ready to recruit for those positions. So we're on track. We should be able to start occupying that new suite October 1st. In the meantime, we can make do if we are able to hire people earlier just to get them trained and so forth. But so far, it seems that we're on track.

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CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Thank you for that update, Director McLean. Members, any other questions for Director McLean at this point on getting the staffing in place for the advisory committees? If...I have just one question, optimistically assuming the Council gets through the process of approving all of the applicants on the various...on the two advisory committees by, say, at the end of September, optimistically, Director McLean, how...you could have everything in place, ready to go by when? Say, November? Sooner? Later?

MS. MCLEAN: If board and commission members are appointed by the end of September, and our staffing's in place and all that, then the first thing we would do would be to contact the members and see about scheduling meetings. When are they available? You know, daytime, evenings. You know, for the...so far, it looks like at least initially they'd probably be virtual, but moving to in-person meetings at some point. So that, you know, the first thing we would do, we'd have to put together an orientation for them, they'd need to do their oath of office and just all of the administrative stuff that comes with serving on a County board or commission. But we...it would be figuring out when they're available to meet, and what applications we might have on the horizon ready for them to review.

CHAIR MOLINA: So would it be safe to say once all the applicants are on place on the various advisory committees, you'd need an additional maybe 30 days to work out all of these other logistics then?

MS. MCLEAN: Not necessarily. I mean, those kinds of things, if everyone is responsive and available, then we could have meetings in October. And we have applications ready to take to them --

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay.

MS. MCLEAN: -- they could meet in October. Certainly the first meeting would be orientation --

CHAIR MOLINA: Yeah.

MS. MCLEAN: -- on...you know, on the Code of Ethics and the...all the basic administrative orientation that we give to everybody.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay, good. That's nice to hear because I thought maybe October might be a little too optimistic on my end. But if you can make it work by October, hey, I'm certainly totally pleased. Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah. Thank you, Chair. Thanks so much, Director McLean, for that update. And I'm optimistic that we would be ready to go because, you know, we have some people hopefully that will be on this new one that are already experienced in

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dealing with the issues. Probably some of the other things that they would need orientation on would be Sunshine Law because we're going to be moving from a...you know, private meetings to very public meetings and public notices and everything. I wasn't able to open it up to the public before because, you know, the folks were volunteers, and they weren't protected because they weren't an official board. But...so they'll need some...I think all the new applicants, the new appointees will need that kind of orientation too, but the...for the other part is finding a meeting place when they do get to in-person meetings. So I agree, I think the first meeting should be virtual, and especially because we don't know what's happening with this variant and if the restrictions are going to return. But I would be happy to work with you for South Maui. I'm looking for space right now for a district office, and one of the areas I'm looking at would be, like, the MEDB building that has that meeting space in it that we would have access to. So I'm very conscious of needing meeting space for the advisory committee meetings and would...and happy to work with you on South Maui. And I'm sure the Chair is happy to work with you on Pā'ia-Ha'ikū area as well.

MS. MCLEAN: Thank you. And one thing I'd note about South Maui is around the same time frame, we will be asking you to appoint members for the South Maui Advisory Committee for the community plan update.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Right.

MS. MCLEAN: So if we can do both, if you have a lot of applicants, that's a good thing because you have two bodies to appoint. And same thing with meeting space, needing to figure out where that CPAC will be able to meet as well once we're able to meet in person again.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, great. Thank you so much. And you haven't been...the Department hasn't been paying for a meeting space for these types of meetings, have you? Did you pay for our meeting space for the CPAC up in West Maui?

MS. MCLEAN: I think we did. It was nominal, but I believe we did when we weren't able to get the senior center.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. That's good to keep in mind. All right. Thank you.

MS. MCLEAN: Okay. Thank you very much, Member King. All right, Members, any final questions before we close today for GREAT Items 33 and 34? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh. Didn't have any of the things in the bill about like how, you know, the Planning Commission has someone with environmental knowledge or someone with a cultural knowledge or any of that? Or even like, you know, someone with building knowledge. So is that just something that you will individually look for, like, the diversity of the crowd?

CHAIR MOLINA: Yeah. I believe I recall some of the discussions had to include a person with

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cultural background...at least one person. Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, Chair. So that was an...actually an ordinance that we passed, I believe it's Title 19, so you could handle that in PSLU. Because the original ordinance--and Member Rawlins-Fernandez remembers this because she was a testifier from Moloka'i at the time--the original ordinance which we amended was for an environmental expert on every planning commission, and we named the Hāna Advisory. So we might need to go back and change that to every planning commission and every advisory committee. And then later on, the next term, we added the...or we did the native Hawaiian cultural expert first, then later on we added the environmental expert in the second term. So those may be things that you could take care of in PSLU because I did that as the Planning Committee Chair. So I think you can add...just change the language so it just refers to all advisory committees. And then that way, as we add more advisory committees, that would automatically apply.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. But if it doesn't apply now, that is some diversity that you would be looking for --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- because you're saying that you each are appointing or recommending your own committee. So there is a commitment to do that, even though it isn't currently the way it is?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Correct. I would...especially as the person who originally tried to get those both in at the same time, and I had to do it...I had to do it in two separate terms, but I am very committed to making sure that those...that we have that expertise on the advisory committee.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Thank you, Member King. I see Director McLean would like to weigh in on the conversation. Director.

MS. MCLEAN: Thank you, Chair. It's actually Chapter 2.28 of the Maui County Code --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay.

MS. MCLEAN: -- rather than Title 19 because that's where all of the board and commissions are. And it says that at least one member of each planning commission and advisory committee --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh.

MS. MCLEAN: -- must have demonstrated expertise in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, and then at least one member of each planning commission and each advisory committee must have a background in conservation --

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay.

MS. MCLEAN: -- natural resources, or climate change.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, that's great. So there's no change...so we just made it all advisory committees, so we don't have to make any changes in that then. So are we set?

MS. MCLEAN: I would point out for Councilmember Johnson, it does say at least one member of each planning commission, except the Lānaʻi Planning Commission. And each advisory committee must have a background in conservation, natural resources, or climate change.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Right. So that was a condition that was put in by Member Hokama at the time, that he...and you're very welcome to add that back in if you wish, Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh, I wish.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

CHAIR MOLINA: All right. Thank you very much, Member King and Member Johnson, for those comments. Also, I just wanted to add. We're fortunate, Member King and I, to have very active community associations, and it's been indicated to us that they will certainly help in getting the word out to get people out there to apply for advisory committees. So I just want to thank them for getting involved in this process. So anyway, Members, any last words? So again, the deadline for applications will be August 23rd, 4:00 p.m. So be on the lookout after that date for applications that are received by the Committee for your review. And we are certainly well versed now in this process, thanks to going through the Homeless Solutions process, with regards to the application process and so forth, and interviews, and everything else. So I look forward to the process, which will come up in September sometime, one of our meetings in September, to look at the recommendations made by myself and Member King for your consideration for these respective advisory committees. So Chair Lee, do you have a question? Oh, okay. I thought I saw your hand went up. Okay. Oh, you're just waving goodbye, I guess, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: She's saying goodbye already.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, I was adjusting my computer.

CHAIR MOLINA: All right.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I have to be very careful now that it's working.

CHAIR MOLINA: Very good. Well, I'm glad to hear that good news. Okay, Members, with that being said, if there is nothing else, then the Chair will defer action on both items, GREAT-33 and -34. Any objections?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS. (Excused TK)

ACTION: DEFER both items.

CHAIR MOLINA: All right. Very good. So noted for the record. I believe this concludes our agenda for today. Staff, is there anything the Chair needs to be made aware of before we close?

MS. ESPELETA: There's nothing further, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR MOLINA: Okay. Thank you very much, Ms. Espeleta. Thank you very much, Members, for your hard work, also to the Administration, our hardworking Staff, and also to the public for weighing in on our agenda items today, and of course, all of our nominees for the respective boards and commissions. Members, we finished well ahead of schedule, so please have a...enjoy an extended lunch, and get ready for a 1:30 APT meeting under Mr. Sinenci's leadership. So thank you very much for all of your hard work, and I want to thank the viewing public as well. It is 11:37 a.m. The GREAT Committee meeting for July 20th, 2021 is now adjourned. . . .(gavel). . .

ADJOURN: 11:37 a.m.

APPROVED BY:



MICHAEL J. MOLINA, Chair
Government Relations, Ethics, and
Transparency Committee

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Transcribed by: Crystal Sakai

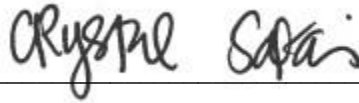
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CERTIFICATION

I, Crystal Sakai, hereby certify that pages 1 through 54 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 18th day of August 2021, in Wailuku, Hawai'i

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

Crystal Sakai