

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

September 13, 2021

Online Only Via BlueJeans

CONVENE: 9:01 a.m.

PRESENT: VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Kelly Takaya King
Councilmember Alice L. Lee
Councilmember Michael J. Molina
Councilmember Tamara Paltin
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez (in 9:18 a.m.)

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci

STAFF:

Laksmi Abraham, Legislative Analyst
Lesley Milner, Legislative Analyst
Kasie Apo Takayama, Legislative Analyst
Richard Mitchell, Legislative Attorney
Clarita Balala, Committee Secretary
Lenora Dineen, Council Services Assistant Clerk

Stacey Moniz, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Gabe Johnson
Roxanne Morita, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Gabe Johnson
Evan Dust, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Tasha Kama
Lois Whitney, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Tasha Kama
Davideane Kama-Sickels, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Tasha Kama
Axel Beers, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kelly Takaya King
Sarah Pajimola, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez
Jordan Helle, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

ADMIN.:

Jennifer M. Oana, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel
Lori Tshuhako, Director, Department of Housing and Human Concerns

OTHERS:

Dr. Kyle Caires, Extension Animal Scientist, University of Hawaii Maui College, and President, Maui County Farm Bureau
William Jacintho, President, Maui Cattlemen's Association
(2) additional attendees

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Welcome, everybody. Today is Monday, September 13th, and the time is 9:01 a.m. Welcome to the Infrastructure Transportation *[sic]* Committee. My name is Yuki Lei Sugimura. I'm the Chair of this Committee. And I'm so glad to have my Vice-Chair here, Tasha Kama. Oh, she didn't sign in yet. Anyway, she's going to join the meeting. And let's hear our greeting from Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Madam Chair, our world traveler, Tamara Paltin, upon her return from France said that many people speak Spanish in France. All that practice kind of went out the window, but buenos dias, everyone. Como estas?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Buenos dias, como estas? You are so fun. For that, I must go to Tamara Paltin. Welcome back, Tamara.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Buenos dias, hermanos y hermanas. Como se at. And that wasn't everyone in France, it was just the Indigenous People's Organization, we had plenty South American, Amazon, and like that. So the main languages were English and Spanish in the Indigenous People's Caucuses.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, how interesting. Welcome back. Welcome back. Oh, you have to tell us who's in the room with you, as well as you --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Ms. Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm at the Lāhainā District Office with Angela. Six feet apart.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Madam Chair, I'm alone in my room. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And welcome, Vice-Chair Tasha Kama. Nice to see you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: It's nice to be back. It's wonderful to see all of you, to hear all about Member Paltin's experiences in France. I'm hoping to hear more, and I'm just so excited to be back to see all of you. And you know what, you all look so much more younger. That's good.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Good morning, everyone.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Molina, all the way from Makawao. Welcome.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Buenos dias, Madam Chair. And man, I cannot top that comment from Member Kama. Good to see you again. And you look young as well. And

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also, welcome back to my colleague Member Paltin, all the way from the big island of France and I'm sure we're going to be getting a lot of great lessons from her and whatnot, but the main thing is you're safe home and everything else.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: And great to be here, Madam Chair. And I'm home alone in Makawao. Just with the dog and the birds. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's your 'ohana. And Kelly King, nice to see you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Aloha, everyone. And buenos dias. Bienvenidos, I think, is welcome. And to Member Paltin, it's nice you got to use a variety of languages over there. I am in my spare room in my house, and nobody within six feet of me. My husband's wandering around back and forth because he has his own meetings.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nice to see you, Ms. King. And not a Voting Member, but I'm so glad you joined us, this is so relevant to Hāna, Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Buenos dias, bienvenidos, Chair, mai Maui Hikina. Nice to see everybody this Monday morning. Thanks for having me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nice to see you, Mr. Sinenci. Gabe Johnson is also welcome to join us. Sometimes...I'm in the County building, and sometimes he's down the hall from me, but he's not here today. But he may join us virtually. From Department of Corporation Counsel, we have Jennifer Oana. Welcome, Jen. Department of Housing and Human Concern [sic], Lori Tsuchako, who's the Director, is going to join us. As well as...for other representatives, we have Dr. Kyle Caires, University of Hawai'i, Maui Campus. He is...works with CTAHR, as well as he's the President of Maui County Farm Bureau. Also joining us is William Jacintho, Maui Cattlemen's Association. Committee Staff, I'd like to thank Laks Abraham, Legislative Analyst, and Lesley Milner, who worked really hard to put all these things...all our meetings together. Clarita Balala, I just love having her back as Secretary. Richard Mitchell, Legislative Attorney, thank you, Remi. Lei Dineen, Council Services Assistant Clerk. Thank you, Members. Today we have one item on the agenda, which is Feral Animal Management Maui, IT-52, and we will be receiving information from the Department of Housing and Human Concerns [sic], Office of the Mayor, as well as from the...Kyle Caires and William Jacintho. So Members, I hope you will allow me to bring them on as resource personnel. Thank you, Members. Laks, do we have any testifiers?

MS. ABRAHAM: Good morning. We have one number...a phone number ending in 1316. Not sure if it's a testifier, but we can check when we get to that point.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So 1316, are you going to be testifying?

MR. JACINTHO: No. This is William.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Oh, you're one of our stars today. Thank you very much for being there. Is there anybody else would like to testify? Seeing none. So at this time then there's no testimony. I'm going to ask one more time if there's any testifiers. Seeing none, or hearing from none, we look forward to hearing from William Jacintho, who's signed up. But other than that, I'm going to close testimony, and if there's any written testimony to bring it into the record under this Committee item. So at this time, I'm going to close public testimony, Members, with your...with no objections.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

IT-52: FERAL ANIMAL MANAGEMENT ON MAUI (CC 20-140)

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So the one item we have on the agenda is IT-52, Feral Animal Management on Maui. And I'd like to thank Staff for very carefully putting this in so there wouldn't be any confusion about what animal we're going to be taking up because we've had experiences where it makes a big difference. So I wanted to just let you know this is information only, we're not voting on anything, but I wanted to bring the Committee and the community into a Maui...it looks like it's going to be Maui County Axis Deer Feral Animal Task Force. And as you may know, in February...on February 24th I had a Zoom meeting with Government officials--Federal, State, and Mayor was there--and just to talk about the growing feral animal and axis deer problem that we have here. And on August 31st, I announced the formation of the...of a task force working group to address the growing impact of feral deer across the island. Through the process, I found out that it is not only a...by the emails and telephone calls that my office has been receiving, but this is a greater problem. And it's not only on Maui, but it is definitely a problem. Of course, we know on Moloka'i, with the axis deer that were dying in the beginning of the year, that the Governor put out that emergency proclamation, as well as on Lāna'i, with the growing problem of the axis deer on all three islands. So I wanted to let the Members know that my mission for the task force, just from the communications and research that my office has done, is to manage, control feral animals as axis deer and...as well as to look for additional resources. The...we figured that the problem of the growing number of axis deer is bigger than what the County can pay for, as well as the State. And so therefore, we found that it's important to find additional resources on our Federal level. So we have networked with Congressman Kai Kahele's Office and Senator Schatz. So we are...we will launch this in our next...our first meeting will be sometime next month, or this month. We're actually doing a doodle just to find out availability of the task force members. And axis deer overpopulation has become a growing concern in our community. And as you may heard...have heard from some of your constituents...you might have...that they have axis deer in their yards, or they see axis deer on the side of the road. But it is a growing problem. And the...probably the most important thing that I think we all can stand together with is that the growing axis deer problem, what it really affects are our watersheds, right. And we've been hearing that...about that for years through the Department of Water...Department of Water, as well as the fencing that they do to protect them from

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the ungulates or whoever is, you know, invading the watershed. So I find it really important. I'm glad that Shane Sinenci is here because I'm hearing that there's a growing axis deer or feral animal problem on...in Hāna. And my biggest fear is this, Shane, is that one day, if we don't control the axis deer in Hāna, then they're going to eat away EMI, and it's going to affect the water that comes to Upcountry. So we are so connected. And that any way we can, this...the problem of the feral animal and axis deer became really important once I realized how connected we are, and how important it is that we can control this for not only our watershed, but really, the safety of our residents. So at this time, I'm going to ask...Lori Tsuhako, who's the Director of Housing and Human Concerns, has a report for you. I wanted the Department to report on the million dollars that were allocated for Fiscal Year...this past Fiscal Year 2020 to 2021, and then to talk about what she anticipates for the \$750,000 that was allocated for this current fiscal year. So Ms. Tsuhako, are you there?

MS. TSUHAKO: Yes, good morning. Good morning --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning.

MS. TSUHAKO: -- Chair Sugimura and Members. Thank you for having me. Happy Monday. I've provided OCS Staff with a table of our Fiscal Year 2021 Feral Animal Management Program Grants. Laks, are you able to...are you able to flash that on the screen?

MS. ABRAHAM: Yes, Director Tsuhako. We'll have it up in just a moment.

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you. Thank you very much. So Chair and Members, the table is broken down into the three parts of the program that were described in the allocation of funding in Fiscal Year '21. The first was \$100,000 for an assessment of feral animal management needs, and that is the very first topic on the top of that table. That funding was granted to Living Pono. And because of the limited resource, the study to assess ungulate populations was really limited to Upcountry Maui in the agricultural and watershed areas. And the table on the far right under the column update is members in the public, an update on where they are. So the next real significant report that we're expecting is due the third week in October, and then the next in January of 2022. The second allocation of funds was directed for Lāna'i. Two grantees were selected through that procurement process, The Nature Conservancy as well as Lāna'i Resorts. And you'll see that the comments under update for the Lāna'i programs mirror those in the Living Pono project, which is the next reports are due in the third week in October, and again in January. So because of the lateness of the execution of the contracts, we're sort of early in our contractual process with the agencies, and we haven't received a great deal of outcome measurements from the grantees except for one. And that brings us to the Moloka'i grants that were issued. Nature Conservancy was granted almost \$100,000 on Moloka'i to eliminate feral animals, specifically the axis deer, in 175 acres of coastal fenced area through fencing and hunting. And then the second grant was to the Moloka'i Humane Society, which was a fiscal sponsor for the Moloka'i Hunting Club. And this is the exception that I spoke of earlier because the Moloka'i Hunting Club has actually begun intervention activities. They conducted more hunts, 90, than were proposed, 72. They removed a fewer number of animals than was proposed in their

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grant, but they also donated many more pounds of the venison than had been proposed. So the Grants Management Division is currently in the process of verifying expenses and documentations of those outcomes, and we should have that done right around the same time that the October reports are due for the other grantees. Can we go down one page please, Laks? Thank you. So the last portion of this table has to do with Maui grants that were given for the Island of Maui. So Living Pono project was granted \$25,000 for feral chicken relocation and egg donations, so specifically to trap and relocate feral chickens from Central Maui and to donate eggs. They're in their startup phase. And they've...they reported some outcomes, like 25 chickens removed versus the 1,000 that they're proposed. And again, reporting due third week in October. Living Pono also received a \$138,966 grant to do the Maui Deer Management and Venison Donation Program. They've had some outcome so far, 30 USDA certified harvests, 379 does removed, 3,100 pounds of venison donated, and two community organizations identified for the donation. And again, we expect reports the third week in October. And the last one is Lokahi Pacific as the fiscal sponsor for the Kula Hunting Club. The Kula Hunting Club has already started up. They've ordered equipment, they've organized 26 harvests, 100 deer have been removed, and already 3,300 pounds of venison donated. So that is the current status of the Fiscal Year 2021 grants in the Feral Animal Management Program. We are...the Department is expecting that we'll post an invitation to apply for funding for the Fiscal Year 2022 program in October 1st, with a due date of October 31st, with the proposed period of January to December 2022 or similar or up to, but usually not exceeding 12 months. Most of the Fiscal Year '21 grants that were just reviewed with you are scheduled to end in December of 2021. So as I've said before, our Department is not...we don't have any experts in the field of feral animal management. My Staff has done their very best to learn about this new field, and to try and craft both the invitations to bid, as well as the review of the grant applications with the help of community experts who have far more expertise in this area than we do. So we will follow the provisos that this body included in the Budget, and try to make sure that our invitation to bid and the responses demonstrate what's needed in the community, and try to address those things. I think the material that you have in front of you also talks about some of the other considerations that the Department would have on...in making selections and doing the grants for the Feral Animal Management Program for Fiscal Year '22. Thank you very much, Chair. That's all I have for the presentation.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Lori. And thank you for taking on the task of administering these grants. Oh, Keani's here. Hi, Keani. Welcome to the meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Buenos dias kākou. I'm here at the Moloka'i District Office by myself. My apologies for being tardy.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Welcome to the meeting. Thank you very much. So we're talking about all the grants that were just administered. And as all of us know, the grants, I think, were...went out late because we had some confusion about how to use the million dollar grant that was put in last Budget. The way it was interpreted during Committee, not necessarily during the Budget, it sounded like a million dollars had to be used for a

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management plan only, and not for the control or management of the axis deer or ungulates. So that was cause for delay, is that correct, Lori, for the grants to go out?

MS. TSUHAKE: Yes, it was.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So thank you. So the correction as you see with Fiscal Year 2021 Feral Animal Management Program Grants, 100,000 were for an assessment study. And then 300,000 per inhabited island, so Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Maui all got 300,000 for grant opportunities, which is what Lori just reported on. You know, Lori, so these...I had questions from the community as to why they didn't get, like, groups that were involved in farming or, you know, ranching...why they didn't just get the money. Can you explain how people get this...these funds from you?

MS. TSUHAKE: Yeah. Thank you for your question, Chair. The Department did a formal procurement for this funding, as we do for most other funds that are not line itemed into the Budget with specific grantees identified. And part of the reason is that there has to be some level of fairness and...in terms of access to the...to that funding. And also, the Department needs an opportunity to vet the potential grantees as well. Because any grantee who receives County funds has to meet certain minimal eligibility requirements. So that's the reason that we have to follow a procedure. We cannot just simply, you know, like oh, I know so and so is a rancher and he deals with this, let me give him the money. We have to ensure that our County tax funds are spent in a way that doesn't expose the County to additional liability, that the nonprofit receiving the funds is actually eligible, and that there's some sort of checks and balances about whether the nonprofit is capable of doing the work that they proposed to do. So all of those...all of those reasons sort of dictated that we go through a procurement. And my hope is though that, you know, those folks who felt like, well, I didn't know and I could've applied will take notice of the October date where the Department...when the Department will issue an invitation to bidders this year for the Fiscal Year '22 funds, and will start preparing and thinking about, well, you know, I think my agency or my organization can do this work. And they can look at the previous invitation and the scope of the work that was published in the previous invitation and kind of start beginning to put together their documents, and get their capacity built so that they can apply just like everybody else would for those funds. I would really encourage that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. And of course, you have a panel that reviews the grants for...and scores it, or you have some kind of process for fairness, correct?

MS. TSUHAKE: That is correct. So we have people who are...who have had a long history of expertise in areas like watershed protection and feral animal management, and we try to...I'm not sure that we've actually selected the review committee yet, but we hope to put that group together. They're all volunteers, and they all declared that they have no ethical constraints that makes them ineligible to be a (*audio interference*) on that panel, and then we proceed with the evaluation. It's an open process, so the group evaluates all the proposals one by one on their own, and they come together and they make a discussion, and then they do their scores, and then prioritize by scoring the applicants for the...in comparison to the funding that's available.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Lori, for clarifying our Government process. So...and thank you for following it. I'm going to ask Members if you have questions for Lori, three minutes each because she has to go off to a meeting, and then we'll have Dr. Kyle Caires from CTAHR, Maui County Farm Bureau, and William Jacintho after. So I hope you don't mind. So Laks, can you time everybody three minutes?

MS. ABRAHAM: Yes, I will.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So at this time, Vice-Chair Tasha Kama, good to see you, and do you have a question for Lori Tsuhako?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Good morning, Chair. It's nice to be back here. It's good to see you again, Lori. So I don't have a question for you this morning. I'm just going to stand by and listen to what everyone else has to say. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, thank you. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Good morning, Director. I was just wondering, are we only going to talk about the details of grants, or can we talk about the content?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you can talk about the content. The next presenters are going to talk about the feral animal problems that they understand --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- from CTAHR and from --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- I'm sorry, Maui Cattlemen's Association.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So Director, in these grants, are...is someone working on actual control besides, yeah, eliminating them...like besides killing them, I mean, like sterilization or...so that's one. And then is anybody working on long-term issues, like how do we...are we able to commercialize the use of the deer? Because that has been a huge stumbling block, you know, forever. You know, and it's irritating that nobody really took it on. Just because it's hard, you know. Somebody has to fight for this because this could have been a new industry for Hawai'i, and it's not. And it's just like everybody's just skipping around it because the Department of Health has made it so difficult. But difficult can be overcome. So I was just wondering if somebody's working along those lines, Director.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So if I could, Chair, it...Lori is administering the grants that she announced. That question is probably more for Kyle Caires and William Jacintho --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- as we get into kind of the details. So if you don't mind...but so relevant. Lori, do you have an answer for that, or is that more Kyle Caires?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you very much, Chair. And thank you very much, Council Chair, for your question. I think that question probably is better suited for your other resources on the Committee. But I will say that, you know, one of...the Nature Conservancy grant on Moloka'i really is doing more than just the hunting, which is primarily the mode of intervention for some of the other grantees dealing with the axis deer. They're trying to do, in conjunction with hunting, the fencing. But none of the grantees specifically has a plan noted in their grants for the purposes of developing economic industry, other than dealing with the actual management of the animal. So...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. All right. Thanks. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good question, Chair Lee. Next, Tasha Kama. Oh, you said you didn't have a question, right, for Lori. Sorry about that. Kelly King, do you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. If I can get my icon to work. Okay. There, can you hear me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, I have just a follow up...first a follow up to Alice's question because I know there were people working on this years ago. In fact, Phyllis Robinson did a workshop at the college on what it would take to get USDA certification for the axis deer issue. So there are people in our County who have some background with trying to get this off the ground from probably about 12 years ago, something like that. And have you linked back in with any of those folks, Lori?

MS. TSUHAKE: Councilmember King, no, we have not. I think when this...when the Feral Animal Management funding was established in the County Budget years ago, I believe it was within the Office of Economic Development. And OED had tried to sort of make those connections with the economic development strategies about the venison and creating some industry out of that, but that hadn't translated well into our Department. Which is one of the reasons that I suggested, you know, during the past (*audio interference*) that it might be...the funding might be better administered through OED again, or through another Department with more expertise, and the ability to do both of those strategies at the same time.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Thank you for that answer. And then how much of an effort has been put into trying to bring in other local hunters than the organized groups that you have on that list? Because there's a lot of hunters across the island that, you know, are licensed hunters that are hunting axis deer...and we have some from...on our farm that come really regularly. And all these folks should be part of that conversation as

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well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So I think I'll take that question because that's more a task force question, rather a grant question. So if I could...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. And then the other question I had, just so I don't run out of time, was if anyone's looked at the feral axis deer in South Maui because we have quite a population in Makena. In fact, there's a...there's a hunting organization out there too.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Yeah, there is. Okay, yeah. So that's all been part of what we've collected information. So you have any other questions, Kelly, on that?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No, but she...but, you know, when Lori was going over that, she said they pretty much just stuck to the Kula population, so...but you said the task force is looking at the other populations on the island?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So there...the grant with Living Pono Project for Kia LLC that's doing the axis deer assessment study is from Ulupalakua all the way through Pā'ia, and basically looking at Central Maui with eyes on West Maui, Hāna, I think we're going to actually end up getting information about a lot of the island in the final assessment. But there is a group in Makena. I did get a call from a hunting group, he's a retired firefighter that gets called out with his hunters. They're all licensed and have DLNR permits, and they do it within the law. And basically they help the golf courses with axis deer and pigs basically, that have been infiltrating on their property. So yeah...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So there's an effort to quantify those?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: And then you were going to make a comment about getting local hunters involved?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So okay, as far as the...on the task force, because of the many calls that we...I did a...oh, wait, let's finish off our questions, if I could, for Lori, because she has to go to a meeting. So sorry about that. Kelly, I will get back to the task force. Do you have any other question?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No, that was just my question for Lori to...you know, what we're doing --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So we'll get back to that --

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- so that Lori can leave because I know she has a meeting to attend to. So Tamara Paltin.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Director Tsuhako. I just was wondering if you could expand on the eligibility requirements that you mentioned for the folks to receive the grants? Like do they have to be, like, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, or is it something that they could get together by the October 1st date? Or like, how long?

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. No, we...the eligibility for the grants is not only limited to nonprofit, so some for-profit entities could also apply. I think Lānaʻi Resorts is a for-profit entity that applied and was granted the funds. So it's not limited to nonprofits. I think as you can...if you look at that table that I provided carefully, you'll see that some of the smaller entities that may not have the capacity to apply for and administer the money have partnered with larger entities, like the Molokaʻi Hunting Club partnered with Molokaʻi Humane Society to get some of those administrative burdens met. And I think that that's a really good...that's a really good model for other smaller sort of entities. Even if they do have their 501(c)3 status, they can partner with another entity that has capacity, that would be probably very helpful for them, and would help to meet the County's requirements in terms of liability insurance and ability and *(audio interference)* you know, substantial amount of money as well.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And I was wondering too, if I didn't...I'm not really familiar with the Living Pono Project. Do you have like a little summary about who they are?

MS. TSUHAKO: I don't, Councilmember, I'm sorry. I don't necessarily get involved at the granular level with the grantees, so I'm not familiar with Living Pono Project. I do believe that they have their 501(c)3 status, and that they're a project sponsor for Kia LLC. And that's about all I really know about it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, thank you. That was helpful. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next we have Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, since we're talking about Molokaʻi, and then Mike Molina after that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. And mahalo, Director Tsuhako. I am very appreciative of your willingness to manage these grants on behalf of the Council and the Administration. I know it goes outside of your normal purview. This is really more kuleana that belongs to DLNR, but, you know...and DHHC's extent of animal management is usually just providing grants to the Maui Humane Society and the Molokaʻi Humane Society. So I just wanted to first just, you know, really point that out and thank you for going outside of, you know, the normal Department's work in order to do this on behalf of our community as well. And so the struggle with having grants is it's really community driven. So we can make the funds available, but it's really up to the community to apply for the money. It's really up to the community to do the work to manage the deer problem in the different districts. It...I understand that, you know, as a Director, you're not the one going out to try to manage the deer. You're managing the grant that make it possible to fund the equipment and supplies and whatever else admin work is necessary for the community to accomplish this task. My question is for the next round of funds for FY'22, I heard you say when it would become available or when the grant application would be available online. Would you please

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repeat that date?

MS. TSUHAKE: Yes. Thank you for your...thank you for your comments, Councilmember. Appreciate that. The invitations to apply for the Fiscal Year '22 Animal Management Program funds will be posted October 1st...so in a few weeks.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And will it be available on the same website that the last application was on?

MS. TSUHAKE: Yes, it will. Yeah. And we're look...yes, it will. And we're also looking at a closing date of October 31st. So there'll be 30 days for any interested applicants to submit their proposals to the Department.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So this application deadline is for both the grants for animal management or...did we say deer management this year? I think we said deer management.

MS. TSUHAKE: I think it's for feral animal management.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Feral animals? Chair, you're muted.

MS. TSUHAKE: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Feral animals. Okay. And then . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . there was a specific grant for Moloka'i's portion --

MS. TSUHAKE: Yes. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- for a coordinator position.

MS. TSUHAKE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So will that coordinator person also be...follow the same timeline? Be available October 1st with a closing date of October 31st?

MS. TSUHAKE: Yes. I think the idea was during our discussions during the Budget Session that the proposed position would be proposed by one of the applicants. So for example, you know, Agency X, who's going to propose a program for Moloka'i, would then make the proposal of having that full-time staffing in there with the funding that was provided for that position as part of their proposal...versus looking at the County to provide a...personnel for that was really based on the nonprofit's proposed...proposal to have a position included. And because of the proviso language, we would evaluate all of that. So let's say that...let's say there's four different applications that come in for intervention on Moloka'i, and three of them forget to make a proposal for that position and one does, then we'd have to look at that one a little bit more carefully to actually fulfill the desire of the proviso, right, the spirit of the proviso. So we will.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Mr. Molina, thank you for your patience.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: No problem. Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning, Director Tsuhako. I had questions related to Living Pono, but based on your response to Member Paltin, I'll forego those questions and instead ask you...so you do have the...staffing-wise, no problem. How many individuals, just out of curiosity, do you have taking on this task? Which is...you know, as was mentioned earlier by Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez, should be the kuleana of the State. How many individuals do you have focused on this? And I assume there are no collective bargaining issues as far as taking on these kinds of additional responsibilities for our personnel?

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you for your question, Councilmember. We have the same amount...the same number of staff working on these grants as we do in our regular non...you know, social service grants. So we have a program coordinator, two program specialists, and an operational assistant, so just four people. It's added a increased number of grants per person to our operations. I don't think that there's any...I don't think that the subject area puts the Department or the County at risk for civil service action, it's just more per person to manage. And, you know, as I mentioned before, it required a lot of research and a lot of work and a lot of stretching for the Staff because, you know, they've never done Feral Animal Management Programs in particular before. So it is just a new...it's a new requirement that makes the management of a grant more challenging than it would be for a social service that they're very familiar with, and the language is all similar and, you know, the nomenclature is...but when you throw in a different area of expertise, then it...it just makes it a little bit more challenging.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. And this is not impacting your personnel or they're incurring overtime...you have to incur overtime for these additional responsibilities? No impact there, right?

MS. TSUHAKO: There was a...there was some incurring of overtime expenses during the pandemic just due to additional CARES Act funding and shortage, but we're fully staffed right now, so there hasn't been any recent overtime requests. And we cannot...I could not attribute any overtime requests specifically to the Feral Animal Management Grants except to grumble a little bit that it's hard.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So Shane Sinenci, welcome. You have questions?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Great discussion, great questions. I have no questions at this time. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Members. So I know...as I said, Lori Tsuhako has to get off to another meeting. So Lori, thanks for making the time and for explaining all these

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details about grants in general. I echo Keani Rawlins-Fernandez's compliment to the Department for taking this on. And you're right, we did try to send it to the Office of Economic Development, but it was...it stayed with you. I guess you did such a good job so you're being rewarded, I guess. But thank you again. Thank you very much. And we'll look towards you to figure out...or notify everybody for the October 1st RFP that goes out for the announcement of the grants. So that will be for the 250,000 per inhabited island grants per island that's going to become available. So thank you very much, Lori. Bye. Thank you. So Members, to answer some of your other questions, previous axis deer efforts were made from 2002, Maui Axis Deer Group; 2012, Maui Axis Deer Harvesting Cooperative; and 2013, another working group was formed. And for whatever reasons, it had at...it...I guess it didn't finish or it didn't...yeah, it didn't finish whatever it was supposed to do, and here we are today. So...and the reason that I took this up is by reading what's now become, in *The Maui News*, of letters to the editor of people who are grumbling about deer that were in their yard. And this one happened to be in Pukalani. And of course, on Moloka'i, as Keani would mention, that beginning of this year, Governor Ige did an emergency proclamation because of the drought situation, and that axis deer or deer were drying...or dying in the island. And I want to thank Department of Public Works because they helped remove the deer on the side of the road and kind of over and beyond the call of duty, but they helped with that. During that time also, the Department of Agriculture, with the request of Governor Ige and then Representative Lynn DeCoite and Senator Kalani English, \$200,000 were set aside for grants for Moloka'i and Maui farmers and ranchers who wanted to apply, \$10,000 apiece. And that money was made available beginning of the year all about the same time. And I think that those grants were short...for a short span, and ended March 31st of this year, so that was done. And then during this Budget cycle, I always...I want to mention this also, is that Representative Kyle Yamashita put into House Bill 200, \$2.8 million and...with Department of Land and Natural Resources to help administer watershed protection, and to put up fencing at the Kula Ag Park. So that's in the process now. Lance De Silva, who I had invited to this meeting, and John De Silva [sic] from DLNR, they both had conflicts, so couldn't make this meeting this morning. JoAnn Inamasu and Tyson, I guess, was off to some meeting and not able to make this meeting. But the coordination of that \$2.8 million is in process, and that will help with the Kula Ag Park. I always think, why didn't we do that before, right? We have all of these farmers who are on our land, and they having problems with axis deer and ungulates because there's a bad pig problem that's happening also there. And so that process is in motion for the \$2.8 million that was put in there with House Bill 200. And we can get a report with Lance De Silva later and JoAnn Inamasu. On the Axis Deer Task Force, Kelly King, your question, we put out...we've been in communication with various people in the community. Random emails that we got beginning of the year of interested people...and we did get a lot from hunters. There's a lot of hunters who want to hunt, and the problem is that it's private land, right, so you have liability concerns. So that is a huge concern with private landowners. Because I did ask private landowners, would you allow these hunters to come on? But they have their own system set up. So on the task force, who we have from the County of Maui, Office of the Mayor, of course the Mayor; Mayor designated Tyson Miyake, who's Chief of Staff; JoAnn Inamasu; as well as Stacy Crivello to work on this. And from the Legislature, we have Representative Kyle Yamashita, Representative Linda Clark, Senator Lynn DeCoite. DLNR, we have John

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Medeiros; Lance De Silva, who I just mentioned. he's the Forestry Program Manager. John Medeiros is familiar to any hunter because he issues all the permits. A lot of people know him. Department of Agriculture, we have Dr. Isaac Maeda, he's a State Veterinarian and...as well as Staff John Moniz and Dr. Naomi Kamakau-Sakugawa from Department of Ag that was designated from Phyllis Geiser...Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser. From the Airports, we have Marvin Moniz, they have a big concern, of course, for safety, with deer and pigs within the airport property. From UH CTAHR, we have Kyle Caires, and you'll meet him in a few minutes. From the Federal Government USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspector Service, Wildlife Services, Trevor Liu, he's Assistant State Director; and Darren Phelps, who's the State Director. Watersheds, we have Michael Reyes, which you just met him when we were talking with him on watersheds the other day, as well as...Maui County Farm Bureau, we have the President, Warren Watanabe...I'm sorry, President is Kyle Caires, Executive Director is Warren Watanabe. Also under that umbrella is the Maui Cattlemen's Association, as well as William Jacintho; Brendan Balthazar, which is Diamond B Ranch. Ranchers we have designated Haleakalā Ranch...Scott Friel has designated Vice-President Livestock Manager Greg Friel. And we have the Kula Hunting Club, which is Jeff Fry; Trevor Tokishi, which is a finance...financial strength; and Joey Cardoza, which is a animal management student. And we actually did hear from a lot of hunters, and again, the thing that hunters want is to hunt, and there is a problem of liability that we will figure out how to do this over time. And one of the outcomes, just from reading and learning from the many responses that we've had, is to create exactly what Chair Lee is talking about, but to figure out how to feed the hungry or there's all these different programs that Dr. Maeda from the Department of Ag, the veterinarian, has provided us samples of Maryland...of what other states have done to make this into a reality. So that'd be one of the outcomes, I hope, that we can figure out how to put this together for all of us. Looks like Moloka'i has taken steps to get down that path, so we can learn from what Moloka'i is doing. But for Maui, for sure, Chair Lee, we did hear loud and clear that there is a lot of deer here, and we should be utilizing them for substance...subsistence. So Kelly, does that answer your question? Yes?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, no, I was actually trying to find out if there were any...you know, everybody's got a title that you named, but are there any actual hunters in...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, so I have a whole...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I just want to share with you that when you talk about liability, there are a lot of people who are actually allowing hunters and seeking out hunters to come on their property and hunt. So as long as they're licensed, that's the main requirement. But, you know, farmers are allowed to allow hunters on their property as long as they're licensed because we're trying to protect our crops. So I don't think it's that...it's really as big an issue of liability that...I mean, I think that issue is easily...is not a hurdle. Our biggest hurdle is the USDA certification. So having some of the folks that are actually doing the hunting and giving away the venison to...in that conversation to see how they could participate as, you know, just grass root citizens that like to...that are licensed to hunt --

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- that would be my, you know, my interest in that task force.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So what I learned, just...before we go on to Kyle Caires and William Jacintho, they could probably answer this better than I, but from getting calls from hunters is that they want someplace to hunt. And I learned from the large landowners that they have their own hunters that they have...you know, they set up a schedule, they all are licensed, they do all the things and permitting that they need, but they're controlling the mass of the feral animals by these hunters that they have established trust over time, which...I'm learning that that's a big issue. So...and as soon as you feed somebody, then that's when all the Department of Health, the USDA, the FDA, all of the requirements kick in, of course, because it's for safety and health of residents. So that's when the formula changes versus the hunters that are going on to private land, that they just share it with other people, like, give it to your family, that's a little bit different. But as soon as you start selling it, as long as it's...well, if it's dog food, it doesn't have the same requirements. But as soon as you start feeding other people, even homeless--and maybe especially homeless people who are...you know, are fragile in the environments that they live--that we want to make sure that it's, you know, safe for them. So it is something we're going to look at, Chair King...Chair King [sic] and Alice Lee. So at this time, if you don't mind, I'm going to ask Dr. Kyle Caires to open and say a few words about his role with CTAHR. And then we'll introduce...he'll introduce William Jacintho from the Maui Cattlemen's Association, and then go back to Dr. Caires to kind of wrap up that section. And then our meeting will be done. But here's Dr. Caires. Thank you very much, Dr. Caires. We all know him from CTAHR, but you're also the President of the Maui County Farm Bureau. So I wonder if you would give us an introduction of the kind of things that you see that we can do that you are doing. And thank you very much for joining us.

MR. CAIRES: Okay, yeah. Thank you, Madam Chair. I guess the first thing I wanted to speak on is really some dynamics that go along with the problem, and then speak to some potential solutions maybe a little differently than what you've heard, just to cover a little bit of the depth and the breadth. And William has a lot of good information that have been put in. There's a working group that started in the ag working group, and it's since become a Farm Bureau standing committee, ad hoc committee rather, on the deer problem. So he's going to present some of those findings. Of course, in the interest of time, you know, we're not going to be able to present everything, right. So in terms of how it affects ag right off the bat, you know, obviously, farmers are affected. From everything including crop loss, like, you don't have a crop too, now you have deer in your fields defecating indiscriminately, and now you're not in FISMA compliance, okay. So like from the standpoint of farm to food safety, you get a lot of problems. If those deer were to, you know, somehow--and this isn't unprecedented--become infected with like, you know, macro bacteria, micro bacteria, avian subspecies paratuberculosis, that's the bacteria that causes John's disease in ungulates like cattle and Crohn's disease in humans. Deer can actually shed that bacteria in their feces as well, okay. So we got serious issues for farmers. And, you know, with crop loss, you have to think downstream, right. When you're selling to a wholesaler or a supplier, or even direct to

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market, aside from the farmer's market, there's only so many times you can show up without product before guess what, they're going to go ahead and find another supplier. And that supplier probably isn't going to be another local grower, it's going to be from the mainland. And you ask any farmer or rancher what happens once you lose your local market. It's like the NFL, not for long. When we talk about ranchers and, you know, what they're faced with, the obvious first thing is overgrazing. You know, the deer population has exploded. And I'm not sure if you're all aware but, you know, the deer were in a few pretty finite locations, you know, 15, 20 years ago. But now, you know, there's deer past West Maui into Kahana, you know, there's deer bugling every night at Camp Maluhia. Two gulches past Camp Maluhia, I saw deer scat on the road. You know, for about six months now, there's been deer seen in Kipahulu and Hāna. This is a problem. And we're going to talk a lot about deer here, but guess what, the feral hog and feral goat populations have exploded. You know, there's, you know, goats in Kaupō, West Maui, Kahakuloa, even Pe'ahi near Jaws, you know, there was a herd of nearly 500 goats out over there as well. So, you know, we're going to spend a lot of time talking about deer, but they're not the only ungulate threat. With these deer coming in, I first need to commend our ranchers here in the State. You know, a lot of them have, you know, utilized the University of Hawai'i, utilized some of the best consultants in the world, and I'd say from the standpoint of grazing management, whether or not they're doing holistic rotational grazing, the savory method, or even setting stock, putting animals in a pasture and leaving them until they're ready, we have some of the best ranchers that you'll encounter anywhere. And the main principle behind what they do is ensuring there's enough rest so they can keep the ground covered. You know, weeds are nature's Band-Aid. And when there's a chink in the armor or a hole in the mat, the forage mat, opportunistic species, weeds, come in, they proliferate, they take over. One example that happened in Kaupō as well as other places is coffee senna. This is a small shrub that is extremely toxic to livestock, and it resulted in 40-plus deaths within a two to three-day period in Kaupō. And if you look at the distribution of coffee senna, you know, within our pastures here, there's overlapping expression of where the heaviest concentrations of deer are. A lot of time was spent trying to mitigate the coffee senna deal that happened two years ago. It's radical. It's...and that's just one of, you know, many things. When you take that overgrazing, okay, and why is this a problem? Well, the cattlemen here oftentimes plan their grazing schedule six months to a year in advance. If you're talking about, like, Greg Friel, I heard his name mentioned earlier, they know where their cows are going to be grazing a year from now. You know, they bring in some of the best consultants on the planet, Kirk Gadzia and, you know, they have their natural resource management in tune very well to protect the environment and also, you know, generate, you know, agricultural productivity. The problem is when you take cattle out of a pasture to rest the grass, there's no opportunity. The deer go in there...you know, the deer will wipe out your forage reserves and, you know, that leads to some of the invasive species that we talked about. So as we move away from the farmers and ranchers, another thing--and this is all tied in--because our ranchers do such a great job of keeping the ground covered, we really forget and don't pay attention to how much they're actually preventing erosion. You know, we talk a lot about, you know, public safety and, you know, we're heading into a primary time of rut where bucks are going to start mating and, you know, every year I hear of people getting injured because during this time, the deer appear more

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friendly, especially the males. You know, they'll...they won't run away and, you know, people try and touch them or, you know, they come into their yards and then they get, for lack of a better term, run overed [sic] or injured, and you don't hear a lot about that because people are embarrassed about it, but it does happen. I mean, if you go up Haleakalā Highway, you're on Makawao Avenue after 11:00 p.m., you don't have to look very hard to find the deer. I mean, they're everywhere. They're in Spreckelsville. You know, we know those things. If you start thinking about, again, keeping the ground covered, I did some calculations just to put this into context. And I'd like to share that with you. So I took a 40-acre piece of land, 10 acres in pasture, 10 acres in conservation forestry--so basically trees with conservation versus trees without conservation--and I did some math. And, you know, when we consider like major storms, right, we think of a ten-year rainfall event. And in many places in the country, that's three inches. I think everybody on this call knows that three inches is nothing compared to what we see here, right. Just look at what happened earlier this spring. And what's really troubling about this is, you know, I calculated that just...if you compared a pastureland here that is managed with holistic grazing to what we're seeing now with the overpopulation of the deer, a 40-acre piece of property is generating about 487,000...I mean, I don't want to get into too many numbers. I'll just put it this way. The difference between the well-managed pasture like the cattlemen do, and they have been doing for 20 years, and what we're seeing now on 40 acres is approximately 87,120 cubic feet of runoff from a single three-inch event. So our cattlemen that are doing such a good job maturing...managing natural resources are preventing...you know, this is about 4,350 tons of runoff from going into the ocean. So when we think about, you know, the 'āina, we also have to think about, you know, from the ridge to the reef, right. These deer aren't just having a huge impact on our farmers and our ranchers. They're causing explosions of invasive species directly and indirectly, and as a result of that treachery, you know, we...we're affecting our coral reefs, okay. So from ridge to reef, if you think about a dump truck load, because that's kind of something we can conceptualize, a small tandem dump truck will haul 10 cubic yards, that's 270 cubic feet of material, right. That one three-inch rain event, what our ranchers are preventing, is 322 dump trucks from going in the ocean. That's off of 40 acres, guys. If you try and add...get slope factored in over a two percent grade--and I have that all calculated--it's tremendous how these deer are causing far-reaching effects into the future most likely that, you know, we're going to have to deal with, our kids are going to have to deal with. William has several things to talk about, and I don't want to overlap, so I just wanted to cover a few things. At the Pi'iholo...the Haleakalā Research Station, we have a small livestock and forage research station there. And we have a 3.7 acre field. And we planted...we planted a forage sorghum trial on this land. And this stuff produces 29 tons per acre of product, okay. You know, right now, that same product food for the cattle, this is animal feed, can be brought in from the mainland, you're looking at cubes, like \$729 a ton. That's just landed here to Hawai'i shipped. This is something that can be grown here and marketed to our farmers closer in the \$300 a ton. So we're talking wholesale prices here. We're not talking feed store price, okay. That's a \$32,000 crop. The deer wiped that out in three days.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, my God.

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MR. CAIRES: Okay. I've taken surveys just on that little property. We're talking about 14 acres total on the upper side driving in. The lowest count, the lowest count I've gotten since May was 272. That's not including foals, okay. Upon leaving the property that evening, we witnessed another 50 or so deer on the other side as we were leaving . . .(inaudible). . . I figured it out, you know, these axis deer, they eat about 1,916 pounds of grass a year, that's...if you take all the water out. If you leave the water in, you're looking at about 7,000 pounds a year. And unfortunately, you know, that 272 deer, which is a lowball, they're eating 5,100 pounds per day. That's two and a half tons of grass without water per day. So for the regrowth of that crop, it would take 34 days if we had irrigation. Without irrigation, you're looking at 45 days even to get another regrowth. You know, that small number of deer would wipe it out in 33 days. What does it mean? Game over. This is a low value crop. This is animal food, for Christ's sake. If you try and look at what our farmers are dealing with, you can go ahead and multiply these losses three- or four-fold, I guarantee it. One of the things...you know, William's going to talk about quite a few things, but I really believe you got to have an integrated approach to solve this. You know, we want to harvest this resource and use it as food because we don't want to waste anything. But in order to do that cost-effectively, we have to deal in volume. You know, what Jake Muise is doing, you know, working with some of the big ranches, that's great. If we had another ten people doing what Jake is doing, we're not going to make a dent. I mean, it's that grave of a situation. So when I say integrated, what do I mean? Well, I mean, you know, physical, so that would be fencing. You know, eight foot is better, but oftentimes landowners find that, you know, at least in the bigger ranches, six-foot fences will be a pretty good deterrent, okay. You can also use 3-D fencing, meaning fencing that's set up to where there's a lower section here and a higher section here. It's been used very successfully in the mainland to manage ungulates. Deer have a hard time with depth perception, so just that type of fencing, which can be very cost effective, doesn't allow them to have the confidence to leap over. And that's one thing. Working with large landowners, ranchers to trap, that helps. You know, this could be an acre, two-acre size trap pen. And this helps address the volume issue, okay, which is great. Now you have a volume of animals that now you have to humanely handle, right. But at least that can enter the food supply and, you know, it could be a revenue source. It's solving a problem, and we're feeding people, that's great. When you factor in, like the USDA inspection, again, you need the volume. But who's going to go ahead and do all this, right. We have a...you know, we have mobile slaughter units on the island that typically can't handle, you know, more than 25 to 30, sometimes 40 at a crack. You know, we have brick and mortar facilities, like the DeCoite's Packing House at...near Makawao on Kaili'ili Road. But who's going to run it? I mean, you know, these facilities are needing...are in need of upgrades to be able to process deer. You know, if we have hunting, the liability. The liability is a huge thing, but hunting is definitely a small but effective tool to lower population numbers that can provide an additional revenue source for the ranch. Unfortunately, you have to make a decision. Are you raising cows, sheep and goats, or are you raising deer? It's a tough question. There's some cultural and some sport that goes along with hunting, but you can't take that off the table. When you talk about depopulation, you know, sterilization is another effective tool that's been used elsewhere. The problem with sterilization is you can affect their ability to reproduce, but they're still out there eating, consuming, destroying pastures, farmland,

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fields. They're still on the highways. They're still a public health threat, right.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Hey, Kyle?

MR. CAIRES: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So can you ask, maybe, William to present, and then you can close?
How's about that?

MR. CAIRES: Yeah. No, I'm getting there.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. CAIRES: I'm about there. You know, I feel like another thing that goes with depopulation would be serious consideration to create, like, a wildlife management area where, you know, DLNR can manage an acreage. Anything outside that area is, you know, aloha means goodbye, right. If ranchers are going to make the decision to keep some on their property, that's their kuleana, they got to manage that too. But this would allow some of our cultural practices to still occur, and keep a population of wildlife that people can hunt, feed their families with for subsistence. You know, biological control is another method, but, you know, I think we learned from the mongoose we're not going to introduce wolves here, right. And yeah, the other thing that goes along with this is as we get the deer, which is going to take more than a hope and a prayer and a lot of boots on the ground, there needs to be a really aggressive group hunting strategy. The other thing that we got to understand is when these deer go through the public lands and private lands, they find the ice cream first. And a lot of what they leave behind is undesirable for the deer, it's undesirable for the cattle, and it's one hell of a fuel load. So if we think about, you know, fire and fuel loads, right, it's a bad...it's a double-edged sword and we're getting cut on both sides. We're spreading invasive species and we're leaving behind, wow, something that only fire will really consume. And then there's all the carbon that we've been banking, right. So with that, I want to let William present some of the findings from the working group, and be happy to take some of your questions afterward.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Dr. Caires. I appreciate your passion. William Jacintho, do you have a video or are you...

MR. JACINTHO: No, I'm just on the phone --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. JACINTHO: -- I'm like...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's fine.

MR. JACINTHO: Okay. Thank you for working on this. The ag...you know, Kyle really hit the main points. He really did. And to repeat it, those things, wouldn't make any sense.

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But I do want to kind of touch on a few other things. When we jumped into this thing again back in June, you know, the first thing I did was go back and review some of the videos. And some of you mentioned Phyllis Robinson, and there's also Kalani Sproats...I kind of wanted idea of where we've been. Because it's not like we haven't done anything, it's just that these groups that were formed cannot keep up with the population increase rate. And the next thought was, it's going to take a village, and it is. Seriously, it is. Along with that comes the word, funding. So, you know, a lot of that backing is really going to help solve the problem. We first met with Josh Bell from USDA, he's the doctor for inspections, and John Medeiros of DOFAW. And the concern was humane harvesting because ranchers, farmers, as well as the public are not keen to just having deer eradicated out of helicopters or on land or whatever. There is value, but there's also value of doing it quicker because of the destruction they're creating. So we wanted to understand the proper protocol of humane harvesting through proper permitting through DOFAW and the USDA rules. So we met with them, and John went over the different permits that are available, and Dr. Bell went over briefly what the protocols are as far as Department of Ag...oh, what was that...USDA. So anyhow, to do harvesting like that you need a number, you need inspection, they have to come out and check everything and make sure the place is safe. So he really encouraged working with the large facility we have now, as Kyle put it, brick and mortar, and it can kind of take more animals than the portable units can. However, I wouldn't rule out portable units because I think they're very effective also, but you going to need several of them, and they're running about maybe 300, 400,000 apiece. And Kyle went over kind of the amounts that they can handle. So we also worked with our Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council, and they recommended we talk to Phyllis from the Department of Ag, which we did. And she also said to talk to Dr. Jason Moniz, our State vet, and Jill Gregory of NRCS. Dr. Moniz had some ideas on sterilization like was mentioned earlier, and he said, you know, we can talk about it and look more into it as another avenue. However, they're still eating, you know, the forage that we need, but they won't reproduce. And this one is an all intake, and he said it doesn't affect the meat. Jill Gregory of NRCS mentioned that they don't have a program for deer fencing, but they have a program for slaughter facilities, like dealing with the waste and stuff, so that can maybe be cost shared. Then we met with someone from...a guy that transports deer in Texas. He traps and transports, and they do that for game management and taking deer to different parts of the country. And he does it well, doesn't do it with tranquilizing all the time; most of the time, it's not. And it's done with darkened pens and not necessarily in a trap which holds it, it's a unit where they're comfortable enough, handled at night. They're loaded on trailers very similar...and I've seen some videos that I can send to Kyle and he can maybe forward to you guys where the deer actually in this trailer, maybe it's 30-feet...30-foot trailer, it has doors in...like cupboards, so compartments. Every time they load one deer at a time so they don't fight each other. Because this is how he makes his money, by transporting live deer, not dead deer. Every dead deer is lost money to him. So every time he opens the gate from one of the compartments, the deer is actually sitting there like waiting for the door to open. And it's something you got to see. I couldn't believe my eyes, but anyway, that's how they do it. So the main thing...the most important thing we're looking at is the humane handling, and that is the only key to keeping any meat going on. And I think Councilmember Lee mentioned about businesses. And there are some people that want to jump on this for businesses, and I think that would help.

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Some of the names she mentioned, and there's a few more people that contacted me that wanted, you know, to do this. The traps run about 15,000 apiece. They mentioned slaughterhouses, you know, they going to run maybe 3 to 400,000, there's different sizes. There's also secondhand ones that may be more reasonable and might be in good shape. The person I talked to wants to do a Zoom meeting and talk story more about this. He is aware of it, he happened to be the same person that Jake Muise's unit comes from, and he's well aware, and he said you guys really have a problem in, and if I can help, I will, you know. So anyhow, there's that option. But when you add maybe the pens, you're probably going to have a slab or something, you know, that is all added cost to the unit. So budget maybe would be about 5, 600,000 per unit. Also, freezer storage, looking at for carcasses. So you can focus on reducing the numbers faster, and then process later into whatever cuts or however it's going to be. The object is to try and get the numbers down...the quicker, the better. But it's not going to happen overnight, right. It's going to be a while to set up, and then it's going to be a while to really get it going. But anyway, that's the long and the short. I can take a few questions, but I really got to run.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, William. So I just have one question for you. When you talk about the 5 to \$600,000, you're talking about the portable slaughterhouse with a slab? Is that where it gets to 600,000?

MR. JACINTHO: Correct. We just don't know how much all that stuff costs, yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

MR. JACINTHO: Because...yeah, it's got to be made probably to spec. I don't know.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

MR. JACINTHO: And the Department of Health...I don't know if they'll be a hurdle or what, but hopefully Dr. Bell can work with them and, you know, find out...we don't know that part yet. We're still, you know, finding stuff out.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So Dr. Bell is the veterinarian. Is it USDA that he's with?

MR. JACINTHO: Yeah, USDA.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That ties into the humane handling or harvesting?

MR. JACINTHO: He's in charge of all of the inspectors at the slaughterhouses and processing plants. And he says if you need more people, he'll get the people. Humane activities is difficult because, I mean, I've heard stories where the guys have gone out at night and, you know, they're shooting and they...maybe they going to maybe get, oh, 20, 30, 40 deer for the night. Maybe 30 is kind of the average that I've been hearing. But if they don't get...you know, if there's a missed shot or something happens wrong, they would get shut down for the night. And things like that is going to hold stuff back. And it's kind of sad because you have some good carcasses already, there's nothing can be

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perfect...in my world, anyway. And maybe just...you know, those can just be used for other things or not put in the food chain, but at least you can continue the night or whatever. But, you know, these are little things that happen along the way that --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Happens.

MR. JACINTHO: -- make things more difficult. Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I'm going to let the...you have to leave, so I'm going to ask the Members if anyone have questions for you, and then we'll have Dr. Caires close. So --

MR. JACINTHO: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- at this time, is that okay? Do you have...okay.

MR. JACINTHO: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm going to close out, I'll ask for two minutes, Laks, instead of three, just because he has to leave. I think we're keeping him longer than he anticipated. So Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Hi, William.

MR. JACINTHO: Hey.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: William, thank you for all the work you and your group are doing. Would it be possible to give us a priority list? I mean, there seems to be a tremendous amount of work that needs to be done. So if you could send us a priority list and also, Madam Chair --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- are you thinking of putting another group together?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm not sure what you mean, but this is all part of the same thing.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, okay. Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: This is all part of the same group.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Because I think...I think we've had enough of the working groups, but I think we need a solution groups --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- like, for instance, we need Federal representation, State, and County to put all the funding together for all...for the plans that the community has

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come up with. But we need to know the order of priority in terms of funding and...yeah, I think we need a solution's group. And that means funding.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I agree.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So...but thank you, William. If you can send us a priority list.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Here's Dr. Caires.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. That's exactly what we're doing. So, Dr. Caires?

MR. CAIRES: Yeah, Councilmember Lee. We actually...we have that committee going, and the plan is to have a meeting to specifically get the priority list ironed out. Working with a grant writer to try and identify certain extra...you know, extra County, extra State, outside of the more Federal funding avenues to address some of those. And then, you know, that document would be a pretty good working document for, you know, the County and State to look at, you know, what they could do as well. But...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. Well, thank you, Dr. Caires. My reason for asking for that is because rather than all of us trip over ourselves, Federal, State, County --

MR. CAIRES: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- we should figure out ways to leverage money we...County for this, State for that, you know, and put all of our...pool all of our resources together . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . rather than work separately. That's all I'm saying. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next we have Tasha Kama. Sorry about that, Tasha. Do you have a question for William Jacintho or Dr. Caires?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I think I have a question for Dr. Caires. And so why don't we just take William's questions first. I don't have anything for him.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: And then we can come back to Dr. Caires.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Because William got to leave. Next we have Kelly King. Do you have a question for William Jacintho? And then Tamara Paltin after that.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, I do. Thank you, Chair. I had my hand up a long time ago but hey, William, are you still here?

MR. JACINTHO: I'm here.

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay. Thanks for being here, it's always good to hear from you. When you guys are talking...and I don't know if this is a question for you or Kyle, but when you guys are talking about doing slaughterhouses, are you also talking about including a rendering operation?

MR. JACINTHO: Oh, definitely. That is high on the priority.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

MR. JACINTHO: And I don't know who to get help with, you know, to address that. There's a lot of hurdles in that part. And --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Right.

MR. JACINTHO: -- we see lot of value both, you know, keeping stuff out of the landfills and, you know, getting it into compost and maybe doing even dogfood and stuff like that for the other products. You know, whatever it may be, but really look into that.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. I'm going to...I'm just...I'm going to...I don't have his permission, but I'm going to offer up my husband, Bob.

MR. JACINTHO: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: You might want to talk to him because, you know, we did run a rendering operation through Pacific Biodiesel up in Washington State before we sold the Oregon plant. And he was helping Mayor Kenoi on the Big Island with the...you know, the rendering operation over there. It wasn't done properly. So they tried to get Bob to run it, and he said he wasn't going to run it until they fixed it.

MR. JACINTHO: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: But he knows a lot about that kind of operations so...and you know Bob. So I would just encourage you to talk to him about...you know, there's also anaerobic digestion that is kind of the up and coming technology for handling carcasses.

MR. JACINTHO: Right. Okay, perfect. I did have a question for you regarding the liability later on if I can contact you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah.

MR. JACINTHO: You seem to have the silver bullet on liability, you know, keeping us safe. We really need to find...if you can lead us to that, that would be a big hurdle.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, well I was, yeah, I was just talking about the, you know, the farm...the hunters that... . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

MR. JACINTHO: Yeah.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, so...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: But we're happy to talk to you about it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So in other words, Kelly, just to clarify what you said is that you allow hunters to come onto your property.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Well, yeah. We have specific...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: William said that you solved the liability problem; is that right?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, we have specific hunters that come on our property.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. I think...yeah. Large landowners do exactly what you...right, it's this trust thing that is established. Dr. Caires, you have a comment. I saw you pop up. No? Okay.

MR. CAIRES: No.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Anyway --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- I'm always concerned about making sure that rendering is part of the operation --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- because that's what you do with the carcass after you've gone to slaughter. So be happy to talk to you.

MR. CAIRES: When we've had discussions, whether it be a mobile slaughter or, you know, making upgrades to, like, the DeCoite Slaughterhouse now. You know, obviously like we've talked about, you know, plans for, you know, the vestibule-type structure to allow for the animals to be safely moved. But, you know, anaerobic digestion to, you know, remediate those BODs would definitely be high on a priority list for a new build and/or addition to an existing build, like DeCoite's. Luckily with that facility then, lagoons are overengineered meaning, you know, if they're only harvesting 20 a week, you know, the lagoons are set to handle, you know, close to 200 a week. So they're really...you know, right now there's more capacity in that system. But yeah, rendering would be obviously a great thing, and anaerobic digesters, you know, just mainly for the nitrogen rich and, you know, those BODs. Slaughterhouse waste is a lot like winery waste. So in many cases, some of the same instrumentation, even mechanical filter presses could be integrated to help in this case, you know, remediate...get more water, and also reduce

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the amount of, you know, bulk going into those reactions.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Dr. Caires.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So Tamara Paltin, Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, Mike Molina, and Shane Sinenci in that order.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I have a question for both Mr. Caires and Mr. Jacintho, but I'll just ask Mr. Jacintho first since he has to leave.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: About the dog food issue, it wouldn't put us back from having that be an economic diversity option right now because there's not that DOH requirement. And then, you know, it's less importing of dog food that we could possibly produce over here. I mean, obviously it would be better for human food, but if that's not the possibility right now --

MR. JACINTHO: Yeah --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- what's holding us back?

MR. JACINTHO: -- definitely. So I...we got to...we haven't reached that point yet where we need to, I guess, work with Department of Health and figure out what their protocol is, and then kind of run that by you guys and talk story.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So it's on your horizon then?

MR. JACINTHO: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, good.

MR. JACINTHO: It's not...yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. I will hold my other question for Mr. Caires since Mr. Jacintho has to leave.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So Keani, and then Mike Molina, Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I have no questions for Mr. Jacintho, Chair. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, thank you.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for being here though.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MR. JACINTHO: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mike Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning, Mr. Jacintho. And you know, you mentioned about the...using deer as a good source for dog food, but sprawling in my mind also, you know, deer burgers or deer hot dogs and sausage. I just have to ask, deer sausage, yeah, tastes pretty good or what? You can use the same ingredients like you would like Portuguese sausage? I just curious.

MR. JACINTHO: Pretty much. Deer is a little drier, so a lot of the local people been putting in some...like, pork, mix it up.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Oh, pork. That's the key maybe, yeah? All right. Okay, interesting. And, you know, the...I just got...I took a quick tour of the Kula Ag Park the other day, and you folks are trying to keep deer out of there too, yeah. And you mentioned storage of the deer. Where are we currently storing the, you know, carcasses and so forth?

MR. JACINTHO: I don't know. The only person harvesting for sale is Jake Muise, his operation. And I'm assuming he has his own storage facility. I don't know where it is.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay.

MR. JACINTHO: Maybe Kyle might know.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Does anybody have an answer? I can find out from Mr. Muise. Kyle, you have any comment on that?

MR. CAIRES: Yeah, it's...one of the big...we talked about volume, right. You need to have the volume to run the actual harvest side of it all. But, you know, for the processing, because of like multi-species this and that, you really want to have a lot of not just cold storage, but like a deep freeze to be able to have large numbers of these carcasses so you can run them at a time. And if you're going to do something value-added, like Councilmember Molina's suggestion, the sausage, you have all your trim, you have all your lean, and if you need to, you know, add fat, whether it be beef or pork fat, you know what you have. And now you can actually go ahead and pencil it out and turn this into a business. But...so it's not just the volume of the slaughter side, it's not just the volume on the processing side. For the value added really to...you have to have that deep freeze capacity as well. So refrigerated, you know, containers, yeah, it gives you something, but you really need a dedicated deep freeze. Moloka'i's Cooperative, that plant. There's a lot of good things about that plant, but they only have...God, when I

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went through there with Uncle Glenn back in . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . 2016, they probably have three percent of the amount of deep freeze space that that facility needs to hold. And that's just whatever small amounts of cattle, sheep, hogs that they're running. If you're talking about doing deer, wow, I mean, you really...you probably have to double that, if not triple it.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you, Dr. Caires. Thank you, Mr. Jacintho. Thank you, Chair.

MR. JACINTHO: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Last, Shane Sinenci. Do you have questions --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- for William Jacintho?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, just a real...I don't know who this would be geared towards. Chair, you mentioned Isaac Maeda, the veterinarian. How much of the deer management and mitigation is reliant on having veterinarian services to check if deer...whether they're healthy, sick, or they're able to be processed for food?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You know, I know William mentioned that he networked with Dr. Bell, so William might want to take that, or Dr. Caires.

MR. JACINTHO: Yeah. The protocol is a vet has to be onsite at each hunt, and then they immediately do...you know, they, I guess, observe the herd and say, okay, this is all right to go ahead and remove. And then I don't know if they do blood test there, they probably do it right there. And that's kind of where it is, but every harvest has to have a vet onsite during the whole process. And he's also checking for humane handling as well as the...what you call, the health of the animal.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Well, thank you, Mr. Jacintho. And then just for clarification, we're not...who has authority to do the aerial shooting, is that Fish and Wildlife?

MR. JACINTHO: Yeah, that is DOFAW, and those contracts have to be approved...oh, I think by the main head guy. It's not something that is handed out, and it is rare. There are times that they use that process not necessarily to fire from, but to herd animals to an area where it's safe to fire on the ground. So the shooters will be on the ground, and then they'll be . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . moved to the area, and then...but usually that kind of meat is not going to be used for human consumption in the food chain, but they can use it--stepping on a limb here a little bit--but for just home consumption.

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you.

MR. JACINTHO: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair.

MR. JACINTHO: But definitely not in the food chain. Definitely.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. JACINTHO: That's something --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. JACINTHO: -- you want to avoid, you don't want just carcasses everywhere. You want to try and recover as many as possible, whether you dispose it or, you know, put it in the food chain.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you, Shane. So that's...all the Members then have had a chance to ask William Jacintho questions, because you have to leave. Last call. Okay. So thank you very much, William, for sharing all your knowledge that you have been working on since June. And we look forward to working with you, if you will, as part of this group, and learn from what you've done, and we can walk forward with solutions as Chair Lee has recommended. So anyone have questions for Dr. Caires? Thank you very much, William.

MR. JACINTHO: Thank you everybody. Bye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, bye. Good job. Anybody have questions for Dr. Caires? Oh, yes. Tamara Paltin, I think, and Tasha Kama had questions also.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Dr. Caires. I was wondering if you could...I wasn't clear on the...I think you called it the coffee serna [sic] plant.

MR. CAIRES: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If...is it the deer that is eating the coffee serna [sic] plant, or they don't like that plant?

MR. CAIRES: Yeah, so they tend to avoid it. They'll occasionally nibble on it. But what's happened like in the instance of like say Kaupō...and I'll just mention that like the coffee senna --

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, coffee senna.

MR. CAIRES: -- wherever deer have been on the island in...you know, we have four different types of senna that are naturalized to Maui, you know, just in the wild. But the only place we have concentrations out in the field to cause problems have been in areas with heavy deer populations or high deer density. And the senna has overlapped. And if you look over, like, the last five years and how the senna has spread, wow, it's pretty bad. Now, the problem is, most of the time cattle do not eat it. Most animals will not eat it. But during dry months, one of the natural defenses a plant has when it's stressed is it creates certain compounds, right. Well, when you go through a period of dry, like say ten days to two weeks or longer, and then you have a...just a sudden rainfall event, it could be half an inch, it could be a quarter of an inch, it could be five inches. It doesn't matter. That plant that was really dry now becomes very sticky and tacky, and it puts out an odor that causes animals to be drawn in to consume it. Unfortunately, one bite full is enough to kill an adult mother cow. So when...you know, when they say when it rains, it pours? Within 24 hours, you know, you got 37 animals dying or...excuse me, dead, and a lot of animals that become almost paralyzed, it's really, really horrible. And this is just another one of those things where the deer have an indirect . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . effect, and invasive species like this flourish. You know, fire weed is another one, you know, we've talked about that before, that seed bank lasts 70 years. So like, you know, these cans of worms, when opened, are very difficult to right the ship.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow, that's interesting.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I was wondering --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And I think Tasha had a question...oh, sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- just if you could spell that for me, the coffee senna?

MR. CAIRES: Yes. C-O-F-F-E-E and then senna, S-E-N-N-A.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

MR. CAIRES: No problem. And that's something that's affected ranchers, you know, very minimally over like the last 20 years. But the ranches that have had, you know, those higher deer populations occasionally, after a period of dry and then wet, you have these unexplained deaths. Well, you know, we're figuring it out, and that seems to be a major culprit. And, you know, we help our ranchers try and find ways to...you know, integrated approach so it's not just all herbicides, right, physical, mechanical. You know, we've even...we found the biological control for it as well that, you know, where this plant has become really highly populated, you start seeing certain insects that feed

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on it. But yeah, they'll be a CTAHR publication coming out on it in the next few months.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MR. CAIRES: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Tasha Kama had questions. And if there's no other questions after that, then we'll close the meeting. So, Tasha?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah. So thank you again, Dr. Caires, for your presentation. I was pretty much impressed with all the information that you shared with us. But it seemed like to me that you had laid out a pretty comprehensive outline of the solutions that you have been thinking about and considering. So do you intend to use our...the new application that is coming out for funding to begin addressing some of the solutions that you laid out for us? And are you able to do that? And if so, in a one or five or ten-year plan?

MR. CAIRES: Okay, yeah. So some of those avenues I've been trying to put in place working with, you know, farmers and ranchers here for like the last five years since I came back home and took this job. I'm trying to...you know, I'm a part of that committee, you know, serve in the ag working group and, you know, I was able to bring them to the Farm Bureau. And a lot of those things I've added to that group, I've...I get a little hesitant about having too many small groups working. I think it's a pretty good group. But anyway, I want to just be transparent with it. If I...we have a grant writer that's going to be helping to identify grant sources that might work for some of these...I guess...I don't know if you would call them an intervention strategy but, you know, these are just pieces to the puzzle, yeah. We got a deck of cards, and we need all 52 cards to help this thing work. But yeah, I mean, I'd be willing to submit a proposal going forward but...you know, for us, we're not regulatory, you know, we do research. Most of my stuff is applied, so that means it's got to help the farmers or ranchers pretty quick, not 20 years out. But there's a lot of good information and we'll try and make the group's findings transparent for you guys as well . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . But you guys can probably help us. You know how to navigate the system better than I do, I'm sure. And I think just working together is the only way we can get bits and pieces of this solved. Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MR. CAIRES: No problem. I will mention also, we tried last year to get some Federal money--this is outside of the County and the State--through Western SARE to fund a project basically aimed at producing a decision support tool to allow farmers and ranchers to figure out what the actual cost of the deer or say, pigs or goats are on their, you know, enterprises. And we had pretty good scores last year, but we were not funded.

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And we are planning to resubmit a new proposal this year, so --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, good.

MR. CAIRES: -- I mean, we've been trying. I mean, I've been trying. But any way we can get funding to help solve this issue on Maui and, you know, really Maui nui, we're trying. Funding is really competitive on the Federal level, but we're going to go after it again. And I will share with you guys, you know, our failures. One of the main critiques that grant proposal got that I think kept us from being funded is the grant reviewers really don't understand how fisheries and wildlife is managed in Hawai'i differently than the mainland. Because a lot of them are like, oh, why doesn't your fisheries and wildlife or DLNR take care of this, you know what I mean? This is their...like you know, that's how...so they read the grant, and they're like this is a good proposal, but wait a minute; they shouldn't be doing this, the agency should be doing it, right? So we're going to try and do a better job of explaining...like, compare and contrast, describe the differences and similarities. But even when we've done that, people are like, wait a minute, this shouldn't even be your problem.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. CAIRES: So just the way that we have the structure set up in Hawai'i is very different than most other states. But I think that wildlife management area would be a great way to allow the hunting and to allow for a population to be maintained on State property. But I mean, right now, it's...let's just pretend that we have 60,000, which is probably a low-ball number. If we harvested, you know, 1,500 a year, which is similar to what some people have been doing, right, aggregate together, we're not even slowing the train down, yeah. So I mean, to get...to even get somewhat in control, I mean, we need to figure out how to get 60,000 animals hopefully into some useable form of food to feed the community as well, without destabilizing other local protein markets, right. You know, and try...and not to waste anything either. I mean, with rendering...Councilmember King brought that up. I mean, meat and bone meal for, you know, local fertilizer production. You know, BOD removal through, you know, anaerobic digesters, you know, that's allowing more clean water to be used for, you know, agricultural purposes. I mean, there's a whole lot of solutions, but the infrastructure gap that we have here, especially on the slaughtering, the processing, the cold storage, is really, really great. And I just wanted to mention too, the USDA inspectors, the base rate that a slaughterhouse or a mobile slaughterhouse would have to pay would be \$66.56 an hour. Overtime hours are charged at 81.72. Holidays are closer to 96 to 100, and those fees just came down. It's usually more than that. This is part of a relief package trying to allow for, you know, smaller facilities to be able to like, you know, ramp up production. But it's really difficult because you can have one animal come through that could be fractious or, you know, get injured that shuts everything down. And it's like you're stuck in a cab and you have to think about animal health first and foremost, right, and the odometer [sic] is running. So it makes it hard for these operators. That's why I guess at the end of the day, the small mobile slaughterhouses, one or two of those, that's great. But having a...having the ability to trap and move a large number of them to a brick and mortar facility like DeCoite's with de minimus add-

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ons so you could harvest, you know, maybe five at a time, they're still warm, they're still very pliable. Those go in, then the next five come in...poom, poom, poom, poom...you know, it's in the best interest of welfare, the end product's going to be much better. And then you can aggregate a large amount of this protein and do things like Councilmember Molina is talking about with the value-added, the sausage. And then now, if you know...if you have a good amount of that, you can leverage and purchase the right inputs to do a whole lot of things and, you know, turn this into a business. But there's just...there's so many gaps. And unfortunately...I thank you guys for, you know, taking this problem seriously, but the tipping point for this was probably 2002, 2004. The population numbers are kind of just out of hand. But without your guys' support, you know, we don't have a chance.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Well, thank you. I so do appreciate what you shared with us today. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So thank you very much. I have to tell you my story about Dr. Caires when I first met him from CTAHR. I talked to him on a Sunday, and he was actually riding a horse, helping his large animal clientele. I think you were herding something. And I just thought, man, this guy loves his job. I mean, he does not stop. And seriously...so thank you very much for your passion. Thank you very much for William Jacintho, who left the call because I'm sure he had to go out and do some work. But everybody, our work is cut out ahead...ahead of us. And I hear...I agree with you, Chair Lee, we've had three working groups, three task force, and I'm going to change the name of our group because we're going to be solution problem solvers, because that's really where we've got to go. So appreciate the . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . groups that have come together to participate in this group. I will tell you again, the mission of the group is to control manage the feral animals, and a big part of it is to find additional funding. Because as I...as you know, the County, we're limited, the State is limited, and so I'm looking towards our Federal...our Federal partners to see if we can, you know, bring in NRCS or, you know, USDA, whatever funding it is, and then to help our ranchers...excuse me, and our farmers with fencing. And I hear that a lot. So Kelly King, you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah. I don't know if Kyle's still on, but I wanted to just make a point and kind of get your thoughts on this, Kyle. You know, we've passed an ordinance to create a County Department of Agriculture. Do you think this is something that our...that that organization, once we get the County Department closer to focus on...you know, because everyone's talking about how it should be a DLNR issue, which I agree with, but we don't have DLNR over here. And one of the reasons we created that...a County Department of Agriculture was to...because some of these issues aren't getting dealt with on the statewide level.

MR. CAIRES: Yes, certainly. I mean, I think the terminology that was...I saw most recently was the State's current jurisdiction to manage game animals is only limited to that on State and their public lands. But as you know, you're still required to obtain harvest permits from the DLNR, even if you're on private lands. So we have a very, very tricky situation here. And I guess certainly...I mean, when something isn't being addressed,

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it should be on the...it should be renting space in the mind of whoever's involved in that County Department of Ag, yeah, as it gets so...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, that's what I wanted to ask you because, you know, I've been hearing that there is some kind of a working group that's talking right now about putting together the Department of Agriculture for the County. And I would just urge you, we don't...you know, we don't often get included in those kinds of things from the Administration, so I would just urge you to stay in touch with the County Administration and, you know, keep that...this issue alive as they put together the mandate or the mission statement for Department of Ag.

MR. CAIRES: Several of us that are a part of that committee --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay. Great.

MR. CAIRES: -- the Farm Bureau committee, are either on the Mayor's working group...work committee looking for, I guess, just recommendations, and...as well as the Jennifer Karaca group as well. And, you know, we've met several times, and there's been good discussion. And I think a lot of these suggestions are going to both sides...you know, both groups.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. That's good to know that you guys are already --

MR. CAIRES: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- already connected with that committee. Thank you.

MR. CAIRES: Yeah, it's just one of those things where this has a lot of direct effects, but the indirect effects are kind of amazing as well.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Right.

MR. CAIRES: Yeah. The farmers are getting throttled by this but, you know, the livestock producer, you know, oftentimes they reduce their numbers. Like oh, there's a drought coming, they will, you know, reduce their cow herd numbers accordingly. But the generation into growing cattle is so long, it's about four or five years. So by the time, you know, they ramp up again after a drought, you know, there could be another market downturn and whatnot. But as long as the deer are there, I mean, I...put it this way. On that 14-acre stretch of land, that research farm I was telling you about, you know, those deer are the equivalent of like 54 and a half cows. And that's the lowest number I counted there. You know, imagine 60 cows on ten acres, that's not a good...that's not a very holistic approach. And it's not going to make you profitable. You can't starve a profit out of these livestock, just like you can't starve a profit out of, you know, edible crop production, right. And as long as the deer are there, you got a direct and indirect threat. And the problem we have here is once the market...once you can't deliver, you start losing your market. And once those markets are lost, they're very, very difficult to get back. If you look at cattle right now, there's only about seven percent of, you know,

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what is born and raised here, or born and grazed here that stays in the State. The other 93 percent leaves the State, right. And we can't even come close to, you know, raising enough cows just to feed Hawai'i, right. You know, there may...at the end of the day, it's not just a cattle problem, it's not just a farmer problem, this is a natural resource disaster.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So you're saying 97 percent of what we raised . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MR. CAIRES: I'd say, yeah, 93...yeah, so only 7 percent of the beef consumed in Hawai'i was born and stayed here, the other 93 percent is imported.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay. So I thought you were saying that we were exporting 93 percent of our beef. Okay, so you're saying . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MR. CAIRES: Yeah, so the majority of...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . in, I guess growing the cattle industry.

MR. CAIRES: Oh, yeah, yeah. The market share potential here is definitely there but, you know, the competition is the mainland, you know, that's really what it's always been and that's what...you know, there's a cost advantage there, but most of the calves leave the State as calves and they're, you know, raised in the mainland. Look at what happened to us this last two years with shipping and COVID, right.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I don't understand why we're shipping our calves off island though. Is it because it's easier to raise them on the mainland?

MR. CAIRES: Yeah, and the feed costs. There used to be a very prominent feeding industry here in the State but, you know, rising costs of feed...but really, the transportation. Because at the end of the day, you have a commodity product, right. So if you are raising...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So if you had...if you had more feed sources in the state, you could keep that cattle here?

MR. CAIRES: Yes, exactly. So we spend a lot of time trying to develop those feed sources and we have some models for, you know, corn for sorghum, for sudan sorghum hybrids. We're working on a lot of those. And we have the data, just writing them up. We can grow a tremendous amount of feed stuffs here that would allow more cattle, more livestock to stay here, you know, for cattle to be fed, you know, in a feedlot environment, more confinement, and also grazing pastures. But one of the misnomers here is, you know, the feedlots in Hawai'i still feed a large percent of...you know, 80 percent of that ration in many cases is still grass or forage, yeah. There's just a huge market potential for both grass finishing and grain finishing here. But the lynch pin is...the bottle neck is having the local produced feed stuffs, and we've got some data here that shows you can do it, and you can actually do it cheaper than the mainland.

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: Well, I agree with that because, you know, with the...and we...you know, we haven't been real consistent on the sunflower fields because we're still trying to figure out how to deal with the weed pressure organically without spraying herbicides. But when we take it to the Big Island and crush it for oil, we have a lot of meal that could be used for livestock. And we've got a market here on Maui, but the shipping is the expense. So USDA just released a grant for shipping livestock meal, and we're going to try to get that so we can bring the meal back to Maui and get it into the market over here. But, you know, I didn't realize that...you know, seemed like for...at one time it was like pulling teeth to get that market to open up. But you're saying that that's really where the missing link is, is that food stock.

MR. CAIRES: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Livestock meal.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You know, I'm going to...so we're kind of getting a little bit off base, but...so --

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Kyle...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: This is really interesting.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's very interesting. So Kyle, I'm going to work hand in hand with you as we move forward, and I think we renamed this task force to be solutions...finding solutions or something like that from Chair Lee. I really like that better because I think we're all on the same mindset, along with Mike Molina, you know, looking for other products to sell besides dog food. I've been hearing dog food a lot, but we'll make sausages and we'll create this big party and we'll have the results of the...after the first meeting of this task force where everybody can put our heads together and move forward. So thank you very much, Dr. Caires. Thanks for the good work that you do. Members, I'm going to defer this item and...in case after we get it started we can talk about it again. I know Mike Molina is with me with Upcountry, you know, where you must hear from your residents as well that I have with the axis deer and the pig and, you know, the feral animals that have been in our neighborhoods, I think that's a good way of saying it. So we'll work together. But thank you, everybody. I look forward to hearing this again and learning from you, was a very good discussion. Thank you, Dr. Caires, and thanks for bringing William on board, and we'll look forward to working together. Thank you, Members. Meeting is now adjourned. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

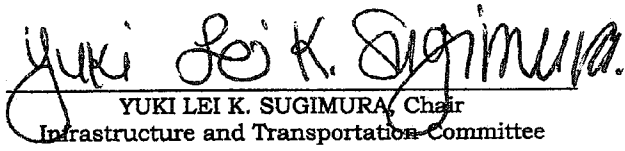
ACTION: DEFER PENDING FURTHER DISCUSSION.

ADJOURN: 11:04 a.m.

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APPROVED:


YUKI LEI K. SUGIMURA, Chair
Infrastructure and Transportation Committee

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Transcribed by: Crystal Sakai

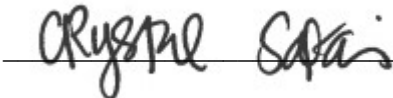
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CERTIFICATION

I, Crystal Sakai, hereby certify that pages 1 through 38 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 19th day of October 2021, in Wailuku, Hawai'i


Crystal Sakai