

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

September 1, 2021

Online Only via BlueJeans

CONVENE: 1:33 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Chair
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member
Councilmember Kelly Takaya King, Member
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member
Councilmember Michael J. Molina, Member
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Member (out 2:31 p.m.)

EXCUSED: Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Member

STAFF: Lesley Milner, Legislative Analyst
Kasie Apo Takayama, Legislative Analyst
Richard Mitchell, Legislative Attorney
Yvette Bouthillier, Committee Secretary
Kristeena Locke, Council Services Assistant Clerk

Stacey Moniz, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Gabe Johnson
Evan Dust, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Tasha Kama
Davideane Sickels, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Tasha Kama
Lois Whitney, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Tasha Kama
Axel Beers, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kelly Takaya King
Ellen McKinley, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kelly Takaya King
Sarah Freistat Pajimola, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Keani
N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

ADMIN.: Michele M. Yoshimura, Budget Director, Office of the Mayor
Bradford Ventura, Acting Fire Chief, Department of Fire and Public Safety
(BFED-54(1))
Jeffrey Giese, Battalion Chief, Ocean Safety Bureau, Department of Fire
and Public Safety (BFED-54(1))
May Anne Alibin, Deputy Director, Department of Finance (BFED-52)
Moana Lutey, Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation
Counsel (BFED-54(1))
Kristina Toshikiyo, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the
Corporation Counsel

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OTHERS: Faith Chase (BFED-52)

PRESS: Akaku: Maui Community Television, Inc.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Aloha ‘auinalā kākou. Kanakolukūmākolu minuke o ka...i ka hala o ka hola ‘eiwa, ‘ekahi. O Ma ‘ekahi o Kepakemapa I ka makahiki ‘elua kaukani iwakāluakūmakahi. E ‘olu‘olu mai, e ho‘omalū ke Komike Mo‘ohelu Kālā a me ‘Ho‘omohala Waiwai o wai kaluna ho‘o malu o kēia Komike o Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. It was 1:33 on September 1st, 2021. Will the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee please come to order. I’m your Chair, Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. Ran annim, ifa u...wait. Ran annim kākou, ifa usum? And we’ll go to Council Chair Alice Lee for the origin of that greeting.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay, Madam Chair, ran annim, ifa usum? Comes from Chuuk. It’s an island in Micronesia.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. And, maika’i loa . . .*(laughing)*. . . and we’ll go to our...Committee Vice-Chair Tamara Paltin is excused. Member Shane Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Ran annim, ifa usum? Comes from Chuuk. It’s an island in Micronesia. Chair. Aloha ‘auinalā kākou my Maui Hikina from the virtual wetlands in Hāna. I’m here with both Dawn Lono and Auntie Mavis Medeiros. Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha, and ran annim kākou. Member Mike Molina, ran annim.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Aloha and ran annim, ifa usum to you and my colleagues on this first day of September...my goodness, how time is flying. I’m currently sequestered in the living room of my home here in Makawao, and my wife and the pets in the other room. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Chair Alice Lee, ran annim.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, well, I...I did say hello already, so I...I do want to add that I’m here by myself...home alone. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: With Koa.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Outside.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Koa the puppy. Okay, and Member Kelly King?

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: Ran annim, ifa usum? And aloha ‘auinalā. I am here in my spare bedroom of my house alone, and my husband is upstairs in our bedroom doing his meeting.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ran annim. Member Gabe Johnson, ran annim.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Afternoon, Chair, good afternoon, Members. Ran annim, ifa usum? And I am home alone, just like the movie.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Maika’i. Member Yuki Lei Sugimura, ran annim.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Ran annim, ifa usum? Good afternoon everybody, from Kula. And my husband is home, and he's downstairs. Thanks.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. And Pro Tem Tasha Kama is excused. And before I forget, I'm also at the Moloka’i District Office, and I am in the office on this side alone. From Corporation Counsel, we have Kristina Toshikiyo.

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

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Ran...ran annim.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Okay. And our Committee Staff, we have Committee Secretary Yvette Bouthillier, ran annim.

MS. BOUTHILLIER: Good afternoon, Committee Chair and Members, ran annim, ifa usum?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, maika’i. Committee Analyst Lesley Milner.

MS. MILNER: *(audio interference)* Chair --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, Budget Committee Analyst, sorry.

MS. MILNER: That's okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

MS. MILNER: Aloha, ran annim, Members.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Legislative Analyst Kasie Apo Takayama.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Ran annim, ifa usum, Members?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ran annim. And Legislative Attorney Richard E. Mitchell.

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MR. MITCHELL: Ran annim, ifa usum, Members.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ran annim. This online meeting is being conducted in accordance with the Governor's most recent emergency proclamation on COVID-19. Please see the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity. We have two items on today's agenda, BFED-54(1) Amendments to Appendix A, Grants and Restricted Use Revenues - Schedule of Grants and Restricted Use Revenues by Departments and Programs for Fiscal Year 2022 (Department of Fire and Public Safety (State of Hawaii Makena Lifeguard Services)), and BFED-52 County Transient Accommodations Tax. It looks like we have one person signed up to testify, so we'll begin with public testimony. Oral testimony via phone or video conference will be accepted. Please note that if you are signed in, you are on the list to testify. Testifiers wanting to provide video testimony, please join by going to the meeting link as noted on today's agenda. Testifiers wanting to provide audio testimony, please join by calling the number and entering the meeting code as noted on today's agenda. The Committee intends to keep the same meeting link and phone number for future BFED Committee meetings. Written testimony is highly encouraged. Instructions on how to submit written testimony can be found at mauicounty.us/testify. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes. When testifying, please state your first and last name. If you are testifying on behalf of an organization or are a paid lobbyist...lobbyist, please inform the Committee. And we'll get started. Okay, our one testifier signed up currently is Faith Chase. Aloha, Ms. Chase, ran annim.

. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

MS. CHASE: Aloha, Chair, aloha Committee. Aloha ahiahi? a'o pua mai ole makemake --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: 'a'ole . . .*(inaudible)* . . .

MS. CHASE: -- makemake i'au e ha'e 'olelo Item 52, i kēia lā. My name is Faith Chase, I'd like to speak on Item 52. I just want to say, I'm so happy to see this. This is such a long time coming. My...I...I know I talk about my mom's little Miss Manners through the years, but sometimes when she hears us say something negative or not nice to somebody else, she will quickly say, "okay, now say something nice," and I just want to say that, you know, I...I wasn't always happy with Councilmember Mike White, but I do...this is the nice thing I'm going to say about him, is that he is most on record about speaking about the...the lack of fairness with the trans-accommodation tax. I mean, he got to be known for that, and I appreciate that, and so I'm happy to see this here today. It is...it is...I don't see you having any problem flying through, but thank you so much for having this item. Go get the money. A hui hou.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Okay, any questions for our testifier? Seeing none, we'll thank Ms. Chase for your testimony today.

MS. CHASE: A hui hou.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All right, a hui hou. And I will open it to anyone else willing...or wishing to testify...and willing, I guess. Okay, hearing no one speaking up to testify, if there are no objections, Members, we'll close public testimony. Any objections?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And we'll accept any written testimony into the record. Any objections, Members?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo.

. . .END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

**ITEM 54(1): AMENDMENTS TO APPENDIX A, GRANTS AND RESTRICTED
USE REVENUES - SCHEDULE OF GRANTS AND
RESTRICTED USE REVENUES BY DEPARTMENTS AND
PROGRAMS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 (DEPARTMENT OF
FIRE AND PUBLIC SAFETY (STATE OF HAWAII MAKENA
LIFEGUARD SERVICES))**

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. The first item we have on today's agenda is BFED-54(1) Amendments to Appendix A, Grants and Restricted Use Revenues - Schedule of Grants and Restricted Use Revenues by Departments and Programs for Fiscal Year 2022 (Department of Fire and Public Safety (State of Hawai'i Makena Lifeguard Services)), and if you'll recall, Members, we passed out Bill 65 out of Council on August 6, "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT AMENDING THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR LIFEGUARD SERVICES BETWEEN THE STATE OF HAWAII AND THE COUNTY OF MAUI FOR MAKENA BEACH PARK." And what we're doing today is taking this item up...taking the budget amendment item up in Committee to receive the...to receive the grant into the budget, and then enable Members to ask the questions that some of us had regarding the funding and the use of the funding. So we have today Budget Director Michele Yoshimura, as well as Department of Fire and Public Safety Chief Brad Ventura, and Battalion Chief Gace [sic], please correct it, I'm sure I've said it...I've said it wrong.

MR. GIESEA: It...It's Giesea.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But aloha, Fire Chief --

MR. GIESEA: You...you are very close.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Thanks, appreciate that. Budget Director, did you want to open with remarks, or should I call on Fire Chief Ventura first?

MS. YOSHIMURA: Chair, thank you. Before you is two proposed bills, one to amend the budget to add the...in Appendix A, Part II, [sic] the grant from the State, and asking for 10.5 E/P, along with an amendment...a proposed bill to amend Appendix D to add the conditions in there as well. Yeah, and I'll turn it over to the fire experts or the ocean experts to give you more information on the positions and the cost. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Budget Director. And aloha, Fire Chief Ventura.

MR. VENTURA: Aloha, Chair, aloha Councilmembers, afternoon. I don't want to get into things that you're interested in, so I'm gonna open this to more questions than just statements. But as you guys are well aware, we haven't had lifeguards on the beach at Makena for about close to 16 months now, and so this is something that's going to help us get our lifeguards back on the beach. So the ten and a half positions are what was there in the past, and so we're not asking for any more, and the grant that DLNR is providing for us is able to cover the salaries, and we can go into other questions if you have, but I'll just leave it at that for now.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, great. Mahalo, Chief Ventura. I'll go to the Councilmember of that District, Member King, and then I'll open up the floor to additional questions from the Members. Member King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Thank you, Chair, appreciate it. This is sort of been an ongoing problem in our community trying to get these...this lifeguard staff and keep them over there, and I just wondered if you...if you can talk about the situation with the hires. Are you having a hard time...you know, once the grant goes through, is there any difficulty in getting these positions filled, or are they filled right now and they're somewhere else?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chief?

MR. VENTURA: Chair, thank you. So we're not having difficulty in hiring people, it's just the duration of the process does take time. And so what we currently have going on right now is a recruit class that was started...the process was started before DLNR provided us with the grant opportunity. Since DLNR provided us with the grant opportunity on July 6th, we've started the process for a second class. So we are...we're actively, you know, trying to get it all filled up. We're not going to wait until that DLNR class that's expected to graduate in December...we're not going to wait until then to staff the beach, but we do need this first recruit class that's going through right now, and they're already in about...not quite the halfway point of their class. As soon as they graduate, then we anticipate being able to staff that beach...October...about October 13th or so...15th.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Of this year?

MR. VENTURA: Correct.

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Well, I had to ask because, you know, you might be anticipating us being in lockdown. But the other question I have is, you know, it's more about the geographical area. And is there...is there like a specific training for...for any particular area? I mean, there's a...if you go out to Big Beach, there's an undertow there, I mean, I don't know how different the geographic areas are as far as the wave action, but I do know it can be very dangerous out there in Makena.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chief...or Battalion Chief?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Is there additional training that has to happen, I guess, is what I'm asking.

MR. GIESEA: Yeah, so I can address that. So in the course of our recruit training, we take our recruits--once...once they've had, you know, much of their basic lifeguard skills training, and their emergency medical training, and their basic jet ski training--we take them to each of our beach parks. And they'll spend at least one day there, in some cases more than one, and a good portion of that day is discussing with folks who are familiar there...in the case of Makena, we would have personnel formally assigned there, and they become familiarized...probably not even the best word...they learn the ins and the outs of that particular location. So that's part of the standard recruit class...all of our recruits will have that. And then we anticipate once we open up positions for Makena, we anticipate several of our ocean safety officers who worked there in the past will transfer back there. It...it was a place where the folks who worked there, as...as a general rule, very much liked being there, so we'll have a lot of actual experience that any of our new . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . personnel can learn from. So you...you are absolutely right, every beach is unique and has its own locations, its own terminology, you know, there's first entrance, second entrance, you know, thirds, two and a half, and you know, all sorts of lingo, as well as specific hazards and features and such, but the guards will get familiarized with that during recruit class, as well as once they're on the beach, that's...that just gets hammered home to them by the personnel with experience at that location.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, great. That's...that's really good to hear, I think I heard a bell? I'm not sure, is that what that noise was? Okay. Anyways, I couldn't tell, but...

MR. GIESEA: Oh, I'm sorry, did I take your time?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No, no, it's...it's okay, it was just it was a different noise, it's a...it's a much less invasive noise, so I just had to make sure that that's what I was hearing. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Battalion Chief. Mahalo, Member King. So as Fire Chief Ventura explained, the goal is to have the new recruits started by October 13th or 15th, and so the intention with today's bills are to defer them here in Committee so that we can discharge them at Council. You will see that it's on the Council agenda, and then we can expedite it. The only reason that I took it into Committee is so that everyone

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had an opportunity to ask questions. And since we were able to expedite the trainings to get them out sooner than December, then we wanted to try to expedite it and accommodate the Department, and therefore keep our community and our visitors safe. Oh, yeah, and then here's...this is the timer . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . buzzer. Okay, anyone else with questions? Okay, Member Molina, followed by Member Sugimura, and then Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Boy, that...those bells sounds so magical, I like that. Good afternoon, gentlemen. Just a couple of quick general questions. Do you have sufficient equipment to support the ten-and-a-half limited term personnel, and have you kept track of any emergency calls you've had to respond to over at Makena since lifeguards are no longer there?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chief?

MR. GIESEA: Yes, thank you very much. We do have all the equipment that we need to begin operations. We've also begun the process...in fact, they were wrapping it up today to get the towers all cleaned out and board and ready for service and get everything checked out. So we feel...equipment-wise, we're good to go. As far as tracking calls and incidents, what we...everybody is aware of when we have incidents that happen at Makena, "oh, did you hear about that one that happened at such and such a time," we hear them come over the radio. What I don't do anymore is keep a running total of...oh, there was another one, there *(audio interference)* for the simple reason that the question of, "man, do we really need lifeguards there? Are people still really getting hurt there? Are people still drowning there?" is...is well...it is well confidently answered. We know that this is happening, we...we know that once the lifeguards went away there were periods, especially when there's a south swell, where the...the firefighters from Wailea Station were going there on a daily basis. So as far as a specific number...or since we shut down, we've had precisely this many of this type of call and this many of that type of call, I...I don't have that information at my fingertips. Those stats typically get collected, you know, on an annual basis through Department of Health because they...they get input from Ocean Safety, Fire and EMS, so they're able to...they have a broader net where they can capture any incidents that any of those agencies go through. But there...there's no doubt that there has been a lot of activity at Makena, there have been quite a few injuries, some drownings, and CPR calls, but we had to repair a lock on our tower because people were trying to break into the tower in hopes that there was an AED inside at one point.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay, but --

MR. GIESEA: I hope that answers your question.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Oh, yeah, certainly does. Thank you very much for the response.

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So hopefully once we get the lifeguards back in there, a lot of those incident numbers can go down. Thank you very much. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So this is like a “in behalf of Tamara Paltin,” who is our Councilmember lifeguard, I know that she would overwhelmingly support this, so I have no questions for you. And thank you very much, I'm...we're glad to see this come back again, so at that right time...I mean, in behalf of Tamara Paltin, I have to give three cheers for however you made this happen, Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, and Michele Yoshimura. Thank you very much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. I...I...I can't take any credit for that, but I appreciate it. Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Of course, some of my questions were already answered, so that's great. Real quick, this...my understanding is this is a DLNR grant, and will we have to come back every year for this...this money? Is this...is this going to be an ongoing thing?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Fire Chief?

MR. VENTURA: Thank you. Councilmember Johnson, that is correct. We are in our 13th iteration of this Memorandum of Agreement with State of Hawai'i, so it's an annual re-up.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So 13 years we've been going this way, right? Okay.

MR. VENTURA: So one --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. VENTURA: -- if I can add to that, the one really good thing about it is it allows us to adjust for the cost of things going on. Collective bargaining agreements continue to rise, and then we've just locked into a five or seven-year MOA, then it would, you know, lock in our numbers and we wouldn't be able to stay with the CBAs as they increase. So by doing it annually, we do calculations on our end to ask for more money.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So I just pivot to...to that then, is...how about the burden of this. Is this a burden on you administratively? And also, is this a burden on...on the workers? Do they feel like, “I don't know about next year,” is that...is that a burden that you've come across?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chief?

MR. VENTURA: Chair, thanks. So certainly it's not a burden to our Administration, we're able

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to manage it. We're able to feel that this is something besides the pandemic that will be around for good. However, there are employees...and that group of employees that we are hiring for the last recruit class that I mentioned, they are temporary hires. They do know that their hire is connected to the grant. Now, this is the first time we've had a pandemic in quite a while, and this is the first time that the grant has gone away, so if things kind of return to status quo, and we're able to maintain it, then we don't foresee any issues. There's also opportunity, as people retire, that those temporary people will move to permanent positions, and then we hire new temporaries.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay, thank you for that clarification. Just a last final question real quick. So these are temporary employees. Do their benefits...are there different benefits for those folks than opposed to a permanent employee or whatever non-temporary is?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chief?

MR. VENTURA: Chair, thanks. So the benefits package is going to be the same, and it's just a matter of seniority is the only thing that they will have less of than other employees above them.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay, I understand that. Thank you, Chief. Thank you, Chair, no further questions.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Johnson. Members, any other questions? Okay, seeing no other...oh, Member King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Actually, thank you, Member Johnson, for asking that question because that was my one burning question was going back to the table every year for this. But no, I just...I wanted to ask you, Chair, if you're planning to put this on the Consent calendar? Can you do that since we've already discussed it? The thought?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. I...okay, it...it's being discharged from my Committee, but it is...they are bills that came from the Administration. It...yeah, so I guess it could go onto the Consent calendar because they didn't...they're not bills that were introduced by a Councilmember. So if Members would prefer to put it on the Consent calendar, I'm open to that.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, I just...I...I would support that, I just thought I'd throw that out there, seems like it would be even quicker to get through since we're all in favor of it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, any objections to doing that?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, great. That'll make it quicker.

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member King. Okay, any other questions? Okay, good. All right. So if there are no objections, we will defer this Item BFED-54(1). Any objections?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Members, and mahalo, Chief and Battalion Chief, as well as Budget Director Yoshimura. Oh, I'm sorry, I forgot to recognize Corporation Counsel Moana Lutey was also on if anyone needed to ask questions of her, but I think we're okay.

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.

ITEM 52: COUNTY TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATIONS TAX (CC 21-345)

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, the second and last item we have on today's agenda is BFED-52 County Transient Accommodation Tax. At our previous meeting, we discussed some changes to the proposed County Transient Accommodation Tax Bill that was posted on the agenda. The revised proposed bill approved by Corporation Counsel as to form and legality was posted with today's agenda, and is also posted on Granicus as Item 7. Since our last meeting, the Department of Finance has met with representatives from the State and the other counties, and the Director...the Deputy Director is with us today to let us know what he...she learned from these discussions. We have Deputy Director May Anne Alibin, aloha.

MS. ALIBIN: Good afternoon, Chair and Members. First of all, I want to thank Director Choy from State DOT along with his team for giving us opportunity and for allowing us to discuss with them regarding the transition of the Transient Accommodation Tax. We had a...Director Teruya and I had a very productive meeting along with the other counties...City and County of Honolulu, County of Kaua'i and as well as County of *(audio interference)*, and you know, based on that meeting, they are very cooperative and helpful. So should this Council pass the bill...and with the implementation of October 1st, the Department of Finance will be ready to get the...the enabling legislation passed and implement the TAT collection.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Deputy Director Alibin. One of the burning questions that we all had as a Committee at the last meeting was, who will be collecting...or unless you already covered that? So would it be the County that would be collecting the tax, or would the State be collecting the tax on...on our behalf?

MS. ALIBIN: Yes, Chair. So that...we had...based on our discussion, what State had come up with as far as the process is that we would have the taxpayers file the tax return to the State and with the...having the...amending some of the...they had some proposed changes on Kaua'i's bill that would enable them to share that information, and have

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that date that the taxpayer filed the...the tax return with the State be deemed at the same time that they would file it with the County of Maui. However, County of Maui will be responsible for the actual collection of the payments.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Deputy Director. And you have some of the amendments that was recommended by this meeting with the State?

MS. ALIBIN: Chair, what...based on our discussion with the State DOT, similar to what they've done with Kaua'i was...I believe Kaua'i passed it on their committee, and then they had provided that bill to the State, and then State made some comments. We do have the comments that they had provided to Kaua'i and...but just for our process, they did make a statement that they would, you know, review and provide direct comments with Maui County's.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So as far as the process goes, we could pass out the bill out of BFED Committee today, and then send it to the Department of Taxation...the State Department of Taxation, who would give us feedback or suggested...recommended amendments for first reading?

MS. ALIBIN: Chair, yes. So that's very similar to what Kaua'i did. So I believe Kaua'i have their second and final reading scheduled on September 15th. They did made some floor amendments based on the comments that they had received with the State DOT; however, there were some other housekeeping items that they weren't able to make as...I...I believe it requires some Council hearing, and there's also some review that we would need or discussion that we would need with our Corporation Counsel with regards to grandfathered tax.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Deputy Director. I'll open the floor for questions from the Members. Council Chair Lee, followed by Member Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Hello, May Anne. Okay, so the way...let's say I'm the Grand Wailea, I send an...I send...I file my taxes, and so the State determines how much I owe, and then the County collects that amount.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Deputy Director?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: The State informs the County on how much to collect, and that's how we would base our collection process?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Deputy Director?

MS. ALIBIN: Chair, so the taxpayer...so this is a voluntary taxation. So therefore, the taxpayer would be the one who's responsible to determine what is their liability, and so that's what the State will report to us. So based on the total liability that the...this...say Grand Wailea, with your example, has filed, then that becomes...we would have to calculate that. And so based on that, we would take, you know, whatever the percentage is,

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whether it's 1 percent, 2 percent, or 3 percent, then that would be the payment that they should be remitting to the County.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Because they file with the State, the State takes their share, yeah, which is what, 11 percent, 15 percent, whatever it is. And then...then the State informs us, the Counties, of what...let's say we pass this with 3 percent, of what that 3 percent is, right?

MS. ALIBIN: Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Deputy Director?

MS. ALIBIN: Yes. So by law, HRS 231-18 actually allows the State to pass on the information to the County as long as the County creates a tax office that would collect that, and then they can share that information. So yes, that is correct.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, we already have a tax office, right?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Deputy Director?

MS. ALIBIN: Chair, my understanding is that it has to be specific for the taxation...for the transient accommodation tax.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And then one last question. What did you mean about grandfathered in? Who would be grandfathered in? This is a brand new tax.

MS. ALIBIN: Chair --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Deputy Director?

MS. ALIBIN: Yes, so the grandfathered...so let's say that there's a taxpayer that had already, you know collected, like the tax today before the enabling legislation was effective. So that's what they're saying as a grandfathered in that we cannot collect the additional 3 percent for those that have already . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . filed. So they're considered as a grandfather.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay, thank you. I don't understand that answer, but thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Mahalo --

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

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: -- Madam Chair. Good afternoon, Director Alibin. You know, I know this is a, you know, a great day...great thing that we're about to embark on, but

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you know, it's...we're also adventuring into the great unknown. So I assume the Department is prepared to verify the additional 3 percent that is being paid, and at this point you have the sufficient staffing, and have you also...or may be considering funding for a private contractor to assist you?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Deputy Director?

MS. ALIBIN: Chair, so after...once this enabling legislation is passed, the next step...and I would defer to Budget Director Yoshimura on...on the timing and on the logistic, but we would...the Administration would have to, you know, go before a budget amendment to create the actual formation of the...the tax office, and then also Staff having the resources needed to implement this. In the meantime, we do have...the Mayor actually has the authority to temporarily transfer any positions, and we did identify some positions that are currently unfilled within the Department of Finance that would help us with the implementation, should this body decide to have this implemented by October 1st. Therefore, the first collection will be due on November 20th.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay, thank you. And would...would...do you think the Department would be agreeable to report back to the Council on the...I guess the implementation status, say six months from now after the bill's enactment? I don't know if this is also a question for you, Madam Chair, as well, something just to kind of keep us in the loop as to how things are going.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Deputy...

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Director, is that something?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Deputy Director? I...I'm open to it, Member Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Deputy Director?

MS. ALIBIN: Chair, yes, we can. The only thing is like we also do...the Finance Director has a quarterly report that is due before the Council, and is submitted on a quarterly basis, which would include any financial reporting, you know, whether it's revenues collected and also related expenditures.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay, yeah, that...that might achieve the same thing that we may be seeking as well. Okay. Thank you, Madam Director and thank you, Madam Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. So my questions are in line with Member Molina because I was just wondering how equipped we are if we have to establish our own

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office...TAT Office. So does it mean we have to rent a space? And then you sound...sounds like you already have thought about the personnel, how many staff is that, and are you establishing a brand new budget for this?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Deputy Director?

MS. ALIBIN: Chair, what's surprising with the meeting that we had last week with the State DOT is that County...among all the other...all the counties within the State of Hawai'i, Maui County actually collects the most TAT taxes. Therefore, our Director Teruya's proposal initially to implement this is by having four staff, you know...will be the two we were thinking that will be primarily responsible for collection, so we are thinking about opening...having those bodies be able to collect in person as well here at the County Building located here in the second floor lobby. And those proposed positions would also be able to collect for all other revenues that the County collects, and not just specific to TAT.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So you're...you're equipped to move forward with the deadlines that you've established?

MS. ALIBIN: Chair, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Sounds like...

MS. ALIBIN: That is correct.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay, great. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. So I...my...my first question is just to follow up on the...you mentioned something about quarterly reports, but we're...my understanding is that we would be collecting this tax annually?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Deputy Director?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: The report --

MS. ALIBIN: Chair?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- . . .*(inaudible)*. . . property taxes, or I don't know, how is it going to be reported so that we can budget for that money, or how that money gets spent?

MS. ALIBIN: Chair, the collection...the periodic collection is actually every month --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh.

MS. ALIBIN: -- and there is an annual reconciliation process.

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, so how do you anticipate that that would come to the Council for budgeting?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Would you like to call on Deputy Director Alibin or Budget Director Yoshimura?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, maybe Budget Director Yoshimura.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Budget Director Yoshimura?

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

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Did you hear the question?

MS. YOSHIMURA: Sorry...sorry. Councilmember King, could you please repeat the question?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, so we...they were...May Anne was just saying it's going to be collected monthly, but how are we going to put this money into our budget? How would the Council...because I'm assuming you're not going to be spending it monthly as it comes in, it would be...at some point, it would be a budget figure for us to put into our budget.

MS. YOSHIMURA: Yes. So like all of our estimated revenue, we would estimate what we think we would collect on a annual basis, add that, and propose a budget amendment to increase the estimated revenues. So in the past, we've always had TAT at \$23 million, so we would propose an amount based on the effective date of the TAT tax, right, moving forward, and then we would propose a budget...expenditures in the same amount. So if we say we're going to propose \$24 million...let's say \$24 million for TAT for the remainder of Fiscal Year '22, then we would also put \$24 million worth of appropriations in a budget amendment and propose it to the Council.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So it's going to be based on what you collected the previous year?

MS. YOSHIMURA: So we would go based on what was collected by the State in prior years, and not based on the percentage that has been provided to the County in prior years, right, because we didn't get the full TAT appropriation.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No, no...right, we're getting...we're...what we're getting is 3 percent.

MS. YOSHIMURA: So we'll get 3 percent. So if...if the County's...if Maui County used to pay to the State \$7 million per month based on 11 percent, we would prorate that. So we would . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . calculate...maybe we would only get \$4 million a month, right? If we got \$4 million a month based on the sales times 3 percent, that's the amount that we would move forward with for the next nine months.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. And then...and then for the amount you're gonna start

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collecting between now and the next budget at the end of the fiscal year, what happens to that money?

MS. YOSHIMURA: So we would have to put it...if we're going to recognize TAT for this Fiscal '22, then we're going to have to put the money somewhere. So we're going to have to...that's a discussion we'll have with Mayor, how he wants to propose it. And I know initially he had said that he wanted 1 percent worth of the funding to go into the Affordable Housing Fund, 1 percent to go into environmental, and 1 percent...sorry, I can't remember what the other 1 percent was . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: But that'll come to us in a form of a budget amendment . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

MS. YOSHIMURA: But yeah, so we will put that in a budget amendment, and we would put the appropriations forward then.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I think my time is up. Thank you, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: *(audio interference)* Chair, and yeah, just a follow-up question on Member King's question, Ms. Yoshimura. So we're kind of allocating for the 20 million that was allocated from the State to the County of Maui; however, we always thought that we were...as far as room rates and room numbers and stuff like that, that the County was...was supposed to be receiving more than that. But you said that we'll be...we're using that figure of 20 million as far as keeping our budget?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Budget Director?

MS. YOSHIMURA: Sorry, Councilmember Sinenci, I just used that...an example. So what's going to happen is the State's going to...there's a form that the...that the hotels will file with the State. And on that form it gives the sales for the month, and they will remit the 10 percent or 11 percent of that sale amount to the State, and that's the amount that we're going to use to calculate the 3 percent. So let's say...let's take the...the Marriott, right? If they have \$10 million of sales in one month, we'll take 3 percent of that, and that's what's going to be recognized for the County. So we...we still need to work with the State to get information on how much they've collected per month from the State, and what type of sales we've been having on...on...in Maui County, and then we can calculate the 3 percent.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Do you anticipate our County revenues to increase substantially or no?

MS. YOSHIMURA: Yes, so...so we have high months and we have low months, right? So if we took a high month, we would probably get maybe about \$6 million a month, or \$7 million a month. We took a low month, we might have \$4 million. So we need to take an average...look at how many high months, how many low months, and then come back

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in and look at from...moving forward from October 1st until June 30, what we anticipate in getting in TAT revenues.

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

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Okay, I think everyone had a turn. Okay. I...I have a question for Deputy Director Alibin. Do you know how long it took for the Kaua'i Council to get feedback from the State Department of Taxation?

MS. ALIBIN: Chair, no, I'm not sure, however, I...I can check that with Director of Finance for *(audio interference)*.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. If we...posting deadline for first reading would be September 10th. So if we pass it...pass the bill out of Committee today, and then we send it to DOTAX for feedback, if they could get it back to us in a week...oh, I guess...well, I guess it wouldn't need to be posted. I guess I could just work with you on getting the amendments ready for the floor amendments on the 17th. So that would give them two weeks, that's a lot of time, yeah?

MS. ALIBIN: Chair, and just to add to that, my understanding is that the proposed bill that the...this body has put together is very similar to County of Kaua'i's, so...and I believe that Director Teruya had shared what was posted on...during the last meeting with State DOT. So they probably had already reviewed it and would probably have the same comments as with Kaua'i, so I...I don't know...you know, I don't think it would take longer than two weeks.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, that's good. Okay, Members, any further questions for round two? Okay, Council Chair Lee, followed by Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. May Anne, what are the costs associated with this tax? For instance, is the State going to charge us any like...any particular amount for collecting, or at least...collecting the information --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Deputy Director?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- and is there any other costs besides potentially from the State...anyplace else?

MS. ALIBIN: Chair, that's a really good question, and we had actually asked the same question with Director Choy. And his response is like he would like to charge the County as much as possible; however, you know, it would be very minimal as I...I get he was directed by the Governor to try to help the County as much as possible. So I believe that there will be some administrative fees, but he didn't mention any specific percentage.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So since we're collecting the money ourselves, we don't have to worry about the State withholding any amount, right, that's due to us?

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Deputy Director?

MS. ALIBIN: Chair, yes, that is correct.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you, that's all I have.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Member King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. So I just wanted to clarify some...some things that I heard you say earlier because I think I...it seemed a little bit confusing for the public because you said once the enabling legislation is passed, and even if the legislation has already been passed at the State level, so we're...what we're passing is the actual tax. You weren't talking about...you weren't saying that the enabling legislation hasn't been passed yet, were you?

MS. ALIBIN: Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Deputy Director?

MS. ALIBIN: Yes, I believe the...under the HB 862, it refers to having each County pass their own ordinance.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Right, right. But the...but the State was the one that enabled it, and that's all pau, right? That's passed and there's nothing wrong...okay. And then the other thing that you said was...and I just wanted to clarify this for the public because when you were talking to Member Sinenci, you said, you know, they would give us...the State would give us a number, we would take 3 percent. We're not actually taking 3 percent, we're adding on 3 percent...well, the 3 percent is what we're charging on top of that. We're not taking 3 percent of the TAT, we're...we're charging an additional 3 percent?

MS. YOSHIMURA: Councilmember King, yes, that's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, I just wanted to double check because . . .(inaudible). . .

MS. YOSHIMURA: It's in addition to what the State is collecting.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Exactly. Okay, we...we had a little report on it at the last HSAC meeting, and Tommy Waters kept...he...he was...kept saying how astonished he was at the numbers on Maui, and that we would be somewhere around \$80 million a year for this 3 percent, so...the other thing that was said was...and you call this a volunteer tax, Director Alibin? Why did you say...why did you use that term?

MS. ALIBIN: Chair, it's a voluntary...it's a voluntary taxation, so...which means that as a taxpayer, you identify how much is your tax liability . . .(inaudible). . .

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: It's not...It's not optional, I mean, it's...it's...it's not an option for them, they have to pay the 3 percent, right?

MS. ALIBIN: That is correct, Chair. Yes, that is correct. However, as far as calculating the liability, that is at its own...that the taxpayer would actually identify that amount that they . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, I understand, I think we just have to be careful of...terminology-wise. Because if you call it volunteer tax, it sounds like something that they can opt out of, and I don't think that's what we're saying here, right? It...it's a requirement, they have to pay 3 percent on top of the TAT.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Deputy Director?

MS. ALIBIN: Chair, yes. So that...the term voluntary is what was communicated to us by the Department of Taxation...is what they regard that...yes, I see your point, Chair...Miss...yes, Councilmember King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, I just don't want anyone listening to think, you know, oh, if it's all voluntary, then maybe I don't have to do it. So that's...that's...I think that's a...you know, that's a very slippery...slippery . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . term to use but I think *(audio interference)*. That's all I had, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member King. I see Member Sugimura, I'm going to check with Member Johnson, I know he stepped away for a little bit, did you have any questions before I call on Member Sugimura? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I...I have no questions to ask.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So Department, this is sounding really easy, and I just wondered, it's probably not as easy as it sounds, like go get a number, we'll collect, and it'll be done. So what about delinquencies, and how many TAT did...did...did we get a number of how many TAT taxpayers there are? Because it's not only hotels. Do we know that number, and what about delinquencies?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Deputy Director?

MS. ALIBIN: Chair, yes. So there wouldn't...I...I mean, maybe if you can clarify what do you mean by delinquency. Because in this case, the only time that we would know if there's any penalty or, you know, interest is once they had filed what their liability amount is, we are not sending any bill. So we do not tell the taxpayer what they owe.

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The taxpayer will tell us what they owe the County, and then that's how much they would remit to the County and the State.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, this is honor system then...is it?

MS. ALIBIN: I'm sorry, Chair, can you...

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: You know like...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: *(audio interference)* Member...Member Sugimura, there are penalties involved if it's inaccurate. So there would be audits to ensure, so it wouldn't solely be the honor system. It would be in their best interest to report accurately, otherwise there would be penalties involved for not paying . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Just curious. Okay, I was just...as...as it would impact the...the personnel needs of the Department, I was just wondering. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Deputy Director, did you want to...I stepped in to answer that question. Did you want to add anything else to Member Sugimura before I call on Member Sinenci?

MS. ALIBIN: No, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Deputy Director. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, just following up on Member Sugimura's question. So in the...the taxpayer could...like prior to paying the tax, like do like some tax breaks, those types of things...if they did donations, would that all filter into the tax as well?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Deputy Director?

MS. ALIBIN: Chair...no, Chair. So this is going to be based on their gross rental or gross rental proceeds, not based on their income tax.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. Thank you....thank you for that. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Members, any other questions? Okay. Okay . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . sorry...sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Recommendation.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That was my...my magic. Okay, we can do that. Okay, so what...what we'll do then, if Members would like, is we can...as we discussed, pass out the bill today, and the suggested amendments from DOTAX would...wouldn't be substantial, they're...they're just minor revisions here and there. So it wouldn't change the substance of the bill, it's just to ensure more consistency. And I would be okay...and we got Corporation Counsel's signature as to formal legality on this bill. So if we wanted

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to pass it out today, we could, and then...okay, and then what we'll do is we can...where it says, "this Ordinance takes effect upon approval," we can add October 1st instead of upon approval. But looking at the calendar, if we pass it out today, we receive the...we...we send it to DOTAX, they...they send us back their suggested amendments, we'll...we'll post it on September 10th for first reading at the Council meeting on September 17th, and at that meeting we'll...I'll have all the amendments ready for us to incorporate. And then second reading would be on October 1st, and then perhaps we can coordinate with the Mayor for his signature on that day. And then I think...wait...is everyone okay with that timeline, or would you like me to call on Corporation Counsel to confirm or anything else?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Consensus.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Okay, sounds good. Okay, and then I'll just check with Deputy Director Alibin and Budget Director Yoshimura if you have any...any other information or comments you'd like to make before I make the recommendation and then we can *(audio interference)*.

MS. ALIBIN: None at this time, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo. All right, I will take up Member Molina's suggestion, and recommend passage of bill and...the Chair will entertain a motion to recommend on first reading the revised proposed bill entitled, "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A NEW CHAPTER 3.47, MAUI COUNTY CODE, IMPLEMENTING A COUNTY TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATION TAX," incorporating...no, we'll do the amendments later, so we'll pass it out as is, and filing of County Communication 21-354.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So moved.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: (raising hand seconding the motion)

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Second.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Moved by Member King, seconded by Member Johnson. Discussion, Members?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No need. I think we all had our questions answered.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All right, excellent. Okay, I'll call for the question then. All those in favor of the motion, please raise your hand and say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, it looks unanimous. Six in favor...six ayes and three excused, Member Sugimura, Member Paltin, and Pro Tem Kama.

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

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **Vice-Chair Paltin, and Councilmembers Kama and Sugimura.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: Recommending **FIRST READING of revised bill;** and **FILING** of communication by C.R.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Deputy Director Alibin and Budget Director Yoshimura.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you. Mahalo.

MS. ALIBIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Members.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Okay, and that's...that's everything for today.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Wow.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You've been such good boys and girls. You get to have the rest of the afternoon off. It's 2:35, even before our afternoon break. So tomorrow we have Affordable Housing Committee meeting at 9:00 a.m., followed by, I want to say, Healthy Families...it's Human Concerns and Parks at 1:30. Okay, any other announcements or comments before we adjourn? All right, we'll get out of here then. . . .*(laughing)*. . . It's 2:35 on September 1st, and the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee is now adjourned. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

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ADJOURN: 2:35 p.m.

APPROVED:



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

bfed:min:210901:jkh

Transcribed by: Jaylene K. Hamilton

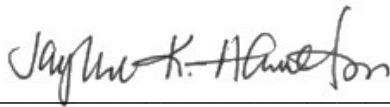
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September 1, 2021

CERTIFICATION

I, Jaylene K. Hamilton, hereby certify that pages 1 through 24 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 30th day of September 2021, in Wailuku, Hawai'i

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jaylene K. Hamilton", is written over a horizontal line.

Jaylene K. Hamilton