

HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

M I N U T E S

Online Only via BlueJeans

September 2, 2021

CONVENE: 1:35 p.m.

PRESENT: VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Kelly T. King, Member (arrived at 1:43 p.m. and
left at 3:04 p.m.)

EXCUSED: VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Tasha Kama, Chair
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member

STAFF:

Laksmi Abraham, Legislative Analyst
Lesley Milner, Legislative Analyst
Richard Mitchell, Legislative Attorney
David Raatz, Supervising Legislative Attorney
Jean Pokipala, Committee Secretary
Pauline Martins, Committee Secretary
Lenora Dineen, Council Services Assistant Clerk
Kristeena Locke, Council Services Assistant Clerk

Ana Lillis, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Molina
Dawn Lono, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Sinenci
Evan Dust, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kama
Lois Whitney, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kama
Davideane Sickels, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kama
Axel Beers, Executive Assistant to Councilmember King
Ellen McKinley, Executive Assistant to Councilmember King
Jordan Helle, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Sugimura
Sarah Sexton, Executive Assistant to Councilmember King
Sarah Pajimola, Executive Assistant to Councilmember
Rawlins-Fernandez

ADMIN.: Mimi DesJardins, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the
Corporation Counsel

Karla Peters, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation
David Yamashita, Planner, Department of Parks and Recreation

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OTHERS: Cara Flores
Lisa Darcy
Bruce U'u
Rod Antone
Susan White
Mike Rembis, CEO, Maui Health
Wes Crile, University of Hawaii-Sea Grant College Program
Nicole Swanson, PBR Hawaii

PRESS: Akakū Maui Community Television, Inc.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . . *(gavel)* . . . Good afternoon everyone. Welcome to the Human Concerns and Parks Committee. My name is Yuki Lei Sugimura. I'm the Vice-Chair, sitting in for Chair Tasha Kama, who's excused from this meeting. The time right now is 1:35, and we will begin this meeting. This is...okay. This online meeting is being conducted in accordance with the Governor's most recent emergency proclamation on COVID-19. Please see the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity. In addition, when your name is called, please identify by name who, if anyone, is in the room, vehicle, or workspace with you today, and that's talking to the Members for transparency. So at this time, again, my name is Yuki Lei Sugimura, I'm the Vice-Chair of this Committee. I'd like to welcome our Chair of the Council, Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Bonjour, Madam Chair.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Bonjour.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Good to see all of you.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good to see all of you. And we're still thinking about Tamara Paltin, who is excused. She did call in, I think it's 1:00 in the morning in France. But we appreciate her enthusiasm to still participate in our Council matters from afar. Councilmember Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha and bonjour, mes amis. Aloha 'auinalā makahi Hina . . . *(inaudible)*. . . *(speaking Hawaiian)*. Mahalo.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Bonjour. All right, translate that. That's great. Translate that.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I'm here with Dawn.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. I'm guessing that...Alice Lee, you're by yourself, right?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes, I am.

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VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, so who...so Tamara Paltin is excused, and I did say earlier that Tasha Kama is excused. Councilmembers who are welcome to join are Gabe Johnson, Kelly King, Mike Molina--oh, Mike Molina said he wasn't going to be present, he called me yesterday--and Keani Rawlins-Fernandez from Moloka'i. I'd like to also welcome the help of Department of Corporation Counsel, Mimi DesJardins on all items. From Department of Parks and Recreation we have Karla Peters, the Director; along with David Yamashita, who is the Parks Planner, who created and has been working on the Baldwin Beach Master Plan, so appreciate that. Other representatives we have here today are Mike Rembis, the CEO of Maui Health and our hospital, our one and only hospital. So really appreciate you, Mike, for reaching out to us to want to share with us where we are on our big concerns of COVID. We also have Wes Crile, University of Hawai'i, Sea Grant College Program; and Nicole Swanson, PBR Hawaii. Committee Staff, Wilton Leauanae, who is our Legislative Analyst, is here; Laks Abraham and Jean Pokipala, Committee Secretary; Pauline Martins, also Committee Secretary; Richard Mitchell, our Legislative Attorney; and Lei Dineen is OCS Assistant Clerk. Thank you, Members, for joining me today in the Human Concerns and Parks Committee. And we have two items on our agenda, which is HCP-1(1), which is I know top of mind for all of us as we go through this, Effects of the Coronavirus Pandemic and Related Issues Under the Human Concerns and Parks Committee's Authority; and HCP-39, which is the Baldwin Beach Park Master Plan. Do we have testifiers, Laks? Or Wilton?

MS. ABRAHAM: Member Sugimura, we do.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, good. All right then. I'm going to begin public testimony. Oral testimony via phone or video conference will be accepted. Testifiers wanting to provide video testimony should join the online meeting via the Blue links [sic] meeting link, bluejeans.com\221418021 as noted on today's agenda. And you may also call in an audio testimony by dialing 408-915-6290 and enter the meeting code 221418021, also on today's agenda. Written testimony is highly encouraged. Instructions on how to submit testimony also can be found on mauicounty.us\testify. Now, let's move on to oral testimony. Laks, can you call out the testifiers and please do the three-minute time limit? And if you are testifying, I will kindly ask you to complete your testimony at the three minutes. When testifying, please state your name. And if you are testifying on behalf of an organization or are a paid lobbyist, please inform the Committee. Please be mindful of the use of chat during the meeting. Chat should not be used to provide testimony or chat with other testifiers. Okay. At this time Laks, you want to introduce the first testifier.

MS. ABRAHAM: Yes, Member Sugimura. We have four testifiers. The first testifier is Bruce U'u, followed by Cara Flores. Mr. U'u, if you could please unmute yourself and proceed with your testimony. Member Sugimura, it appears that we lost Mr. U'u, so we'll move on to the next testifier. Our next testifier is Cara Flores. Ms. Flores, please unmute yourself and proceed with your testimony.

. . . BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

MS. FLORES: Thank you. So I first want to say that we appreciate our hospital workers. They

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are on the frontlines doing the . . .*(inaudible)*. . . I am testifying...

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Hello.

MS. FLORES: ...and am fortunate to have our community group Hale Hawai'i and...can you hear me?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Cara, you're very quiet. You're very soft, so can you speak louder?

MS. FLORES: Oh, okay. I'll try to talk closer to my computer maybe. So we really appreciate our healthcare workers right now. I know they're having a hard time and they're carrying all of the burden. But our problem in the hospital currently is the symptom of a larger problem, which is a failure of our State and local Government. The only other states...the nine other states that are doing worse than us as far as having their ICU beds full from just COVID patients, are all red states. Let me tell you, it's Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Idaho, Oklahoma. That's who we're in line with right now with our amount of hospitalization. And that's not the hospital's fault, and they are the symptom of a worse problem. So as our ICU beds get full and we run out of oxygen, we really need to think about how do we stop this from happening, and stop the bleeding. And we need better protocols. We need better travel protocols because a lot of COVID is getting seated into our community. We have too little testing available still, people are having a hard time finding testing. We need a very targeted vaccine rollout to the people who are vaccine hesitant in those little small pocket communities. And it's really just not safe how open we are with so much community spread right now. So I'd really just...you know, I appreciate all the work you guys do, but I'd like to see a lot more happen at all levels of Government, and I think a lot of people feel the same.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any questions?

MS. FLORES: I'm done.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you're done. Okay. Any questions for the testifier? Thank you much very...oh, Mr. Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Aloha, Ms. Flores for being here. I just...you're calling in from O'ahu?

MS. FLORES: No, I'm on Maui.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. Thank you. I was just...so you're referring...your testimony is in reference to our local hospital here on Maui.

MS. FLORES: Yes. Yeah, Maui Memorial. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you.

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MS. FLORES: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So thank you, Cara. Anybody else have questions for her? Seeing none. So Cara, I guess what you're saying is that...you're saying that Government needs to tighten up our...whatever we're doing for the pandemic, and that you're saying the hospital is doing the best that they can. Is that your summary?

MS. FLORES: Yeah. I mean...and it's dangerous. So we know that the State is running out of oxygen. We saw Dr. Kimball's husband tweeted that the other day, and we know that we can't just ship more in. So we're using three times the amount of oxygen as normal and only getting twice as much, so that means it's going to run out, and that's a problem. So we've got to stop COVID from spreading, and that requires Government action, yeah.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. I think Mr. Rembis will talk about the oxygen as we saw on the front page of *The Maui News*. Any other questions? Oh, Kelly King, thank you for joining us.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Aloha, Chair. I'm sorry I was late, I meant to be here a little bit earlier, but it's good to see Cara Flores. So thank you for being here Cara, and thank you for your ongoing work. I was just...I was in another meeting with folks on Kaua'i, so I'm happy to be here early enough to hear Michael Rembis. And also Chair, I am live streaming this meeting on my Facebook Live...on my Facebook page so that folks can listen in as well.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Great. Thank you. Thank you very much, Kelly. Thank you, Cara. It looks like we have no more questions. Thank you for testifying. Next testifier please, Laks.

MS. ABRAHAM: The next testifier is Lisa Darcy. Lisa Darcy, please unmute yourself and proceed with your testimony.

MS. DARCY: Good afternoon, Chair and Committee. Thank you so much for this opportunity to make testimony on HCP-1(1). My name is Lisa Darcy. I believe now I also need to continuously inform you that I am a member of the Commission on Healing Solutions for Homelessness. I'm also the founder of Share your Mana that works with unsheltered individuals and unhoused throughout Maui County. I'm not usually a part of this Committee. As you all know, I've been very active in other Committees, but I did see this today, and I just wanted to again make Share your Mana available for completing the mission to connect all parties that can assist those living unhoused and unsheltered. As you know, Share your Mana has made itself available for collaboration for education and implementation with all needs for these communities and has, since day one of the pandemic, offered to be somebody who connects data and relationships for people who are unhoused. I've reached out to every Department I possibly can to get information to these communities who have limited access to information and often have a lot of misinformation, and therefore mistrust of vaccines. I have had many opportunities to try and set up and get people together. People want vaccines. It's always them having to get to the vaccine site. We are missing a major group of individuals, and I do not

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know what else to do. Like I said, I would try cartwheels--it would not be pretty--to get people to recognize this community as really interested and needing the vaccine. And there is vaccine hesitancy, but after I speak with people in our community meetings, they are open to it, they are ready for it. And yet whenever I reach out, I get very little response, if no response at all. The digital divide is a part of this. A lot of unhoused, you know, stay around parks so that they can have access to bathroom and waters. They are awesome locations to reach people. And I cannot figure out from the daylight to night, like I do not understand why no one has used Share your Mana--the Department of Health, the hospital, anybody--to be able to facilitate these individuals to get a vaccine. So again, I just want to say that this is...I think it's related to this Committee as well. Although, you know, I tire of going to so many Committees and not knowing who is going to be really the bottom line connector of all of this, and I thank you if you will again say which Committee is really going to take accountability or which agency...like I said, I have handfuls of people that have from day one wanted the vaccine when it was only...you know, when it's a double dose, it's impossible for people to do their schedules and get places. And now, you know, once Johnson & Johnson rolled out, there was much more openness to that. But that said, I just again will put Share your Mana out there as a willing participant and solving a big piece of this equation. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anyone...oh, Kelly King, you have questions?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I do. Thank you, Chair. Thanks again for being here, Lisa. I don't know if you know it, but it looks...from the angle of the fan above your head, it almost looks like a halo, which is pretty appropriate. But I want to...I just wanted to mention to you that...you know, the...I was...a couple of months ago I was at the Kihei Police Station, and they were blessing their new...one of I think three new medical services vans, mobile medical services. And to me, that would be like the ultimate kind of what you're looking for, you know, go to where the homeless folks are with the vaccination. So with your title as a person on the Healing Solutions Commission, as well as Share your Mana, I would encourage you to reach out to the Police Department. And I can help you do that through my office if you'd like. But I think that would be...that would be...they showed us the inside of the van, and there's a place to sit down and give people vaccinations.

MS. DARCY: So I do have a history with them, and we had a dialogue, and it stalled. And when they did come down to Kanaha, they came down unannounced. And as you know, people have parking, registration violations, and people like literally hid underneath cars. They were terrified when this rolled down. Nobody...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: But maybe start with South Maui community, because we don't...that's not that same history there, you know, and that's where they were actually doing the vaccines.

MS. DARCY: Right. I'm saying I'm open to it, and I have laid out a plan that is friendly to both sides, and it is still open and available. And yes, I would welcome that. I would totally welcome that.

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. But I think, you know, definitely that's kind of one of the reasons we put you on that Commission is because you now have that Commission, you know, involvement as well, and be able to reach out to the Departments. Let me know how I can help you with that.

MS. DARCY: Great. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Mr. Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair and aloha, Lisa. Thanks for hanging in there with us. I just want to kind of get a feel on . . . *(inaudible)*. . . and be safe out there, but has the more contagious Delta variant been affecting some of our homeless populations in your experience.

MS. DARCY: You know, I can't say because they don't get testing. They lay in their tent and they're sick. And I say, when they're laying in their tent and they're sick...gosh, I wish I had a way to test you or to get testing to you. There is nothing that I have discovered that at all works with this community in any capacity that reaches them in a manner that's effective. And I have seen quite a few people sick, in which case I just drop off bottles of 7-Up, you know, or whatever, you know, if they want a can of soup. But there's...how do I...there's no way to know. There's no way to know.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you. We'll keep in touch. Thank you, Lisa.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody else have questions? Seeing none. Thank you very much, Lisa for making yourself available.

MS. DARCY: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. ABRAHAM: Next testifier is Bruce U'u. Mr. U'u, please unmute yourself and proceed with your testimony.

MR. U'U: Aloha all. Can you guys hear me?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. U'U: Good afternoon. My name is Bruce U'u. I am testifying on behalf of myself. I'm testifying in support of the Baldwin Park master plan. Just a brief history, when A&B was going through the transition stages years ago, we approached the Mayor at the time, Alan Arakawa, in hopes of he could make a deal with A&B to acquire that property. And my thought process was at the time that I think Pā'ia is such a special place that in my head, I wanted a green space or a green belt created to keep Pā'ia...give Pā'ia its uniqueness, unlike some places where...an example, Kahului goes to Wailuku, that was the thought process behind there. And I got to participate...after that I got to participate

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on the advisory committee for the Baldwin Park Master Plan. And I'd just like to bring up some of those guys, I think I should spend time on who was on this Committee...myself, who represent the Hokoana and the Paleka ohana that go back generations in Pā'ia and Kuau. Michele Navarro Ishiki, who was also raised in Pā'ia. Generational Ben Wallen, Keola Brown, also the lifeguard from Baldwin Park participated. Noelani Sugata, Pulama Collier, who is . . . *(inaudible)*. . . Kenui Ohana from the area. . . *(inaudible)*. . . Rodrigues who lives right on the beach next to Baby Park. Alan Nago, who is the Rinzai Zen Mission is one of the guys there. PYCC, Kaleo Amadeo, a lifeguard. That is the Committee. And the reason I bring up the Committee Members who I...it was a privilege serving with them. Again, generational Pā'ia descendants. You know Facebook rumors had, oh, this was being driven by people from out of state, or I think out of Maui, and they were proposing bus parking for tourists...you know, the fear that stems from social media. I just wanted everybody to calm down and understand that the group's intentions were good intentions, and were not driven by outside factors. Five things that it takes to have a healthy community...five things. Help food access. We get the beach, we can fish there. Inclusive community, sense of commitment, good education. I think Pā'ia is awesome in that department. Active transportation options. Walk, bike, public transportation. And number five, give safe and diverse public places, parks and open spaces. And I'd like to...go back safe and diverse. Right now, currently, that area is not safe, and it is not diverse right now. I think we could upgrade it. My thought process is to bring people out to utilize that park, like the bike paths that now if you go early in the morning, the kūpuna, they walk early in the morning on the bike path, no different than the sidewalk that...being it's raised by...up to Pā'ia School. We see more and more people utilizing these routes. We see people coming outdoors, and I think that is a healthy community and a good environment. And thank you for allowing me to testify. I hope you guys support it. Aloha.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Bruce. Of course you're going to be involved in that master planning. You're awesome. Thank you for giving us the list of community members who gave their time and love of the master plan...towards the master plan. Members, do you have questions? I think I saw Shane Sinenci's hand up.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Mahalo, Chair, and aloha, Mr. U'u. Mahalo for testifying this afternoon. So just clarification, this was...you guys' request was from the Pā'ia Youth Center all the way to Baldwin Beach, that open space area?

MR. U'U: Correct. Actually, it's going to turn into one. Correct. That's from Baldwin Park to Baby Park and the land in between.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And that's...oh, okay. And just curious, what was the outcome with...that that didn't go through that Administration?

MR. U'U: Say that again, I'm sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: That didn't happen under the Arakawa Administration?

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MR. U‘U: No, it happened. Under the Arakawa Administration, he purchased the property for County...for public use. Then again...so we had extend the park which I’m stoked that it extended one of the few North Shore parks that hopefully we can look forward to using in the near future.

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

MR. U‘U: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Thank you very much, Bruce, for making the time to be here and for sharing that. I really appreciate it.

MR. U‘U: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier. Next testifier please.

MS. ABRAHAM: Our next testifier is Susan White. Susan White, please unmute yourself and proceed with your testimony.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Susan.

MS. WHITE: Yeah, I didn’t sign up to testify. Hello.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: You don’t want to testify. You’re just listening.

MS. WHITE: No, I never signed up. Yeah, I’m just listening.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

MS. WHITE: I never signed up.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Great. We must have seen your name and we...

MS. WHITE: Oh, interesting. No, I didn’t sign up to testify.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So Pā‘ia Youth and Cultural Center...

MS. WHITE: I’m loving watching it, so thank you.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Great, great. Next testifier, looks like it’s Rod Antone. Rod.

MR. ANTONE: Hello. Can you hear me?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. ANTONE: Okay. Hi. I’m testifying just as a Pā‘ia resident and not my day job. You know, Bruce provided a lot of background, and it did start with the Arakawa Administration.

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It started from...as a Pā'ia resident within the Arakawa Administration. I saw that we had gotten that land because it was part of a deal, right. The County, during the Arakawa Administration, was looking for a place to put the new service center, which is down on Ho'okele by Safeway now. It wasn't always known that it would be there. We were looking at different properties, and A&B said, hey, if you put it in our business center, we'll give you...we will bequeath you the land between Baldwin Park and Baby Park, or as it's called officially, Lower Pā'ia Park. So knowing that we had that swath of land, we began to push for, let's connect it. Let's connect it all. Let's make one big park, and we will leave it up to the people to decide what they want on there. Do they want a canoe hale? Do they want baseball fields, basketball courts, tennis, whatever? We didn't have any agenda except let's connect the park and have parking and everything. There was no...and Bruce already said it but, you know, I got really upset. I saw some of the stuff online. We're going to build condos. It's going to be for the tourists. This was by Pā'ia, for Pā'ia, and I know we couldn't include everybody from Pā'ia in the process but, you know, we tried to include as many as we can, especially in the task force. So I just wanted to say that, and say that this is definitely a local project from the ground up. And to answer Councilmember Sinenci's question about the Arakawa Administration, the Arakawa Administration ended. I mean, you know, I would have loved to have gotten this all squared up and have a park ready to go once we left office, but it just didn't end up that way. There's no other reason than that, just it takes time. And actually, I always knew it would extend past our Administration. And that's all I have to say. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Rod. Thank you very much for your passion too. I know you always come and testify and you're in like Pā'ia, so this is...thank you. Thank you for putting this together. I appreciate it. Any questions for Mr. Antone? Seeing none. Thank you, Rod. I appreciate your help.

MR. ANTONE: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier. Are there any?

MS. ABRAHAM: There are no more testifiers on the list, Member Sugimura.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. So Members, with your permission, I'm going to close public testimony and receive written testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

. . . END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So all the testifiers will be disconnected, which is our practice, and you can review the remainder of the meeting on Channel 54 or...on television or 53 online, Facebook Live, or on mauicounty.us, and then Kelly said she's also filming this for her...on her Facebook page too. I guess you're interested in hearing what Mr. Rembis is going to talk to us about. So I appreciate everybody. At this time

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I'm going to close the testimony, and then ask for your permission to have as resource personnel, Mike Rembis, CEO of Maui Health; Wes Crile, University of Hawai'i-Sea Grant College Program; and Nicole Swanson, they are for the Baldwin Beach Park Master Plan.

HCP-1(1) EFFECTS OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND RELATED ISSUES UNDER THE HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE'S AUTHORITY

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: So at this time, I'd like to bring on HCP-1(1), which is Effects on the Coronavirus Pandemic and Related Issues Under the Human Concerns and Parks Committee's Authority. And this is under Rule 7(B) of the Rules of the Council to get an update on this Committee regarding the Maui health systems. I'd like to really welcome Mike Rembis. I know that I got an email from you from the hospital foundation, which I'm grateful to be a part of, and that you are making your rounds, communicating with the community about possible concerns that are going on regarding the pandemic and your hospital. So at this time, Mr. Rembis.

MR. REMBIS: Well, thank you very much. It's a privilege to be here today. I think it's important that I update the County Council periodically on what's occurring with the pandemic, especially within the hospital, and as many members of the community that I can communicate with, so it's just positive for us. We are concerned about the increasing incidents of COVID. Today I hear statewide, there's over 1,000 cases once again, and on Maui, 128. We have right now the largest amount of COVID on Maui and in the State of Hawai'i than we've ever had in the entire pandemic. That is concerning. We have a most significant positivity rate, more positive cases than we've ever had since the pandemic started, and yet we have the least amount of restrictions we've ever had since the pandemic started. Those are concerning. Our hospital is affected. As the positivity rate goes up in the County, you have to expect you're going to see additional patients needing hospitalization. There's a certain percentage throughout the country, patients that are positive that always end up needing hospitalization, and Maui is no different. So as our rates go up on the County, you can anticipate you're going to see more patients needing hospital care. Usually a patient reaches the potential where they need hospital care about a week after they're infected. It can be a little bit different on each individual based on how much the virus affects them. It is truly amazing, we have seen many patients, and I'm sure you have too in the community; they get the virus, and they can get well at home and do very well. Others get very sick and unfortunately, some of them come to the hospital and are not able to leave the hospital. The virus affects everybody differently, and part of it is what other medical conditions you have once the virus attacks you. Today at Maui Memorial Hospital, we have 28 positive patients in our walls. Six of them are in ICU, two of them are vented. These are very sick patients that are in ICU. What we're seeing, which is alarming to us, is this new variant, the Delta variant, is affecting much younger people. The majority of our patients that are in the hospital now are younger than 60. A couple of days ago the majority were actually under 50. It changes every day when we have patients admitted and discharged. But we're seeing younger people succumb to the virus and need hospitalization. We've also seen young people in their 20s and 30s not only succumbing

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to the virus, but pass away because their body can't fight the virus. This is a very, very significant variant we're dealing with. You probably hear about it on TV and you read about it, but this variant is 1,000 times more significant than the past variants, which means you have more virus in your body, it's easier to spread, it's easier to actually get the virus. What we're also seeing, which is alarming to us all, is that even if you're vaccinated, you can have one of those pull through infections where you can also be sick. Right now, out of our 28 patients, there's about six of them that are vaccinated in the hospital, and none of those are in ICU, but they're still sick. Usually if you're vaccinated and you get the virus, it's usually because you've had significant or prolonged contact with someone that's positive without any protection. Many people have people that are positive at home they are caring for. If you're with someone in a close proximity for extended periods of time, and you're not wearing a mask and you're not protecting yourself, if you're vaccinated, you can get COVID. So that is alarming to us all to see many of our friends and neighbors vaccinated and taking care of loved ones at home, and they end up getting COVID as well. So we're concerned. The hospital right now is in fairly good shape. This is our busy time of the year anyway. We have a lot of tourists on the island. By the way, the visitors are not...from our perspective, what we see coming in our doors are not creating the problem here. I would say in the last couple of months we've probably admitted 60 or 70 COVID patients, and we have one or two visitors that were admitted and discharged. It is us, our friends, our neighbors, people we love and are concerned about, that is spreading the virus. We're well concerned. Meanwhile, the hospital is doing well. No one should ever be afraid of coming to the hospital. We have COVID units that are isolated from the rest of the patients. There's two of them right now, our ICU unit and another unit. So we're taking all the precautions to make sure those patients are safe and our staff is safe. We've stopped all visitation, with the exception of end of life. Pediatric visits for one family member, and for OB for one person with the mother delivering. So we've really stopped all visitations to protect the patients, to protect our staff, and protect the community. But keep in mind, today we have 207 patients in the hospital we're taking care of, the vast majority are not COVID, as you can guess. The vast majority are just our friends and neighbors that had strokes, heart attacks, broken bones, pneumonia. So the vast majority of the patients here are not COVID patients. But it does stretch our capacity a bit when you add COVID on top of everything else. The other thing you may have heard is that there is a potential oxygen, O2 shortage, for the State of Hawai'i and it's real. We're okay right now on Maui. We have been told by the State that we're not going to have any reduction in O2. The State's concern is if the virus continues and our surge continues, we will reach the point where we will not be able to get additional O2. So right now we're fine, we have more than enough oxygen to take care of everyone. But if this gets out of hand, the State is concerned that we could run into a position where we're not going to have enough oxygen. And one of the treatments for these very sick COVID patients is high flow oxygen, so you're using quite a bit to help them breath. I'm very happy to say, just in case that should ever happen, with our relationship and affiliation with Kaiser Permanente, they're sending us an oxygen generator from the mainland, which will be here today or tomorrow, which we can hook up and will help us produce oxygen. It won't be 99 percent pure like our medical oxygen, but 93 percent; and together, mixing the two of them, it's very, very appropriate to take care of our patients. So we're just doing some backup, making sure we have our own ability to

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create medical oxygen if we need to, and that will be up and running in the next week or two...just in case we ever get to the point where the State is seeing that they can't provide enough oxygen for our patients. I can assure with you the Governor himself, as well as the Health Association of Hawai'i, is also working on mechanisms to get medical oxygen shipped from the mainland over here to augment our supply that's available in Hawai'i. So those efforts are going forth, and it looks like we are going to get additional shipments probably by barge brought over here to help us avoid our disaster. So I'm feeling pretty good now about the shortage of O2 on Maui. I think we're going to be better off than the other neighbor islands with the oxygen generator. But what's most important is that we do something about the surge. This is a pandemic that didn't need to happen. In our ICU and in our hospital, 89 percent of all the patients are unvaccinated. What is causing the spread is the unvaccinated patients. Nothing is more important, from my perspective, is to try to convince our friends and our neighbors--and we all have them, I have one next door--that they need to get vaccinated. That is so important if we're going to stop this surge. And now it's affecting children. We need to do something. I have been a strong advocate with the medical staff here at Memorial advocating to the Mayor that we need more restrictions in this community. I think the Mayor is in agreement, and most of those restrictions require, unfortunately, the Governor to agree. I believe everyone should be wearing a mask in public unless they are excising by themselves or sitting by themselves by the pool or the beach. If you're vaccinated or not, you should be wearing a mask to protect everyone around you. I believe the vaccination pass makes great sense, given how busy all of our establishments are. I also believe very strongly that we should consider enforcing the gatherings. You're not supposed to have gatherings more than 25 outside, and I would guarantee you on Labor Day weekend, if you drive around beaches and our parks, you're going to see groups of more than 25 gathering without masks, without social distancing, and very little enforcement. That is going to do nothing but a week after Labor Day cause another surge in patients that are going to be risking lives. I also think we need more testing on this island. The Mayor is aware of it, and he's trying to get more testing material. We have enough testing material for our employees, our doctors, and our patients, but we've never been a testing site for the community. And I'm advocating that the Mayor do whatever necessary to get more testing, because we don't have enough testing on Maui. So when you hear that our positivity rate is seven percent, it's probably double that, maybe more than that, because so many of our friends and neighbors are sick, and they're taking care of themselves at home, and they're not getting tested because it's difficult to find good testing available right now. And I really think a safer at home--not a stay at home, but a safer at home--proclamation for a week or two would make great sense. We need to do something. We can't continue to let this virus take away lives of people we love in this community. We're doing everything we can, I'll guarantee you, to treat patients that present themselves to us to provide the best care possible. I'm amazed and honored to be working with our employees and physicians. They're truly our heroes. I just walked our COVID unit today, the work involved in taking care of a patient where you have to mask up and gown and glove and wear a shield and an N-92 mask every time you walk in and out of the room and take care of patients on respirators is just consuming our staff. They're tired. We're fortunate we did get some additional staff from FEMA and the Federal Government to help us. They'll be here for eight weeks. But I'm concerned after eight weeks, if this surge doesn't go

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away, our staff is going to be exhausted. But they're doing a wonderful job. The care is excellent here. Our physicians are attending our patients 24/7, but we need to do something as a community to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and this variant. And I'm here to answer any questions you might have. I think it's important that the community understands what we're experiencing.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Mike. I appreciate you reaching out to us and making this opportunity happen. Just kind of...I hear you loud and clear, you know, what you see, the 89 percent of the patients are unvaccinated. And I think we all, you know, walk in the same path of trying to have a safe community and appreciate you being there. Pfizer just got approved by the FDA, and so if you have a booster...and does the booster have to be the same shot? Like I know you were Pfizer, and some other places were Moderna, but it was kind of spread out. So can you educate us a little bit about that from what you may know?

MR. REMBIS: Booster is essentially just one more shot of the same vaccine.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: The same.

MR. REMBIS: From what we've been told is that we cannot offer to anyone unless they have a compromised autoimmune system and they can attest to that. So we've had a few people come in and get that third shot that have an autoimmune system that's compromised. We've been told that on or shortly after September 20th, the Federal Government, the FDA, should authorize the third shot for everyone, and the Federal Government will likely allow us to start off with healthcare workers and nursing home patients, and then offer it to the community. But we can't offer it to the entire community until the FDA approves it. We expect it around September 20th.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you for that. And if I have...I took Moderna...

MR. REMBIS: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: ...and so my husband took Pfizer, so he has to only do Pfizer and I have to only do Moderna, or can we mix and match?

MR. REMBIS: That's a great question. There have been patients that have mixed and matched. It's not suggested you do so, but I would talk to your physician or talk to our staff at the vaccination clinic if you come in for your third shot. The science of that is evolving very quickly. Right now, I think only Pfizer has applied for the third shot approval. I don't think Moderna has yet. So there's no question they will be following Pfizer very quickly.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. Members, any of you have questions for...Alice Lee...Chair Lee, and then Kelly King.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Hi, Mike. Thank you for that presentation. I really appreciate this update. Now, the Delta variant...and I know you don't have a crystal ball, but what is the normal life of a variant like that?

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MR. REMBIS: Well, no one knows. Once you have a variant, you're probably going to be contagious for 10 to 14 days. But how long that variant exists depends on how many hosts there are they can attack. The fewer people that are unvaccinated, the quicker the potential as the variant leaves because there is no one to attach. If you're vaccinated in general, it's hard for the variant to invade your body and make you positive. So the more unvaccinated people, the longer the variant will stay around because there's most hosts that they can attach to.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Is there another variant...

MR. REMBIS: That's why everyone's going to...if we reach immunity that means...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: ...is there another variant on the horizon, Mike?

MR. REMBIS: Excuse me?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Is there another variant on the horizon?

MR. REMBIS: Yes, there is. I think it's called U-M or M-U...Mu. Don't know much about it, I just started reading about it. There is concern that that variant could be even more deadly than the one we're dealing with now. Again, if we hit immunity, community immunity by having 80 plus percent of our community vaccinated, there's less chance that the current variant or any variant is going to be able to stay around and attack our patients.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Has this ever happened in history before?

MR. REMBIS: Yes. Back in 1918, there was a major pandemic in this country. But this particular variant is new, it's never existed.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So you're saying we're not at capacity yet, so what is the capacity at the hospital?

MR. REMBIS: We have 219 licensed beds. It is not unusual for us, at this time of the year through January or February, to be pretty full every day. On a regular day, we will have all our beds full. We'll have five or six patients that need admission in the emergency room, but every afternoon we discharge patients, so we always are able to admit everybody by the end of the day that needs to be admitted. So that's what we're dealing with right now. We have a surge plan that allows us to increase bed capacity almost up to 300 beds if we need to. The only concern I have now is having enough staff if we need to do that, and making sure we have oxygen supply. But we have beds, we have respirators, we have everything we need to go up to 300 beds. And I think our staff would come out of the woodwork and stretch themselves to take care of everyone. For now, we all worry whether we'll have enough O2. But fortunately, we're not there. I don't see us going there in the next few weeks. But whether this surge continues is what will decide whether we will have to go into our surge capacity or not.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Mike, I have just two questions more. One, where are you putting these 80 extra workers...where are they going to be housed?

MR. REMBIS: Well, actually, all the extra workers have found housing. Some of them are at local hotels or here on Maui, right here in Wailuku. Some of them are in some condos we were able to find. It has been a challenge. We even have a few more we're trying to find housing for before they come here. Housing is a major problem, as we all know; but all of a sudden now it's become even a bigger problem. Because it's great to have the staff sent here from the mainland, but if we can't find a place for them to stay, they can't come. So I think we'll be able to house everybody. So far, a couple more we're working on.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. And finally, I'm worried about the children that went back to school. What do you think is going to happen since they can't get vaccinated, those...

MR. REMBIS: Well, I'm hoping that the FDA...I'm hoping the FDA decides to allow them to get vaccinated soon, but we're not there yet. The only good thing I can tell you, a lot of children are positive. We're not seeing any children in the hospital at this time. So I'm hoping and praying that they are not as susceptible, and their autoimmune systems are much stronger than many of ours are. But right now, we're not...we don't have any children and have not seen any children from COVID being hospitalized.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you, Madam Chair.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Kelly King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. I don't know if Shane is a Member of this...I'm not a Voting Member, so if I have to let everybody else ask questions first, I'm happy to do that.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Shane, you want to go first?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: No. Go ahead, Kelly.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Thank you. And thank you so much, Mike, for reaching out to us and asking us to...you know, asking to come before us and give us this information because, you know, it makes me feel really good that when things are getting bad that you're reaching out, we don't have to, you know, try to figure out when that is. And I really appreciate the meeting that I had with you and Tina Wildberger a couple weeks ago. I had some questions about the pediatrics too, but it sounds like since we have no patients right now in the hospital, there's actually no issues with care. But you mentioned that a lot of kids are positive right now, and so how safe is it to have the schools open?

MR. REMBIS: I'm not going to be the judgment on that, I'll let the school districts and the Department of Education and Health decide. I'm just real concerned that we're seeing

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more cases, not less cases. By the way, if any child was really sick, we'd probably transfer them to Kapiolani, which has been our practice. We take care of sick children in the hospital, but if they're very, very sick, that's where they need to go, by the way, in the whole State.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. That's good to know. So okay, I'll leave that...the issue of the schools alone for now. You know, the other person who testified today was Lisa Darcy, who works with the homeless population directly. And she mentioned that there are people in the homeless population who want to get vaccinated who cannot. And so do you have any connection with mobile medical units that the Police have been, you know, using? I think there's three or four of them on the island. I went to the blessing of one a couple months ago at the Kihei Police Station, and this was supposed to be...

MR. REMBIS: No, but I'll reach out to them. I don't understand why any homeless person can't be vaccinated. The County has the vaccine. They have the staff. It should be very easy for them to get vaccinated. A homeless person who wants to come into our vaccination center at the hospital, we'll vaccinate them. But I'll follow up on that.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, that would be great. And, you know, one of the things I also wanted to ask you about is I got this BinaxNOW kit that's being sold at Longs and Walmart. Every time they bring a shipment in, they run out right away. But this has two self-tests, and it's exactly like the last test that I had that I drove through, you know, when we were...I think when we just coming out of lockdown and I was traveling somewhere to the Big Island. But I drove through, and this is the same test where they actually hand you the swab, and you use it yourself, and then you give it back to them and then they...you put it in a liquid. It takes 15 minutes to get the results on this. And I know it's not official, but is it not official because of the fact that we're administering it to ourselves? Because it seems like as far as the process, it's exactly the same.

MR. REMBIS: Those kits are not...they're basically going to screen and tell you whether you're likely to have COVID or not. They're not as sensitive as the chemistry analyzers in a laboratory. So some of those kits will have false positives and false negatives, and it's not 100 percent accurate. It is pretty darn accurate though, but it's not 100 percent. The ones we do in the hospital, the ones the County does, our PCR tests, is run on a chemistry analyzer that's probably about 99.9 percent accurate. And that's what we test all of our patients, all of our employees on. So I think those kits are good if you're not feeling well, but if you test positive, you may want to go to a testing site in the County and get tested to confirm whether you're positive. If you're negative and you don't have symptoms, it's probably a good idea that you're not positive, but it's not 100 percent accurate, and that's all I can share with you. Dr. Pang could probably give you some additional information.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No, I appreciate that. Because, you know, I just did it...I wasn't having symptoms, but I went to O'ahu. And so just for my own comfort level, I wanted to test myself before...you know, I just stayed home for three days and then tested myself before I was around anybody else. But it just occurred to me it's exactly like the one I

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did in the drive through that was supposed to be the official test, except they took the swab and put it in something instead of me taking the swab and putting it in something and...you know, and I was able to get the results in 15 minutes. Okay. I just have two really quick questions. You mentioned that people who had been vaccinated can still get it with prolonged exposure. What...can you tell me what prolonged exposure, how many minutes is that that you're talking about, just as a rough estimate so people will know?

MR. REMBIS: I can't. I don't have the information on that. And from what I've been told, it varies depending on the individuals. If you have an autoimmune system that's compromised, you're more susceptible to COVID than if you're not. If one person is wearing a mask and one isn't, it's different than if you have both people wearing a mask. If you're wearing N-95s versus cloth masks, it's different. There's so many different factors that go in, that's why everybody should be wearing a mask and be very careful.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. And then my last question is...I don't think you...I didn't catch this if you mentioned it but, you know, you did mention if we're at 80 percent vaccination, then we'll basically have community immunity. Where are we at right now, do you know, percentage-wise?

MR. REMBIS: I believe the...I hate to say this, but...and by the way, that 80 percent is controversial. Some say 75, some say 80, some say 85, but 80 is kind of the consensus where we should try to reach. Right now, I believe Maui is in the high 60s.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: High 60s. Okay. We're a ways to go then.

MR. REMBIS: And I say high 60s for at least one shot. I think we are in the...probably about 59 percent of people that had both shots.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Both shots.

MR. REMBIS: So we have a ways to go still. Out of all the islands, we have the worse performance in vaccination.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So sorry to hear that. Oh, that's so sad.

MR. REMBIS: Me too.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: And, you know, I did talk to you when we met with Tina, and I spoke with Chair Lee about this, about trying to put together maybe a message, you know, *Akakū* PSA from the Council on why we all...all of us got vaccinated and, you know, you had...I think you had offered. So, you know, I meant to check in with you again to be part of that message and help us with that. I talked with Chivo, and he's willing to spearhead that. So I just kind of wanted to give you a heads up and we would love to, you know, work with you on that.

MR. REMBIS: Kelly, if you could send me a little note, I will have my Communications Director

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who has done some PSAs in the past work together with the Council and see if we can get something out there.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. I really appreciate it. And thank you so much. Thank you so much for everything you're doing for...

MR. REMBIS: Thank you guys.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I'll just put this out there to you too, I do have a spare room. My son just left for the mainland, so I have a spare ohana that's outside if you need somebody and they're willing to come to Kihei, if you need a place for somebody.

MR. REMBIS: If we need you, I'll give that some thought. Thank you though.

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

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Kelly King. Shane Sinenci, thank you for being patient.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, yeah, no problem. Mahalo, Chair, and yeah, thanks to Kelly to ask some of my questions. Mahalo, Mr. Rembis, for being here today. I just had...did you mention at what capacity are you at as far as full capacity, and are you able to...should you have a larger surge, you're able to...at what point would you need more help?

MR. REMBIS: We're not at capacity. We're very full though. If we ended up...the most I think we've had is six or seven patients admitted in one day. We could handle that over a two or three-day period and be fine. But our staff is doing extra shifts, and asking them to do more work. If we saw our census go up another 20 or 30 patients every day, I'd be concerned. But I don't see that happening in the next few weeks as long as we don't have a huge surge. The good news I can tell you is this week, we've seen a slight reduction in admissions. We had 40 COVID patients here a week ago. We only have 28 today, and it's been staying in the 20s all week. So we're not seeing a growth, but what we're also seeing...not seeing any reduction in the amount of positive patients on Maui. Fortunately we're not seeing a growth in hospitalized patients, but we are seeing a growth in patients being positive on Maui.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. Thank you for that. And then we've seen on the news, you know, an influx of additional nurse...nurses from the U.S. mainland into Hilo. We've seen in Florida additional help from the reserves, the National Guard. Are you...you mentioned that our nurses are working around the clock. Do you anticipate additional help from the U.S. mainland?

MR. REMBIS: We've just received, in the last three weeks, about 35 additional nurses and respiratory therapists.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

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MR. REMBIS: And the Governor is trying to see, working with the Health Association of Hawai'i, if we can extend that beyond eight weeks, and I think that's a wise thing to try to do.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Do you anticipate the Governor possibly using reserves, military help, should it get worse?

MR. REMBIS: I don't foresee that on Maui at this time.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. All right. great. Thank you, Mr. Rembis. Thank you, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Members. So Mr. Rembis, you said there's 219 beds, and you have the capacity to go up to 300. And I was just wondering...I guess we're not at a place of accepting patients from other counties, I think the other...O'ahu is . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MR. REMBIS: Well, that's...Yuki, I'm glad you brought that up. Traditionally, Queens takes patients from other counties for services they can't provide, and we've been doing that too. A lot of people don't realize that we almost do everything that Queen's Medical Center can do. And when they're full, we can step up and we help our neighbors. The Big Island doesn't have any spine surgeons, neurosurgeons, cardiac surgeons, and we will take patients from that island on occasion if we have beds. Again, we have two ICUs, and one of our ICUs, we have no COVID patients in there on purpose. If on a given day we have empty beds, and our neighbor island has someone in a life or death situation and needs open heart surgery, a stroke, a trauma accident, we will try to take them if Queen's can't. And we've done that a couple of times last month. So we're not going to do that for routine transfers, but if it's a life and death situation and we're the only hope, if we have a bed, we will reach out and try to help our neighbor islands.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow, that's really aloha and ohana, right, everybody?

MR. REMBIS: It's the right thing to do.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Thank you very much. And a lot of my other questions were answered by the other Members. So thank you very much, Mr. Rembis. You're always welcome to come back. Oh, Kelly has a question.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, I forgot...thank you, Yuki. I wanted to check with you to see if...I think I know the answer to this, but has Maui Memorial also suspended elective procedures?

MR. REMBIS: No, we have not, for a couple of reasons. Most of our electives are outpatients, so they have surgery and they go home the same day and they're not taking up a bed. If it's an elective that needs to be admitted, we're reviewing those on a day-to-day basis with our surgeons to make sure we have beds, but we have not had to cancel all electives, we're just managing it, making sure that we have a bed if it's approved. And

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we're taking the position if someone needs elective surgery, let's get it done if we have a bed because we could be in a position in the next few weeks we can't do it, so let's get as many done as we can. So right now, it's reviewed by our medical staff on a daily basis, and we're able to accommodate most of our elective surgery.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Oh, that's good to hear. I just talked to someone the other day who wanted to have some kind of elective surgery as a preventative measure, and he was worried he wouldn't be able to get that. So it's good to see you're evaluating it on a case by case. Again, thank you, and I hope you get some sleep.

MR. REMBIS: We will. But I'll just leave you with two messages. Please encourage people to get vaccinated because we're all in this together, and we're stronger together. And the only way we can be strong is to be vaccinated as a community. And I ask you all to be safe, especially during this Labor Day weekend. Thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Mr. Rembis. I really appreciate you being here, and we'll see you again. Let us know if we can help you.

MR. REMBIS: I will.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: As a community we're all part of, you know, your big umbrella. And I know that a lot of your resources does come from the State of Hawai'i, but we're all part of the State. So if there's anything we can do for you, please reach out to ask us also.

MR. REMBIS: Thank you very much. Take care.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you. So that was great. I'm so glad. Kelly, thank you very much for the connection, and thank you very much, Chair Lee. I know that Tasha Kama's office reached out to say let's do this, and I'm glad we did. Because things are evolving, right? Every day there's a little bit more that we're learning, and as a community, we can all do this. If like he said, we can all work together, we can be stronger. I agree with that. So Members, I'm going to defer this...yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I just wanted to mention to you that, you know, I'm glad that you brought up about the other variant that is weird and suddenly headed somewhere else because I just read about that today as well. And it's even, you know, more deadly than the Delta variant. So we really need to reach that 80 percent as quickly as possible.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Yeah, I wish we could get everybody vaccinated. But it is...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: And we want to . . . *(inaudible)* . . . Chair, if you're out there, thank you for the bracelet, because I've been wearing this everywhere, you know. Just to let people know.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you, Members. So I'm going to defer this item to enable us to talk about it in the future. So thank you very much.

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COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS. (Excused TK, TP)

ACTION: DEFER.

HCP-39 BALDWIN BEACH PARK MASTER PLAN (CC 21-364)

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: The next item on the agenda, and thank you everybody for waiting, is HCP-39, Baldwin Beach Park Master Plan, and this is an item that...great testimony. I didn't realize that Bruce U'u worked on it so passionately, along with Rod Antone, right, when he was working with Mayor Arakawa, and they both are Pā'ia residents that we hear from them periodically. So in 2014, the County acquired 30 acres of former Alexander and Baldwin land between Baldwin Beach Park and Pā'ia Bay Park. With this acquisition, the park doubled in size, so about 54 acres. The acquisition did more than increase the park's acreage, it also created a contiguous open space that stretches over half a mile from the Maui Country Club to the outer edges of Pā'ia Town. With this new opportunity came an obligation to articulate a long-term vision based on protecting this resource, while providing recreational opportunity for the areas residents. Today we will be receiving a presentation from the Parks Department regarding Baldwin Beach Master Plan. And we all know David Yamashita, the Parks Planner, and I look forward to hearing from him, as well as Karla Peters, our Director. So I'm pleased to welcome them to this Committee, and I also understand that they would like to...I would like to designate Mr. Wesley Crile and Ms. Nicole Swanson as resource personnel in accordance with Rule 18(A) of the Rules of the Council in case the Members have any questions for them. Karla Peters and...there you are...and David Yamashita.

MS. PETERS: Aloha, Vice-Chair Sugimura and Committee Members. We are excited to be here today to present the Baldwin Beach Park Master Plan. Our presentation will summarize the planning process, existing conditions and issues, and key strategies. We will also be describing how this interim concept will be refined with technical studies that will be generated over this next year. So with that I'd like to turn it over to David Yamashita, our Parks Planner, who will be presenting the master plan. Thank you.

MR. YAMASHITA: Thank you, Karla. And aloha, Councilmembers, and thank you for your time today. Could we get the presentation up on the screen? I think someone from OCS was going to do this.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Laks or...Wilton.

MR. YAMASHITA: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. YAMASHITA: Yeah, very good. Is that...does that fill the whole screen, or can we make that a little bit bigger, or is that as good as it gets?

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UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: This is full screen with the pdf.

MR. YAMASHITA: Oh, okay. All right. So what we will be presenting today is a summary of the Baldwin Beach Park Master Plan, as well as a brief description of the next steps. But before we start, I'd just would like to make a couple of points. One is, as shown in the slide, this is called an interim plan because, as you all see, this is the first step in a three-phase process to prepare a concept for the park. Also, what you will be seeing in the presentation is a concept that represents ideas and our best thinking at the time, which was two years ago when we actually finished working on a concept and then started on the preparation of the report. Since that time some things have changed, and since then...so the next version of the plan will reflect these changes. Okay, next slide. The initial draft of the plan was prepared as a partnership between the Parks Department and a consultant team, which included Detail Inc. as the prime consultant, PBR Hawai'i as the landscape architect, 'Āina Archaeology as the archaeological consultant, and Jay Uno as the cost estimator. I'd also like to offer special thanks to Reverend Yamaguchi, Alan Nago, and the Rinzai Zen Temple for letting us use their facility for our advisory committee meetings. And also, special thanks to Tara Owens from the UH Sea Grant Program, who provided advice and guidance on sea level rise issues throughout the project. But before I describe the project itself, I'd like to maybe step back with the next slide and to provide a regional context, and to show you that Baldwin Beach Park is really part of this group of three beach parks on the North Shore, and these are Kanaha Beach Park, Baldwin, and Ho'okipa Beach Park. And these are all significant sites because of their proximity to population centers, their size, and their capacity to provide a wide range of recreational opportunities. These parks are where residents often go, as you know, to enjoy the ocean, and it's important for all of us to think about how they can be protected and maintained for future generations. Next slide. And although the park is named after H.P. Baldwin, I think we also need to remember what it was like before the sugar era. So according to the cultural study by 'Āina Archaeology, there is, and I quote, "evidence of settlement along the Hamakuapoko coastline with dates indicating use of the shoreline as early as AD 2035 to 1420, as well as burial practices in the Spreckelsville area." Because of the project's budget however, we were able only to touch on some of the park's cultural resources, but we plan to do more research in the next phase. Next slide. So fast forward to 1940, and you can see how Pā'ia Bay Beach Park was already developed, and that's what you see in the photo. Note also how wide the shoreline is at the time. Next slide. So here we are today. So the park is now about 54 acres...thank you to Arakawa Administration and all the people who advocated for that. The acquisition is in the middle of the park. And there are also a couple of privately owned parcels where the temple is, the Rinzai Zen Temple, they own that property. And there is a small graveyard that's actually...right now is owned by another organization, which I'll get to in a later slide. And the yellow line shows the project area which, as you can see, includes Pā'ia Bay Park because it's physically connected to Baldwin Beach Park, so we just included that. Next slide. So the planning process began in late 2018, and the concept was completed in the summer of 2019. And as Bruce and Rod Antone talked about, the plan was prepared with the help of a 12-person advisory committee. The names are on the left side of the slide. And it's really interesting, they were such a great committee to work with and they just contributed so much, I think in large part because all of the people on the committee

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either grew up in the area, are frequent park users, and/or have close ties to the community. The group met four times and was really instrumental in preparing the park's concept. I just want to talk about one example, there were many, of how they really set the tone for what you see in the plan. At the first meeting, I think it was Bruce, I'm not sure, but he's the one who really said right at the beginning, this needs to be a park for local people. And that really kind of set the tone for, I think, how we thought of the park. And that's important because...and the contributions of everybody on the committee is important because, you know, our consultants are from O'ahu, and so they depend on the ideas and suggestions and really the history that people on the committee have. So I can't say enough for the committee. They were just really wonderful. Okay, next slide. So as part of the planning process, we had three public open houses throughout the project. One was held at Kaunoa Senior Center, and two were held at the Pā'ia Community Center. They were all held as three-hour events in the late afternoon. They were all set up as interactive events so people could stop by at any time during the three hours, and then speak directly to consultants and to park staff. There were also opportunities at these events to write comments either on large sheets or on smaller notes that could be tacked to the walls so others could read them. It's a model that we've used for two other park master plan projects, Wells Park and the South Maui Park Community Plan. And we are always trying to make these better, so we are continuing to refine the techniques and the approaches that we use. Next slide. So what I'd like to do now is give you an overview of what's in the park, because there is quite a bit. So first, the major features, generally from left to right. So there's a beach, of course, which I think, as Karla mentioned, is...or I think Councilwoman Sugimura said, stretches for about six-tenths of a mile. There's also a large open area between the highway and the beach, and the pavilion, which as we know now, is very...is vulnerable to sea level rise. There's a lime kiln in the center of the park, which also includes a hardened shoreline and a grove of ironwood trees. The unimproved area in the middle of the park, which is the main acquisition area, and in Pā'ia Bay Beach Park on the eastern end, which we included as part of the plan. Next slide. So there are other major features as well. There's the Pā'ia Youth and Cultural Center. There's the County pump station next to PYCC. There's the small graveyard as I've mentioned earlier, and it's owned by Malama Pā'ia Makai, LLC and the Pā'ia Hongwanji Mission. There's a Rinzai Zen Temple which is owned by the Mission, and there's a bike path that's connected to the new bike trail west of the park. Okay, next slide. And one of the kind of interesting things about the park...it's not a physical feature as...such as facilities, but it does affect use of the park, and that's the annual expansion and retraction of the shoreline. As you can see in the slide, the beach expands in the winter, and decreases in width during the summer. So it's a constant reminder of how the ocean really controls that edge of the park. In terms of issues and challenges, Baldwin Beach Park has so much potential, but there are also some things that we need to deal with. And of course, one of the most, if not the most significant challenge is sea level rise and how it threatens the park's shoreline. As frequent park users know though, this is not a new thing, this has been going on for some time. Next slide. And as the sea level rise maps show...other way. I think we missed...can you go to the next one? Okay. Next...okay. As the sea level rise maps show, much of the park is within the SLR-XA 3.2 zone. The SLR-XA zone includes impacts from sea level rise, coastal erosion, passive flooding, and annual highway flooding. So in our concept, we've tried to locate

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permanent structures closer to the highway so they are outside of the SLR-XA zone. Okay, next slide. And so for the Parks Department, this is not a hypothetical issue, it's a real thing, and it's something that we've been dealing with for quite a while. And over the last year we lost, yet again, part of the pavilion because waves undermined its foundation. Next slide. But in addition to sea level rise, the park also floods during high rainfall events. So when this happens, Kailua Ditch will overflow, as you can see at the top, flood the parking lot by the restroom, and then eventually flood out into the ocean. Next slide. So there are other issues as well, and these are just some, but these are the other major ones. One is what to do with a large open strip along the highway which...right now, it's a no parking zone. This photo was taken before the signs were put up. But during the open houses and advisory committee meetings, there was a concern over how visitors to Pā'ia Town might use the parking lot in the park, which would reduce capacity for park visitors. But that's an illustration of how the use of the park is tied to what happens in Pā'ia Town. The other...one of the other issues is that the park is not fully accessible. So the bikeway is the only accessible path for visitors who are physically disabled. And as Bruce mentioned in his testimony, you know, kūpuna use this part of the park because it's paved and it's even, but imagine if there was, say, a loop trail around the big portion of the park, the walk would be a little longer and it would be more interesting. And the large open space that adjoins the bike path is a nice feature, but again, it's not accessible, it has no shade, and lacks facilities that would invite more use, such as picnic tables, benches...and I think kūpuna would be happy too if there were more of those things. And then finally, the parking lot, as you know, is unorganized and it floods. I should mention also that at the workshops, or at least one of the...I think the last workshop is where we heard most of these other concerns. There were some people who came to that open house and were concerned or had heard that the Department was going to remove all of the trees, that it won't be natural, and people...some people wanted to keep it the way it is. I just wanted to acknowledge that there were other things that we heard. Okay, next slide. So the key strategies are that...well, the park's concept responds to these issues in a variety of ways, but it's based on seven key strategies. These are to restore the park's coastal ecology, preserve the natural character of the shoreline--next slide--expand the recreational opportunities, improve pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular circulation and parking--next slide--create a safe and secure environment, upgrade infrastructure and facilities, and enhance landscape plantings, grounds, and facilities maintenance. Okay, next slide. So the concept...the strategies provided a foundation for the park's concept, which is...it's actually fairly basic, and it's a simple layout. The major feature of the park, which is shown in green, is a large contiguous open space that extends from the west end of the park to the PYCC side. A circulation system--and you can see that in the dash lines--for both people and vehicles is provided, with parking areas pushed against the highway to preserve open space and stay out of the SLR-XA zone. Restoring the dunes, shown in orange, is another major feature of the concept. Okay, next slide. So other details are shown in this...and a little more detail in this sketch, and I just wanted to emphasize that these are ideas, and the sketch is not meant to be a detailed design. And so the final step will be refining and adjusting the concept based on new information and change in conditions. And I also wanted to point out that many of these ideas are really ideas that came from the committee. The importance of the pavilion is something that we heard really strongly from the beginning because this was

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a facility that people used to celebrate milestones and events in people's lives. So there is a really deep connection to the pavilion, and so that's why it was important to show another pavilion somewhere on the site. The location in this case and this concept, again, as I said, it represented our thinking at the time, and now we have a greater sense of urgency. So I think in the next version we'll move that pavilion further back. The campground is proposed in the lime kiln area, and that again is an idea that came out of the committee because people talked about how much fun it was when they were kids to camp at the beach, and wouldn't it be great to have a place where you could do that at Baldwin Beach Park. And it's not something we really offer now, but it's...I think the Department is willing to consider it, but it would have to be...it would have to include a management program with permits and enforcement to make sure that it works for everybody. There are some smaller pavilions that are shown in those kind of pink circles along the internal circulation, and those are meant to be small little shelters, much like you see at Wahikuli Beach Park. And this again came...it was an idea that came straight out of people on the committee, and they talked about how nice it would be to just...if you were driving around and you want to eat lunch, you could just stop here and just get out of your car and eat lunch. And then, as you know, the PYCC boundaries and facilities are being discussed in a separate conversation, but that's what's shown on that. The old lease boundary is shown on the map. Okay, next slide. So that's where we are now. And as mentioned earlier, this is a three-step process, and what you just saw is the first step. The next step, and one we just started last month, is to conduct additional studies to investigate technical issues and conditions that we did not have the budget for in the first phase. So these will include an investigation of transportation and traffic issues, infrastructure and utilities, and additional work on cultural and natural resources. Next slide. So in addition to the technical studies, work has also started on a dune restoration plan to address an issue that is...as mentioned earlier, is already affecting the park. The project was initiated and is being managed by the UH Sea Grant Program, and is being coordinated with the Parks Department. And so as someone mentioned, Wes Crile is working on that project, and he's available for questions today. Next slide. So to recap, the master plan that you see today is an interim concept. We're now starting the technical studies phase, which you can see in the blue box, and that will take about a year. Once these studies are done, the results will be used in the third and final step, the preparation of the Baldwin Beach Park Adaptation Plan. It's a new name for what we used to call Master Plan, and it reflects a new approach in the Parks Department for how we plan and manage our beach parks. The new approach reflects the reality that our beach parks are on the edge of a dynamic and changing set of coastal threats. And also, the name Adaptation Plan also reflects the need to respond to new information and changing conditions. Next slide. But whatever the name, Adaptation Plan or Master Plan, our hope is that Baldwin Beach Park will continue to be a place that has meant so much for generations of Maui residents. We also look forward to working with the community because as the photo shows, they truly care about the park. Mahalo.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Well done. Thank you very much. Thank you. I'm wondering if we should change the name of this to the Baldwin Beach Adaptation Plan. Is that what you want us to do? I mean...

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MR. YAMASHITA: Yes. Well, I mean that's...we...internally, Karla and I had talked about how all of our beach parks and any of our plans that we do for them will be called Adaptation Plans because that's really what we'll be doing over the next...well, into the future.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. We'll take that...important. So you have Wes Crile and then Nicole Swanson. So do you want them to also...

MR. YAMASHITA: Well, I...yeah. I mean, they are here to answer questions, unless they have something to say, but...

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. YAMASHITA: I'd love to, I guess, maybe entertain questions first from Council people.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So we'll do that. You know, Members, it's a little after 3:00. If you don't mind, David, I'm going to take a short break and then bring the Members back and ask questions. So it is now 3:04, so if we can come back like at 3:15 then for like a ten-minute break, Members. At this time I'm going to take a short recess. Thank you. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 3:04 p.m.

RECONVENE: 3:14 p.m.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. . . .(gavel). . . Hi Members, welcome back to the Human Concerns and Parks Committee. We are in the middle of a presentation to the Baldwin Beach Park Adaptation Plan, I'm going to have to start calling it what it is, so we'll start conforming to where we should go. I'm really grateful for the presentation, you know, to bring us up to speed with this. And one of the things that I think we're going to be end up hearing from Wes, because I know you brought them on for questions, David, is that I am particularly interested of your before and after or winter and summer photos that show what happens to the sand basically and the restoration of the dunes. And I wonder, David, if that's a question for Wesley Crile with the UH Sea Grant Program. As you know, this affects a lot of our other shorelines, so I'm very interested to hear what you have come up with.

MR. YAMASHITA: Yes. I know a little bit about sea level rise, but Wes is the expert, so I will defer to Wes.

MR. CRILE: Okay. Thank you, David. Yeah, no, David did a great job, you know, summing up the quite dramatic coastal processes that happen along this stretch of coast. But essentially, we have this very extreme seasonal erosion there where, you know, during the summer months the sand migrates offshore, and it actually moves laterally down towards, you know, Baby Beach, down towards Spreckelsville, and Baby Beach actually fills in the little keiki pool there, sometimes fills up and gets shallower and shallower. And then, you know, at the end of the summer...actually right about now, the next couple of months, the process reverses, and the winter swell comes in, and all that sand

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moves out of the keiki pool and heads back and then starts to fill in over there towards...by the pavilion, and then we have that nice long beach out in front of the pavilion. So that's the kind of yearly normal seasonal erosion back and forth. At the same time, there's chronic erosion going on associated with sea level rise, and so gradually we're kind of whittling that shoreline, you know, away. And this area has one of the highest rates of shoreline erosion, which is why we chose it for this dune restoration component of the master plan. Should I talk about our particular project now, or just...oh, you're on mute.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You're muted.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sorry. If you could do it in like in two minutes, and then I'll turn over to the next Councilmember, but...

MR. CRILE: Sure.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: And I might even call you after, Wes, because this impacts many of our community. So thank you.

MR. CRILE: Okay, yeah. So real quick...I mean, I'm not going to go into huge detail because I think, you know, just as it relates to the master plan, you saw on David's rendering there were areas called out for dune restoration, and that was one of the kind of pieces of the master plan process that the community was really in favor of. You know, there were some things that were a little more controversial than others, but dune restoration, you know, seems to have strong community support. So my colleague Tara Owens and I are leading a separate effort, and we piggybacked on the master plan process and used some of the same members of the advisory committee. We have our own advisory committee that kind of expanded it. It's about 20 people, you know, from the area and, you know, various areas of expertise. And we are in the process of developing specific dune restoration site plans to basically work with those natural processes that we were just talking about, how the sand moves back and forth and, you know, I think David also said there's really a sense of urgency here with sea level rise and the impacts that it's having to the park. So one of the, you know, major...I guess one of the best kind of mitigators of the negative impacts of sea level rise is a healthy dune coastal ecosystem. So that's the focus of our project, and we're in the process of developing specific plans for how and where to, you know, do those restoration projects. And I'll just leave it at that. I can answer questions.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very interesting. Thank you very much. And I'm going to just make one statement, and I'll turn it over to Chair Lee, is that I noticed that Bruce U'u, I hope he's still listening, he was wearing the same shirt 20 years ago that he was today when he was testifying. So I don't know, it was a black t-shirt so I thought...oh, there, you know, he's wearing his black t-shirt with his muscles all showing, and there was Bruce U'u in the middle of the picture. So Bruce, I hope you're listening. But still handsome after...I don't know how many years ago it was, I shouldn't say 20. But thank you very much, Wes. I'm going to call you and talk to you more about this because I think it impacts other communities that we're having challenges. So Chair Lee, and then Shane

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Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Since you brought up history going back when Bruce had muscles, when I was a little girl, about three years old or so, we had family in Pā'ia--because my mother grew up in Camp One, which is right across from Spreckelsville--we had a lot of family in Pā'ia. But before we would go and visit them, we would call them. So my mom would hand me the phone. And in those days, calling Pā'ia was a long distance call. So you would have to go through an operator to get to the party you wanted in Pā'ia. So that's history for today. Now, what I do have are some questions for David, and these are questions that Member Molina asked me to ask since he wasn't able to attend today's meeting. So it probably is more about the master plan. And his first question is, when is the Lower Pā'ia parking lot scheduled for reconstruction? That information was left blank in the transmittal from Parks Department. David?

MR. YAMASHITA: That's a Karla question, right?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, that's a Karla question. That's not part of the master plan?

MR. YAMASHITA: No, it's...no. The temporary parking lot emerged as an idea after we were done with our work on the plan. So it's...and it's just meant to be temporary, whereas we're looking at more permanent improvements. But I'll let Karla explain, yeah, the schedule.

MS. PETERS: Thanks, Chair Lee. Thanks, David. So we have two projects. We have the existing Lower Pā'ia Park parking lot in which we're going to do ADA improvements and actually formalize parking stalls because right now, there's no really parking stalls there. And prior...before we're going to do that, we got funding in this current fiscal year for the temporary parking lot, which will be more closer to Baldwin Beach Park shown on David's plan there. That temporary lot is currently now in design. We will be utilizing the modular surfacing that is currently at the Wells Parks temporary parking lot, as well as some lighting...solar lighting. It will include some gates and fencing, and we're currently now in the design process in which we need to do our permitting. So we want to get that done first because that will serve as a temporary lot for when we have to shut down the current existing Lower Pā'ia Park parking lot. It'll give those...the public utilizing the park an area for parking. And then once we get done with the permanent lot improvements, we will have two lots available to expand parking because there was a huge concern when the parking along Hāna Highway was no longer able to be utilized. So we're working on both projects concurrently.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So that's great. So is there room in the master plan to increase the parking, not only replace the parking? So you're going to keep...so in a sense, you're going to increase the parking because you're going to use the temporary parking and the other parking, the permanent parking...and so in a sense, you're adding...you're almost doubling the parking?

MS. PETERS: In the existing Lower Pā'ia Park parking lot, we could probably get about 60 to

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65 stalls, and the temporary parking lot is proposed for 90 stalls. And then on David's plan, and I don't know if he wants to bring it back up, there are parking lots proposed in the Baldwin Beach Park Adaptation Plan.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I'm sorry, I didn't hear you. How many temporary parking stalls?

MS. PETERS: 90.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, 90.

MS. PETERS: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, okay.

MS. PETERS: And then 55 to 60 in the existing Lower Pā'ia Park parking lot, that's fronting the...mauka of the PYCC Building.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Please excuse me if this...if the next question is extraneous as well. Is there a reason land acquisition for the potential campground parcel owned by Montana Beach Condo isn't included in the cost estimates?

MR. YAMASHITA: No. I think...oh, I'm sorry. It's a kind of speculative idea at this point. And I think in the next round, we'll have a more specific cost estimate. It's tied up also, Councilmember Lee, in thinking about that shoreline as well, because it is a hardened shoreline, and we didn't have time to really address the future of the hardened shoreline. So that whole area is in question.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MR. YAMASHITA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: All right. So let me just...I have two more. Is there any thought of charging non-residents for parking lot use like Big Beach?

MS. PETERS: Thank you, Chair. So the County...there's a Countywide project looking at paid parking, and that's being handled by the Department of Management. So we are definitely looking at that, and utilizing that within some of our beach parks.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. And the last question, will a complete list of necessary permits be compiled before the master plan is finalized?

MR. YAMASHITA: Yes. The short answer is yes...in the third and final step, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: In the third and final?

MR. YAMASHITA: Step. Right. We're doing technical studies now, and then the next...the final step is to integrate technical studies with this interim concept that you see.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you very much. I appreciate it.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. So we will tell Mr. Molina to listen from the video, 3 minutes and 24...no...at 3:24 so that he can hear all the answers to the questions that you gave up your time so he could ask his good questions.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: That's right.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. All right. So that was five minutes. Mr. Sinenci, do you have any questions?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, just a couple, Chair. Thank you. And mahalo to the Parks Department, Mr. Yamashita for your presentation. Looking at it, I like it. I know one thing I like about visiting Kanaha Beach Park is that where you kind of stroll, you drive around through the park, and you find all these different little nooks and crannies to picnic. And so I like that you've kind of continued that same type of design through Baldwin Beach Park. My question was, you know, we've heard a lot about not having a lot of parking at all of our beach parks. Would you guys...were you guys considering like some kind of a bus depot area? I know you're...it looks like you're adding a couple parking lots, but is there room for maybe a bus to pull over and kind of support more mass transit types of transportation instead of driving.

MR. YAMASHITA: That's...yeah, no. Thank you for the question. That's a very good question. It's not something that we thought about in really great detail for this phase of the project, but I think it's an example of how in two years, things have changed. So I think...when we get to the third and final step, I think we will have to look at how do you encourage people to get to the park using something other than a private vehicle, so that you can reduce...theoretically reduce the size of the parking lot. Because that's a dilemma is, providing enough parking, but yet you want to maintain the open space. And so, you know, having alternative ways of getting to the park is important, but no, that's a very good question. And it's something when we start this third and final step, which will likely be in maybe '23, '24 something like that.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Would...final project deadline would be...I know your adaptation plan goes to 2023. So your finishing date, that would be after that, an RFP next year could be your end of project?

MR. YAMASHITA: Yes. That would be when we take the results of the technical studies, and integrate them with this interim concept plan, and to prepare a kind of final, if you will, adaptation plan.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. So we're still a couple years down the road, yeah?

MR. YAMASHITA: Probably. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. Thank you. And then for Director Karla, nothing is

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budgeted yet for the project, yeah...just proposed?

MS. PETERS: That's correct, Member Sinenci, yeah. We received monies for the technical studies in the fiscal year '21 budget. So once that portion is completed, we'll propose for funding for the next phase. And then after that phase, we go in for implementation once we've achieved and received all of our permits.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. Thank you for that. And then my last question for Mr. Crile, were you going to...you mentioned both our winter swells and the summer swells. Were you going to kind of accentuate that, or were you going to address it...and don't say t-groins.

MR. CRILE: Yeah, no, I'm glad you asked that question, Councilmember Sinenci. Yeah. So we're working with...so I guess...let me back up a little bit. So yeah, we are working completely with the natural processes. When we say dune restoration, what we mean is planting plants, utilizing sand fencing sometimes, which is just a very...you know, it's like a two-foot tall temporary fence that is designed to capture the windblown sand, and then we are proposing some relocation of sand within the same, I guess, beach cell. But this sand is down...it's near the Baby Beach end of the project. So we're not proposing any t-groins, no hardening, no sea walls, nothing like that. We're talking about moving a little bit of sand to help rebuild dunes, you know, mainly in front of the beach park right at Baldwin Beach Park, because that area is chronically starved of sand, and then stabilizing that sand with vegetation, native plants like 'Aki'aki grass and Pohuehue, morning glory. No hardening.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Great. Because it looks like from some of your aerial shots, there's an extensive reef system right outside. And I know Pā'ia divers, they are famous for their tako diving areas and other stuff. So I'm hoping that you guys can kind of incorporate or at least address the extensive reef system right outside the shoreline. My last question, Chair, was, you know, towards the southern end of the project where the Kailua Ditch empties out and there's that flooding area, is there any wetland areas up there that could potentially act as a retention basin prior to some of the runoff going out into the ocean?

MR. YAMASHITA: Well, I...yeah, I don't know who that was directed to. But no, I think ideally...I'm sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Had Mr. Crile had considered any of that, you know, where the Kailua Ditch empties towards the southern end of that area? I haven't seen that area. Is that a natural wetlands or a basin that could kind of keep salt water...

MR. CRILE: Yeah, I guess the short answer is yes. It's not really currently a wetland, but it definitely could be. Some of those pictures that David showed of the flooding, you know, is when that ditch runs...which doesn't happen very often, but when it does, it floods the park and the parking lot. And so just being aware of that, you know, mauka to makai hydrologic connection there and designing...you know, integrating that into the master plan so that, you know, there are retention structures and things like that, yeah.

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And then also, I know there's a project...I think Public Works is looking at the stream mouth itself...the clearing of the sand in front of the stream mouth, and so that is being considered as well.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: All right. Awesome. Thank you. Mahalo. Thank you for...

MR. YAMASHITA: Could I add one thing?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. YAMASHITA: One of the ideas in this original...this interim concept is to use that big open area as a retention basin. But we...you know, we didn't have an engineering firm on staff, so that's going to be one of the questions that we'll be looking at is, is there enough capacity, and can it be designed to accommodate some run off.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Right. And I know Karla is...the Hāna Ball Park, we did some of that where we kind of made it like a low area trenching that went around the park that we could help kind of, you know, accommodate some of the flooding. Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Members. So I guess the only person we didn't hear from is Nicole Swanson. You want to just show us...you want to say something? Or we don't know how to tie you in to a question, sorry. I can't hear you. Nicole, you look like your video is on, but we can't hear you. You want to turn off your video, and maybe we can then hear the audio.

MS. SWANSON: Hello. Can you hear me now?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: We can hear you.

MS. SWANSON: Okay. Sorry about that. Yeah. PBR...so I'm a part of PBR Hawai'i, and we've been really privileged to be a part of the initial master plan project, and now moving into the Phase II, which is the technical studies that David was mentioning. So I don't have any additional comments, I'd just like to express that we've been really privileged to work with Bruce U'u and the rest of the advisory committee, and they've been really passionate and focused in working as a team. And the community members outside of that committee have been very helpful and creative as well. So it's just been a real honor, and we're looking forward to this next phase. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: So you do the . . . *(inaudible)* . . . act. Is that what your PBR is doing for this project?

MS. SWANSON: Yeah, we do...we're doing the project managing as landscape architects. We helped developed the initial plan which was, you know, really fueled by the community and what they wanted to see, kind of holding our hands on the drawing board, and so that was a really great process. And then we will now be working with actually all Maui consultants to complete the technical study. So we will be managing that and seeing

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that through completion.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you for explaining how your firm fits into the big picture. So I'm going to close this meeting and defer this item. But before I do, in one of our meetings, not today, a question came up about the Pā'ia Youth and Cultural Center falling into the ocean. So I don't think it is, but can you just clarify that? David?

MR. CRILE: Is that addressed to me?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Or Wes, whoever. Whoever can answer. I saw it, so I don't think it's falling into the...I think the pavilion is, right, or was?

MR. CRILE: Well, yeah. No, I mean, falling into the ocean is a little strong. It is definitely vulnerable, you know, it's very close to the ocean. But the PYCC has been a great partner, you know, with...they've been a great partner on this dune restoration component, and they've been stewards of a smaller dune restoration project, you know, right in front of their building and then along Lower Pā'ia Park, designating some of the dunes. And they've been, you know, kind of...it's been their kuleana to take care of the dunes at their end of the park. But yeah, the pavilion is a little more threatened. I mean, you saw we lost about a third of it, you know, it had to be demolished last year at this time. So we're approaching that part of the summer where the sand is rapidly moving away and the shoreline is creeping closer to the pavilion. So that process should turn around, you know, in the next couple of weeks, literally towards the latter part of September, but we'll see how close it gets to the pavilion this go around. I mean it got really...it undermined the foundation last year, and that part had to be demolished. So yeah, that's the update.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Well, thanks for the clarification. And Wes, you're going to have to email me...give me your contact information, I want to talk story with you if I could outside of this meeting. So David, good job. Karla, always good job. Your years in the Planning, Parks Planning always comes in handy, right...your earlier years when I first met you in the Parks Department. Thank you, Nicole, for introducing what you do. And Wes, good to see you again. Members, if there are no other questions I'm going to defer this item and the meeting is now adjourned. . . .*(gavel)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS. (Excused TK, TP)

ACTION: DEFER.

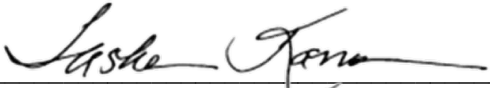
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ADJOURN: 3:40 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tasha Kama", written over a horizontal line.

TASHA KAMA, Chair
Human Concerns and Parks Committee

hcp:min:210902

Transcribed by: Terianne Arreola

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CERTIFICATION

I, Terianne Arreola, hereby certify that pages 1 through 35 of the foregoing represents, to the best of my ability, a true and correct transcript of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not in any way concerned with the cause.

DATED the 5th day of October 2021, in Wailuku, Hawai'i.



Terianne Arreola