

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

January 20, 2022

Online Only Via BlueJeans

CONVENE: 9:01 a.m.

PRESENT: VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Alice L. Lee
Councilmember Tamara Paltin
Councilmember Kelly Takaya King
Councilmember Michael J. Molina (in at 9:04 a.m.)
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez (in at 9:03 a.m.)

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Gabe Johnson (in at 9:04 a.m.)

STAFF:

Laksmi Abraham, Legislative Analyst
Lesley Milner, Legislative Analyst
Paige Greco, Legislative Analyst
Richard Mitchell, Legislative Attorney
Jean Pokipala, Committee Secretary
Lenora Dineen, Council Services Assistant Clerk

Evan Dust, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Tasha Kama
Davideane Sickels, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Tasha Kama
Lois Whitney, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Tasha Kama
Axel Beers, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kelly Takaya King
Daniel Kanahele, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kelly Takaya King
Ellen McKinley, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kelly Takaya King
Kate Griffiths, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Gabe Johnson
Roxanne Morita, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Gabe Johnson
Jordan Helle, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

ADMIN.:

Jennifer M. Oana, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel
Curtis Jamison, Grants Management Program Manager, Department of Housing and Human Concerns

OTHERS:

David Takahama
Faith Chase (IT-52)
Mary Ann Pahukoa (IT-52)
Shane De Mattos, Wildlife Biologist, Maui Nui (IT-52)
Jonathan Sprague, Director of Conservation, Pūlama Lānaʻi (IT-52)

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

Howard Rodrigues
Stan Ruidas, Chair, Game Management Advisory Commission (IT-52)
Justin Luafalemana, President, Molokaʻi Hunting Club (IT-52)
Others (2)

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . . *(gavel)*. . . Thank you, Chivo. Good morning, everybody. Welcome to the Infrastructure Transportation Committee *[sic]*. Today is January 20th, 2022 and the time is 9:01 a.m. Welcome, and I look forward to a interesting and productive meeting. My name is Yuki Lei Sugimura, and I am the Chair of this Committee. The online meeting is being conducted in accordance with the Governor's most recent emergency proclamation on Sunshine Law in-person meetings, which has suspended the use of in-person testimony and viewing locations due to the recent COVID-19 surge. As a reminder, when your name is called, please identify by name who you are, of course, if anyone is in the room, vehicle, or workplace with you today. So first let us go to our Chair, Alice Lee, to give us our greeting. Good morning, Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Good morning, Madam Chair. So the greeting is from Myanmar, which is formerly Burma, southeast nation, and the greeting is mingalarbar. Mingalarbar. I'm home in my office space alone and looking forward to your meeting.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mingalarbar, Chair. Next we have the Vice-Chair of this Committee, Tasha Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair, and my fellow Councilmembers. And mingalarbar to each and every one of you. And looking forward to having a wonderful meeting this morning. I am in my workspace in my home, and I am alone.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mingalarbar, Vice-Chair. Next we have from West Side, Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Mingalarbar and aloha kakahiaka kākou. Broadcasting live and direct from sunny Lāhainā Town at the Lāhainā District Office here in Old Lāhainā Center. And I'm more than six feet away from my EA Angela, and as soon as we are able to take testimony here, we'd love to offer this courtesy site to you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We're waiting for that day too, yeah, Councilmember Paltin. So thank you for that. And Kelly King from South Maui, mingalarbar.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Mingalarbar, Chair, and fellow Committee Members. And we almost should follow it with har har because Burma is actually one of the...is one of the first countries to actually develop a happiness quotient. So you know how the U.S. has a GPA *[sic]*, we measure our gross product...or GPD *[sic]*, gross product production. And Burma actually measures their happiness level.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. I wonder how they do that. That's interesting.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Interesting. We should maybe...we should think about that for Maui. But I am in my home today in my spare room alone. And yeah, hoping to get back to the office. I just had a really funny schedule this week and had a lot of...putting together presentations all week for post-COP events. Good to see everybody.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good, Kelly. Thank you for all the community work that you do. And from Molokaʻi, mingalarbar, Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair, mai Molokaʻi Nui A Hina. I'm at the Molokaʻi District Office by myself here. And mingalarbar kākou.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nice to have you. And thank you very much for putting together a presenter for today when we start talking about the axis deer. So appreciate that. Mr. Molina, good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Good morning and mingalarbar [sic], Madam Chair. My apologies for being a bit late this morning. I'm transmitting to you and my colleagues and everyone else for your meeting today from beautiful Pāʻia, Maui, out here at Heritage Hall. And for the record, I have my Executive Assistant, Ana Lillis, with me today. Aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ah, one day you must show us...just give a...the community a tour of your office.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning. And we have from Lānaʻi a Non-Voting Member, Gabe Johnson. I really appreciate you being here. And you put together some speakers for the second item on our agenda. So mingalarbar, Mr. Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I'll give it a shot. Mingalarbar to you, Chair, as well as to the other Councilmembers. I'm just here to follow along with this exciting topic that everybody wants to speak on. So thank you for having me, Chair. Mahalo. I am home alone by myself.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ah, I was hoping you would be in the building. Today I'm in the building, Gabe. One day we'll have lunch. So also who is joining us from the...from Corporation Counsel is Jennifer Oana. From Department of Housing and Human Concerns, Lori Tzuhako, Director, and I think she's also asked Curtis Jamison for...who does the grants, to join us so he can give us an update on what's happening with the grants that were done on the feral animal. And also joining us we have Justin Luafalemana from the Molokaʻi Hunting Club, which Keani connected with him to join us today. So I look forward to learning from him. And from the Island of Lānaʻi, Gabe has done a good job and he put together three speakers. So Stan Ruidas, you have to give me his proper title, Gabe. I know he's DLNR, the Game Management Chair for that Committee. And...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That's correct.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And then Jon Sprague, which is the Director of Conservation for Pūlama Lānaʻi. And then from DLNR, Shane De Mattos, Wildlife Biologist, Maui Nui. And Staff Committee, we have Laks Abraham--thanks for working hard on this--Lesley Milner, Paige Greco, Clarita Balala, Richard Mitchell, Lei Dineen, and thank you, everybody, for participating. Members, today we have two items on the agenda. I just wanted to say that I scheduled IT-1, which is to talk about the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. And thank you very much. It was Tamara Paltin who gave us her time, and we did a date switch to make this happen. And as you know, last week, Senator Schatz announced that he was...he had COVID. So he had...I think it was last week Wednesday, or right before we did posting. So one of the things that he had requested was that he wanted to hear questions from the Members that when he appeared he would have an idea of what you wanted to hear about or learn about with this Investment Jobs Act. So that's why I scheduled it, just because for transparency's sake and Sunshine, I cannot ask you individually and have you appear with these questions. So if you or any members of the community have questions for the Senator, please send it to Committee, and Laks and Lesley will forward it to him at the request of the Senator. Also, when this gets heard, we are going to also have Ed Sniffen here, who is State Deputy Director for State Department of Transportation. And he wanted to come on the same time. I hope he's going to be available because we're going to have to reschedule the Senator to possibly another date. But anyway, same thing because we...they're working hand in hand to try to get some of the projects done for the State of Hawaiʻi. So I look forward to both of them. So Members, I'm...if any of you have any questions on what...on that...but that's why I took the first item and I posted it on the agenda thinking that when he does appear, which was supposed to be next week Tuesday, then we'll have questions for him. So anybody have questions regarding that? Okay. So...oh, Kelly.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Do you...so do you want us to send you the questions or to send them directly to Senator Schatz?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you can send them to Laks, and then Laks will forward the questions to the Senator.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. All right.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: She's been working pretty hard trying to just secure a date, and then, you know, now we're back looking for another date. But we're working on it. So yeah, could you send it directly to Laks?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, the Committee. Thank you on that. So Laks, do we have any testifiers?

MS. ABRAHAM: Good morning, Member Sugimura. Yes, we do. We have five testifiers.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Great, then. So if any of the testifiers have questions for the Senator, you know, we can accumulate that and send it with ours. So oral testimony is by phone or video conferencing, and testifiers wanting to provide video testimony should join the online meeting via BlueJeans. Testifiers wanting to provide audio testimony can also dial in, 408-915-6290, and enter meeting code 886 005 668, which is our BlueJeans link for today and is on the agenda. Written testimony is highly encouraged through eComment link listed for today's agenda on mauicounty.us/agendas. And individuals are free to provide testimony via eComment or may testify online. Instructions on how to submit testimony with...via eComment can also be found on Maui County...via Maui County dot...our website. Moving on to oral testimony. So oral testimony is for three minutes, and if you need, we...you can, you know, speak to complete your testimony for another minute. And if you would state your name and any organization that you are representing, if you're a paid lobbyist, and 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. And if you are here to provide testimony, please be courteous to others by turning off your video or muting your microphone while waiting for your turn to testify. Once you're done testifying, you will be asked to disconnect from the call. However, you are welcome to continue to view the remainder of the meeting on *Akakū* Channel 53, Facebook Live, or on mauicounty.us. Participants who wish to view the meeting only without providing testimony may also disconnect at this time and instead view the meeting on *Akakū* Channel 53, Facebook Live, or mauicounty.us. And only Councilmembers, Staff, and designated resource personnel will be connected to the video conference meeting once testimony concludes. I also remind Committee Members, Administration, and other public to please be patient if you run into any technical issues. And...okay. At this time, Laks, you want to call up testifiers?

MS. ABRAHAM: Our first testifier is David Takahama, followed by Faith Chase. Mr. Takahama, please unmute yourself and proceed with your testimony.

. . . BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

MR. TAKAHAMA: Hi. I'll be leaving the meeting. I'm just going to view from *Akakū*.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You're going to listen. Okay. Thank you for joining us. Next testifier.

MS. ABRAHAM: Our next testifier is Ms. Faith Chase. Please unmute yourself and proceed with your testimony.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning, Ms. Chase.

MS. CHASE: Good morning, Chair. Good morning, Committee. I'm speaking to IT-52. I've spoken on this item about 16 times over the last two and a half years. I think that this is a really...this has been a very blurry issue. To remind this Committee, this issue has gone through five different Committees in the last three years. It's very important to me that the subsistence hunters be part of this conversation, especially when it comes to

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

the axis deer, which has somehow fallen under the feral animal management. While not everybody considers them to be feral, we do agree that it is an issue that needs attention. This long history of going through five Committees, it feels like one of those examples of kicking the can down the road. I'm happy to hear about the axis deer task force. I would still like to be informed about when those meetings are. I know the Chair is in...has a email correspondence from me with interest in that...in that area. I'm very, very concerned about the involvement of Jake Mui and KIA LLC. They have questionable practices. I see last week when we had a item going down budgets from the COVID monies that were allocated...or is it...I forget what the budget list was, but that one item for whatever he...Living Pono or whatever Jake Mui renamed his organization, didn't have a number, a budget number, on there. And now I see that there's \$139,000 that might be allocated to him, regardless if it's through the drought emergency or what. I can't follow the line of funding very well. And so I will look into it more, but I'm very concerned because of his past practices. And I know this body knows this. You need to include the subsistence hunters at...whatever the task force is, make sure that you have...I haven't seen any outreach to the subsistence hunters. And that is why I primarily got involved in this subject years ago. And also, the KGLMO body, the Kahikinui Game and Land Management 'Ohana, they are key now because Leeward Haleakalā Watershed Restoration Partnership failed on their grant deliverables last year. So who's taking care of that entire huge back side, the Kahikinui Aquifer that goes from Kanaio all the way to Kaupō? These people need to be part of the conversation. So I just want to...however this issue moves forward, make sure that you consider the subsistence hunters and that Kahikinui Game and Land Management 'Ohana. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Members, anybody have questions for Faith Chase? Yes, Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just wanted to try clarify, I didn't understand. If these axis deer aren't considered feral animals, what are they considered?

MS. CHASE: Food.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

MS. CHASE: I mean, you know, they are put under that category of feral animal management because the population has gotten to the point it has been, but you never have that...you rarely have that testimony of subsistence hunters who actually feed their families. In fact, access has been pretty difficult for them. And this what...this is what triggered that involvement when that kind of Mad Max sort of approach that Jake Mui took with the DLNR years ago. Thank God he's out of...he's off of the mountain now. You know, we succeeded in those bad practices not continuing, but here he is under another disguise seeking money. I'm on hyper alert. And so you know, the axis deer were brought to Hawai'i as a means to add to the food source, and while, yes, they are a problem, I mean the population is an issue, there needs to be that balance of subsistence hunters. And a lot of those subsistence hunters don't have the access that they actually want. And the ranches seem to sort of privatize and not really want to allow access to everybody, but there's a bigger conversation there that has...the

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

outreach has never been done thoroughly to the subsistence hunters, not completely. It has not been done. It's stick to the task force, and the ranches, and DLNR, and it doesn't include the subsistence hunters. The first...the first meeting that they had three years ago --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Did you get your question answered, Tamara?

MS. CHASE: -- 40 people came to. I would appreciate to finish my sentence because you know how much I...how important this issue is to me, Chair Sugimura. Forty subsistence hunters came to the initial meeting when Jake Muise came across the mountain years ago. That was amazing, out in the...out in the countryside. So there are...there is a huge body of people who care about this issue.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Chase.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody else have questions for Faith Chase? Kelly King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Hi, Faith. Thank you, Chair. So I just wanted to follow up on the previous question about the category. So if they're not feral and they're...and they're being hunted for food, is that...is that a separate category of game, you know, game---I don't know--animals?

MS. CHASE: I believe it is so, but it's just because this issue has been, you know, like just shifted through five different Committees that I kind of understand how it fell under feral animal management, under Riki Hokama . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, no, I understand...I understand your concern. I just want...I'm trying to figure out the...if that's a...if that's a category relevant to this discussion of, you know, separating out game animals from feral animals. Because some of them are kind of feral nuisances, but a lot of the...you know, a lot of what I see going on is exactly what you're talking about, hunting for subsistence.

MS. CHASE: Yes, and there's a group called the Native Hawaiian Gathering, right...Native Hawaiian Gathering Association, and they've been having conversations just like this, you know, trying to sort of clarify that definition of sorts.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. So maybe it's a population that has two definitions.

MS. CHASE: I would like to see it on its own, but yeah, thank you for the question. Game.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Keani.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Ms. Chase. Mahalo for your testimony this morning. Do you have any...so like on Moloka'i, we have on today Justin Luafalemana, and he's the President of our Moloka'i Hunting Club, and the

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

hunting club is a group of subsistence hunters. And then they work together with other subsistence hunters and large landowners on Moloka'i. Do you have someone on Maui that you'd like to recommend that we consider to be part of the task force?

MS. CHASE: I do. Kawika Davidson, he's the President of Kahikinui Game and Land Management 'Ohana, and we actually...he actually put forward a grant proposal when it was first announced, maybe like a year and a half ago, top of COVID, and he didn't succeed in getting that grant, but what he did was he broadened his range with his organization to cover the entire Maui. Somebody else ended up ultimately getting that grant, but you know, they dove in, they took a big bite out of crime in trying to, you know, to put that proposal forward. And Department of Hawaiian...Department of Housing and Human Concerns, you know, we were calling often. I was trying to help them with some administrative stuff. We were calling often to see when that RFP was being drafted, and quite frankly--and he'll probably, you know, add to this--that was a new area for DHHC. They were like, wow, we didn't...we don't even know anything about this animal area. So it was slow to the roll, but we were persistent in trying to get that details. And you know, the hunting club...I mean, as far as the hunting club goes, the Game and Land Management organization, it kind of mimics a hunting club, but it's a bigger, broader sort of responsibility. But if I can remind you, three years ago, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands made a lateral...made a lateral decision to take away the right of entry to KGLMO, to Kahikinui, and that's what spurred...after 25 years, that's what spurred that tension. And we literally flew to O'ahu to the Senate, to DHHL. We did everything we could to try to protect them in their positioning because they were doing well on the mountain and somehow, you know, there was this lateral decision. So there's still very much a tour de force, if you will, to protect that mountain and the watershed, and the game land management.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Chase. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any other questions for Faith Chase? Okay. Thank you, Faith, for your passion and for your testimony. Next testifier, please.

MS. ABRAHAM: Our next testifier is Mary Ann Pahukoa. Please unmute yourself and proceed with your testimony.

MS. PAHUKOA: Aloha. Oh, there I am. Aloha, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aloha.

MS. PAHUKOA: I am testifying on Item IT-52, Feral Animal Management on Maui, wanting to echo Ms. Faith about subsistence 'ohana. And I do see this as a resource also. I'm chatting with some subsistence hunters trying to get them to testify, but we all know it's kind of hard for them to join BlueJeans, and you know, they're not too tech savvy. But they're great shooters and hunters, and they feed their families. So I'm just going to echo some of their quotes and their concerns, which is access, and we've talked about that before. Access to hunt on these lands, whether it be private lands, State lands, Haleakalā Ranch, Ka'ono'ulu, Ms. Oprah's ranch, Kaupō Ranch, a hunting club with

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

great...you know, with great standards and a great record is, of course, one of the best solutions, and then, of course, making sure that they collect great data and share that data and be transparent with our County, as well as with the State, because the State needs to use that data to go after funding for watershed management and whatever watershed protection conservation efforts they have for Haleakalā. And I just wanted to kind of put in your ear that when we have access to gather these subsistence resources, which also helps eliminate the invasive game and, you know, so much other problems that stem from all these deer, overpopulation of them, we also have an amazing...we could create amazing products. Yeah, we know about Maui Nui. They're not the best company. Number one, they're a commercial entity; number two, their data has a lot of flaws when it comes to sharing with the State, and then the FDA. Their data doesn't match up. So if you could always keep that in the back of your mind to data mine and fact check Maui Nui or anybody involved with them is really important. But when it comes to creating products like dog food...right now, I'm hearing that Costco got rid of Pedigree, whatever it may be. So a lot of hunters are looking for dog food. Venison with, you know, the help of perhaps a commercial kitchen, is...can be a huge resource for our island's...our island's dog population, and our communities, and these families. So we already know we can make hamburger, we can make...you know, you can do...you can do basically steaks. You can do dog food. You can use . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . the hide for rugs and whatnot. So these are real and true subsistence resources that we just need to get together with all these subsistence hunters, and give them access, and work with Mahi Poho [sic] and all of them. So mahalo for your time and continued conversation with all of this. I support, you know, a hui like Kahikinui Game Land Management. There's a new one called Maui Hunting and Sporting Club...Maui Hunter and Sportsman Club, and I'm not sure who is on the board, if it's a legit board, but they are the new entity trying to bring up themselves. And I'm just putting their name out there because they're chiming on a Facebook group, and it's really great conversations when you look at these men who don't know how to get the word out there, but they're chiming in, you know, they're trying to get involved, and they're trying to share their concerns. So --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. PAHUKOA: -- it's online, and obviously one of the main concerns in access. So mahalo. I'm looking forward to today's presentation.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Thank you. So the name of that Maui hunters club...or what is it called?

MS. PAHUKOA: It's Maui Hunter and Sportsman Club.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And sportsman.

MS. PAHUKOA: And I don't believe they are...they might just be a new --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Facebook. Okay.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

MS. PAHUKOA: -- up and starting club, yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody else have questions for Mary Ann? Tamara.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Pahukoa, for your testimony. I just was...wanted to clarify like in regards to what we're doing to help the folks that want access to private lands. Would...do you...do you think that providing the private landowners the hunter liability insurance would be enough, or would it need to be more than that? Like if the County was able to provide liability insurance for the hunters, is that what's stopping them, or is it something else, if you are aware?

MS. PAHUKOA: That's a partial solution. To my knowledge, like the group KGLMO, Kahikinui Game and Land Management 'Ohana, had you know, their own insurance. On top of that, they had some of the strictest laws in the State. So each member would have to also...you pay your fee, which basically covers the insurance cost, but you had to also sign all these waivers, including background checks. So it's a partial solution, but I mean, just from working with that group and attending one of their member meetings, it was pretty...it was kind...it was amazing how formatted it was. So yes, that's a part of the solution.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

MS. PAHUKOA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody else have questions for her? Seeing none. Okay. Thank you very much. Appreciate it. Next testifier.

MS. ABRAHAM: There are no more testifiers at this time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anyone...I'm going to just open it up in case there's anyone who wants to testify. Please make yourself known at this time. Okay. I see none. So Members, with your permission, I would like to close written testimony and receive...close oral testimony and receive written testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

. . . END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Okay, thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you very much, testifiers. And we'll be talking about some of this in...when we take up the second item.

IT-1(5): INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT (Rule 7(B))

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So again, on IT-15, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. This item, again, as I said earlier, we scheduled it so that we could receive questions that you may

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

have so that our Office or our Council can send it to Senator as he had requested, so he can prepare for when he does meet with us. The meeting that we had scheduled, which is--all of you, thank you very much for making it available to yourselves--is next week Tuesday. Before Tamara had her meeting at 11:00, we were going to take up Senator Schatz and Ed Sniffen to talk about the infrastructure bill, but now he's not available, and we're going to be polling for another date. But I still would like to receive questions because I'm hopeful that we can have him talk about the infrastructure bill because, as you know, it's going to provide millions of dollars to the State of Hawai'i, of which some of it is going to come to us. And I just want to hear from what you're hearing from your community what the needs are, and maybe Senator can help shed some light, as well as Mr. Sniffen. So thank you very much. Anybody else have questions on that? Okay. Seeing none. So I'm going to go...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So we're not going to actually talk about the questions that we have right now. You want us to send them in to you. But do you...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, correct.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Do...we're just talking about...is he going to talk to us about the money that's coming directly to the County and the State of Hawai'i? Or...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Infrastructure...about the...about the Jobs Act.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Because the bill has...the bill has money that goes to different Federal Departments.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: And I'm on the local government advisory committee for the EPA. So we just had a big meeting earlier this week on the money that's coming to the EPA and make...you know, what recommendations we wanted to make to the Government to how to spend...or to the EPA as to how to spend it. But what...this conversation with Brian Schatz, is he...is he going to be talking about all that kind of money, the money that's going to different Federal Departments, or just the money that's coming to us?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So that's the purpose of scheduling it, so we can find out what you're interested in learning about it. If you want to make it about the EPA and if he can answer, then that's great. And I was just thinking that he can talk about bridges, and roads, and you know, different concerns that we have, and just educate us. By talking to some of the...well, the Department that would be impacted by this, they wanted to know, you know, what funds are coming for what programs and, you know, if it's known what criteria it is. So you know, it depends on what you're interested in.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay. All right. So we'll just...I guess you'll find out when everybody sends their questions in.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, yeah. If anybody in the community has questions, you know, please do forward it to us also.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . have control over it at the County level . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sorry, what did you say, Kelly?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I think the...one of the biggest issues is how much money are we going to actually have control over at the County level, you know, how much is coming straight to us that doesn't go through the State so that we know how much we have when we enter the next budget session.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Yeah, so please send that forward to the Committee so we can send it to...that's the same question that one of the Departments asked. So --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- please send that. Okay. Any other questions? Oh, Tamara.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I just was wondering...I know that a lot of it is about transportation. And assuming that's why Mr. Sniffen was also invited to be there with Mr. Schatz...or Senator Schatz, but wondering...it's not only the transportation, right? There's like water, and broadband, and all those other things. Were you...were we coordinating with Mr. Pearson or any of like our Departments that could, I guess, capitalize on the Infrastructure Jobs Act, like you know, as separate categories?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you for asking that. That's a...yeah, so that's a great idea, have information come forward.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Like if...yeah, like if...within our County, if we wanted to invite like Mr. Pearson or Marc Takamori, or Rowena, or those Departments where the infrastructure money could benefit the work that they do, I kind of imagine that it's as important for them to submit questions or be there as it is for us, because they're like boots on the ground. I mean, we're two sides of the same coin. We're all working for the people, you know? Like that. Just...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, sure. We can ask the Departments. I was going to send a...through Sandy to ask...through our Managing Director to get questions from the Department, but we can invite them to attend, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Yeah, great.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And...but also, that was a request from the Senator if we could...he...if we could gather the questions so that he can be ready to talk to us. But yeah, we can invite the Departments. And if they can...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, yeah, and if they have questions ahead of time, I think they'd be more specific than us because they --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- are more aware of their actual needs than I know what Public Works needs to get roads done and things like that. I mean, I had questions, since we already received the RAISE Grant for Honoapi'ilani, can we still get money because it's more than 22 million, and like that. But I'll send them in writing.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's a...that's a very good question. Okay. And good question for Ed Sniffen to hear. Thank you. All right, Members. So at this time, I'm going to defer this and again, we're trying to reschedule it according to Senator's schedule if we're able to. So you'll hear about it again. So thank you very much for allowing me to, you know, pause and do this so that we can transparently receive questions that you may have for the Senator so he can be prepared. So I'm going to defer this item, which is IT-1(5), Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

ACTION: DEFER PENDING FURTHER DISCUSSION.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And I'm going to go to the next item, which is IT-52, Feral Animal Management on Maui. And this item we took up earlier on September 13th, and we began discussions on axis deer overpopulation, as it's become a growing concern in our community. Axis deer are overwhelming residential, businesses, properties, destroying crops, and damaging property and landscape. As you could tell from the December 5th and 6th...or 6th and 7th Kona storm, that a lot of the runoff that went into South Maui came from the...all of the deer or the feral animals eating away our hillsides. And the rain, that heavy rain, sent brown water into the oceans in Kihei. So those are the kind of impacts where you can see how important it is that we get control over this. And at the urging of the State and local legislators, the Governor recently issued a third emergency proclamation on January 3rd, 2022, to continue to engage...enable Government agencies to provide emergency relief, engage in emergency management functions, and implement deer management strategies. So this third emergency proclamation is going to expire on March the 7th, and I hope that the Departments can utilize this to help the axis deer problems that we're seeing in Keōpūolani Park. I've received complaints from constituents about that, and even people that live in that area that want to hunt the...hunt the deer because they see it, you know. So the growing problem of the axis deer is infiltrating into our residential lives, whereas before they were up in our area or up in the mountains. So that would be a, you know, good way to utilize emergency proclamation. And then in September, the Maui axis deer...or the

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

axis deer task force was formed in partnership with Mayor Victorino, and we brought together representatives from County, State, and Federal Governments, as well as farming and ranching communities. The task force, the purpose is to manage and control the axis deer population. And I think another important element of the mission was to find additional funding because what we heard, and by reading previous working groups that were formed...that they had great ideas, some of it similar to what we are hearing, but because there was no funding, they couldn't implement. So that became one of the mission statements for the task force. And the task force discussed...well, we have long- and short-term mitigation effort for the axis deer overpopulation. And we actually did research so we can understand how severe the problem is. And interesting, some of the things that came up from the task force with the subcommittees is a fencing map so that we could have where the fence are now, and that was implemented by Greg Friel and some of the members of the subcommittee, to come up with a mapping so we can see where the areas that we may need to focus on. Also to have deer meat, or exactly what the testifiers were talking about for subsistence, hunting, but to create an economic development element of the deer so it doesn't go to waste. And then something that I think is important is to reuse water from the Kihei Wastewater Reclamation Facility. So it's reuse of R-1 water. And as we know, the injection well issue is important, not only for West Side, but also in South Maui. And then the other thing that came out of there is composting. So members of the task force are going to be talking to Eric Nakagawa with Department of Environmental Management, to talk about their long-range planning for the solid waste plan, which is supposed to be done ending of this year. So they're going to get...have a discussion about that, as well as EKO, Rubens Fonseca, is joining the discussion because, as you all hear, on the importance of the work that he does. So in order to bring this all together, I've asked Curtis Jamison from Department of Housing and Human Concerns. Members, through last year's budget and this current budget, we allocated last fiscal year a million dollars, of which equal parts were given to each inhabited island, Maui, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and another 100,000 was to create a survey of what the problem is. So Curtis Jamison can talk about that, as well as the existing grants that were provided in this...I'm sorry, this fiscal year, which was \$250,000 per island. So I wonder if Lori would like to say a few words or...I know she said she had another meeting and was asking Curtis if he would join us. So Curtis, are you available? Then I'll ask Lāna'i to join us with Gabe, and then Moloka'i after that. So Curtis, thank you very much for joining us. So Curtis does the grants, as we all know, for Department of Housing and Human Concerns. Good morning.

MR. JAMISON: Good morning. Thank you for inviting us. Yeah, my name is Curtis Jamison. I'm the Grants Manager, Program Manager at the Department of Housing and Human Concerns. And apologies for Director Lori Tshako, who was unable to make it today. She did have another engagement. So thank you for the opportunity to share on what the assessment has come up with, and the current items that we have for this round...this next round of funding. Maybe to start with the assessment now, the preface is we're just finishing up the order of reporting that ends December 31st, and that due date is January 21st, which is tomorrow. So we haven't received all of the reports yet. So I don't have the final data on what the grants have finished, but we'll have that probably by the end of the month after we get those reports and can kind of consolidate and review all of that documentation. But we do have a preliminary report on the

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

assessment, and maybe just to share a couple key points on it, the assessment was done via helicopter using forward looking infrared scan. So we basically had a piece of equipment on a helicopter and some spotters, and they fly transects over land, which registers to the half...to the half degree of temperature of animals. And then they go through and review that footage and count all of the deer. And they did this for a space from Pā'ia all the way up through 'Ulupalakua, and all the way down to South Maui and Kīhei. They didn't include much of Kahului, there just wasn't enough funds to cover all of that. Helicopter time's quite...pretty expensive. But this was the proposal and the project that we had. So we covered 147,000 acres through transects as they ran from Pā'ia to 'Ulupalakua, which was...which was actually 32,000 more than was originally proposed. And through that they detected over 46,000 axis deer. So 46,743 axis deer were counted when they reviewed the...that data. And that's a pretty significant number. I think that that was a little bit higher than was anticipated, yet the number kind of matches the anecdotal stories we hear of deer moving around so much, right. You hear them coming down, especially when the drought was going on. And most of this data was collected prior to the...prior to the floods and the large rains, right, so when Upcountry was still under drought conditions. So the conditions of the...of the assessment were almost entirely done during the same conditions. Only one transect was done afterwards, but that...you know, they had the schedules, but you know, you couldn't really plan for the rain. So that's the only outlier piece of data. But still, that's 46,000 axis deer on that portion of Maui. So that's not even the whole island, nor is it the whole...the whole mountainside, right, because it doesn't go the other way around towards Hāna on the East...or the West Side, right, so going through...past 'Ulupalakua. So that's what's been provided so far. There's been some initial conversations, although that probably won't enter the formal report provided, but I know that that information is being provided through the vendor and the grantee to the task force, and that information can be made available for further discussions on how that data might inform decision making. But that's kind of where that assessment is set right now. They're not going to do any more transects. It's pretty much done and we're waiting for the final reports on that one. Would you like me to move to the current...the current...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You know, on that, I just want to say that the reason why the \$100,000 was put in there when we were doing the budget, as Members may remember, is because we wanted to have a starting point of the data. And I really can see the value of why this is important because I attended a town hall that was held with Gabe and his island on Lāna'i. And they had an assessment done, and had Dr. Steven Hess, who did analytics on it to help you set the framework for, you know, the direction. So I just want to make that statement because somebody else has said, why do it, because we know we have a lot of deer, but I think it serves a lot of value in terms of depth and direction of what we want. And then to keep it balanced, because we're not saying the word eradication, and I just don't want...you know, as we heard some of the testifiers, they're afraid that there's going to be no deer for subsistence. And that's not the goal. The goal is to find that balance. And I think this...that's why this data is super important, so we understand what the problem is that we're dealing with. Okay, continue. Continue, Curtis. Thank you very much for that.

MR. JAMISON: Yeah, thank you. So this next round for FY'22 funding, there wasn't funding

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

put in for an assessment. So this is...that's just going to kind of, I guess, be kind of a one off. Although the...during the process, the equipment is still available and the knowledge is still on island. So if we wanted to do an assessment with a similar or same vendor or same process down the road, it is a duplicatable thing. So an assessment could be done later to see, are we making progress on that same area, right. So that's part of the interpretation of it and how that data is then used for decision making. You know, that's, I think, part of that value of the task force and how they might interpret that data. So for FY'22, there was \$250,000 provided for each island. And then the Island of Moloka'i had a little bit of a proviso on there regarding \$150,000 for...specifically for an axis deer coordinator. We did open that funding and request...we opened the invitation to apply. We got in applications for all islands, although all of the applications that came in from Moloka'i were either incomplete, the organization did not qualify, they didn't have all of their documentation to actually enter into an agreement with the County, or their response was nonresponsive, meaning what they planned to do actually didn't address deer or animal management at all. So there was no connection between the program and what the funding was for. Lāna'i, we only got one application, and they didn't request all of the funding. So that's why you'll see now we've reopened the invitation to apply for Moloka'i and Lāna'i, and that's open currently, and that'll close on...the due date is January 31st. And we have had quite a few inquiries from...especially from Moloka'i, regarding questions on the application process and various things like that. So we'll continue to answer questions as they come in. For the ones that we did receive, we did make decisions on the applications for Maui, and we plan to award four organizations those funds basically for their programs. We haven't made any announcements yet because in the review of the documentation, there was some adjustments that needed to be made and we proposed that as technical feedback, a condition upon their award. So we're waiting for those grantees to accept those conditions or not, and then...and then we'll make an announcement on the grantees that are going to be awarded for that for Maui. But that should be in place. Hopefully, we'll get those responses this week, or maybe next week, and by the end of the month start the process of contracting with them. And then the one application we did get from Lāna'i, we are planning on...we did award that as well, and that program will move forward as well. So it's underway. And the difference between this year and the year before...almost entirely all of the applications that came in addressed deer, whereas previously...because it's feral animal and we don't specify which animal or which species that needs to be addressed, previously we had ones for like chickens and some other things came in for different birds and stuff. But this one, almost all the applications addressed deer and sometimes additional ungulates like pig or goat, but that's kind of where we are right now at this point. And hopefully we'll get some good applications that come in for Moloka'i and Lāna'i. We'll be able to move forward with that. The programs will run...we're running them on a calendar year as opposed to fiscal year, so we're hoping that they will still be able to provide services all the way through the end of December. And I believe...I mean, I don't know if you want more details on it. I can provide more details if you'd like, but that's kind of a general assessment of where we are with that process.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Anyone have questions for Curtis Jamison? Kelly King.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Thanks for that report, Curtis. I guess my question...I'm not sure if it has to do with that survey that you're doing, but is there a way to figure out...to come to a number of how much we want to reduce the feral...or the axis deer on the island by to...you know, what would be the good balance? How many...how many would we need to cull out of it to keep it relatively sane as far as the balance of leaving enough for subsistence hunters and eradicating the ones that are a nuisance to farms and backyard gardens?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: If I could, we're going to have future speakers from Lānaʻi, and they've utilized this same kind of data that Jake Muise did and Dr. Steven Hess. He's a...I don't know what Department he is with the Federal Government, I'm sorry, but they basically worked on...they came up with data, and then they...that data then is what Lānaʻi uses to figure out what the balance is. So your question, Kelly, is super relevant because again, we're not doing eradication, but we are looking at how to find that balance right now. And right now the axis deer are winning because of the overpopulation.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So he can't answer the question? So . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Specifically, I think it's powers to be that probably understands it more is where we're going next with Dr. Hess' report, and then you know, we can look at it for figuring out what that balance is. But that's exactly where we need to go. So relevant question. Anybody else? Or you have another question, Kelly?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No, I just wondered if there was...if he wanted to respond. Or you're just saying that he can't respond?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Oh, he can respond. I'm sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: That's my question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm sorry. Do you have an answer, Curtis?

MR. JAMISON: It's actually very similar to Councilmember Sugimura's response that I think the question of where we want to go is what is that target we want to get to, and what are we really trying to achieve. A couple questions that come into that is what is the carrying capacity of the island for deer, and then where do we want deer at as far as the actual number. If we wanted to control the current population based on these numbers...and again, this isn't even the whole island, there have been some discussions that, to keep the population from growing and becoming broader, you know, how many thousands of deer would have to be removed annually. That discussion has already picked up, and there's different numbers going around. You know, somewhere upwards of 10,000 deer a year would probably need to be removed just to maintain this current population, not even the whole population of the island. And most of that is probably...a couple of the grantees that we have, they specifically target female deers because of the ability to reduce population growth by eliminating females so that there's less reproduction.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So ten...are you talking about 10,000 on Maui or 10,000 in the County overall?

MR. JAMISON: 10,000 on Maui --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Maui.

MR. JAMISON: -- and just for the population of 46,000 deer. But that's just the number. It's a lot of discussion. There's been discussions on two sides of it, or a lot of sides to it. And...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: And that 46,000 is just for the areas that you surveyed. So we...theoretically we have more than that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MR. JAMISON: Correct. Yeah, so it's...

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

MR. JAMISON: But before the decision of how many deer are removed, the real question comes down to how many deer do we really want to have on the island.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, well, it's the same question. You know, there are two parts to that question. So...

MR. JAMISON: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. We'll see if others...other presenters have more information on that. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm sorry, what was the last thing you said, Kelly? I couldn't hear you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh. No, I appreciate the response, but it...do the...do the next presenters have more information?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, I think they might be able to shed some light on it. So...but it's super relevant, your question.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And Gabe could probably educate us on what he's seen on his island. So anybody else have any question for Curtis Jamison? Ms. Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So Mr. Jamison, through all of this assessments and knowing what's going on in terms of what kind of grants you're giving out and what's

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

occurring on each of the different islands, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, is there some place in there, a development of a plan, of an overall plan that says, this is our problem and the way that we think that we should do take care of it and according to the experts that be, that this is what we have to do, step one, step two, and step three? Because I think what we keep hearing is we're going to assess, we're going to assess, we're going to assess, and I think assessments are okay, but at some point in time we have to get to the point of what are we doing, and how do we do it, and who all is going to be doing it, and what is it going to cost us. I mean, I'm kind of looking for this overall plan, and we may not be there yet, but at some point in time, do we think we're going to get there? And hopefully sooner than later. Because if the population of the deer continues to multiply the way it is, there's going to be more of them than there are of us, right?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's true.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: And we worry about the tourists that come. We can't be worrying about the deer that's already here.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So at some point, I'd like to be able to see some measure of how we're going to get to that place. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So I believe that...did you want Curtis to answer it?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Anybody can. I mean...I mean, I saw Vice-Chair Keani Rawlins-Fernandez's hand up. So I kind of think that she might have something.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. You're asking her a question. Keani.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Yeah, and like you said earlier, I think our grantees will be able to help respond to a lot of these questions. And I wanted to thank Mr. Jamison and DHHC for managing the grants that Council gave them. DHHC is not an expert in deer management, nor do they claim to be. They are experts in grant management. And I am just relieved and thankful to the Department for taking on work that's kind of beyond their, you know, parameters, their scope of work, really, but it's because they're managing the grants for us. The kuleana really rests with the State--DLNR, DOFAW--and DLNR really doesn't want to manage deer. They would rather, you know, not have deer. So because of that contradiction of the community and the State Department...the community wanting to have deer as a source of food for subsistence, and because it was a gift from...to our king, that you know, it holds a special place in our history and in our culture. So I just wanted to say that, and I think, you know, like we don't want to ask Mr. Jamison like some of these more pointed questions, and perhaps we can hold them until we get to our grantees, who are more...have more of that expertise of deer management, on the ground training. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Well said, Keani. Then we have Mr. Molina, and Mr. Johnson.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, thank you, Madam Chair. Just one question for Mr. Jamison, I guess related more to the management of the grants. Do you have any suggestions or advice as to how we can ensure that our County grants can work better with, you know, any existing State grants, Federal grants, et cetera, to ensure that our awardees of these grants are best able to complete their goals as it relates to the eradication of...you know, related to feral animal management? Any thoughts you can share with us at this time?

MR. JAMISON: Sure. Thank you for the question. I think that the main one...and it actually kind of speaks to Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez's point that our Department is not really well aligned with this topic matter. So if you had an organization or people who are managing the grants who were more aligned programmatically with that, they're much more aware of funding sources, Federal and State priorities, and where those funds come from. Like I can...I can answer more questions regarding substance abuse grants and how we align with those Federal programs and State programs just because of the natural alignment of the Department with those State entities and Federal entities as well, right, but I think that this kind of speaks to that. So one of the best ways to do it is to align the funding with those that are making decisions programmatically and have a...and have a programmatic focus on that. So...because we've had to answer a lot of questions about business development for small ranchers. Like I've had a lot of questions come through, and that's like way outside my purview. And when we first started the first round of grants, everything was coming in as regarding the certification of donated meat, and what does it take to donate meat, and we had to do a lot of learning around that. We weren't prepared for the small ranchers that were coming in to talk about impact and impact grants regarding their business and things like that. So you know, then we launched into this whole thing of trying to learn about that one, and it just...it...you know, it's a lot. And if you had someone who was more aligned, then the funding and the program kind of come more together. And I think this also speaks to the idea of a plan, where the funding, and the planning, and the use of data and knowledge can kind of find the nexus and come together.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, because when it rains, it pours, yeah. This is such a moving target. Everything comes all at once. But thank you. Thank you for doing your part to try to help bring this thing all together just from your vantage point. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Great question, Mr. Molina. And I, too, can see what the Department has been experiencing and trying to help with. So appreciate that. Mr. Johnson. Thank you very much for being in this Committee meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. And thank you for giving me this opportunity to ask some questions. Good morning, Mr. Jamison. I just have a clarifying question in regards to your grants that you were mentioning. January 31st, 2022, this year, you said that's the deadline for some more grants. How much is available?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You're muted.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

MR. JAMISON: Sorry, couldn't find the mute button. Thank you for that. So for Moloka'i, the full \$250,000 is available, and for Lāna'i, I believe it's about 180-some thousand dollars that's available. We're going to attempt to award out about 60,000 of that. But I believe it's about 183,000.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So for the record, if anybody's listening out there and they have a...they have an idea, they can come to you before the 31st, right?

MR. JAMISON: That's correct. And the application is listed on the grants management website for the Department of Housing and Human Concerns.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. JAMISON: The announcement is there, as well as the application documents and our contact information.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you so much. That's my only clarifying question. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Mr. Johnson. Oh, sorry, Tamara. I didn't realize you had a question. Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I'm not sure if Member Kama was before me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Whoever.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Go ahead, Member Kama.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Go ahead.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Thank you. So I think, Mr. Jamison...so you know this County has a new Department of Agriculture that we just have started to institute and things are working. Would this issue be able to fall right under that particular Department when it is up and running to be able to place it there so that they could take care of all of these things?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Jamison.

MR. JAMISON: Yeah. Thank you for that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Was that a question for him or Corp. Counsel?

MR. JAMISON: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead, if you can answer it.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

MR. JAMISON: Well, no, I was going to say I think it's one of those questions as what's the real scope of the Department of Agriculture. Programmatically, it may be a better fit than Human Concerns, but I think that really has a lot to do with what the scope is for the Department of Agriculture. Yeah, it's a tough one to answer because it's one of the ones where like we know it doesn't fit well with us, but where it does fit...because I don't think there's necessarily a Department or a division within the County that specifically addresses this. It could be Environmental Management, it could be Office of Economic Development, it could be the Department of Agriculture. There's so many components we've been learning about it, right, like waste management, and how do you...and how do you deal with that. So...but Department of Agriculture does seem like a...at least my limited understanding of where that Department is going, might be a better fit for you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Well, Tamara Paltin, then Chair Lee after that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. I had one question for you, Member Sugimura, and then for Mr. Jamison. Because you're on the axis deer task force for Maui, right?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just was wondering in that capacity, is it stated that the landowners have any responsibility in this? If...especially if they aren't allowing access to hunters, do they then become liable for the increasing number of deers that are on their private property, or is there any responsibility whatsoever?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's a interesting question, but if you take yourself as a landowner, you know, for like even...because this question has come up to me from the axis deer task force or hunters, and that people just want to hunt, right? I have a permit. I'm, you know, legitimate. I'm a good hunter. You know, people have said all kind of things in email and phone conversations to me. But it is...it is an arrangement between the landowner and the hunter. It's not anything the axis deer task force or Government. People are saying like it's our fault that the numbers are so high because Government hasn't intervened earlier, but the axis deer...which you're going to find from when Lānaʻi talks about this, or even Molokaʻi--I'm really interested to see what they have to share, but--that there are elements of this where a private landowner is concerned about liability and the person who comes and hunts on their property, there's a trust factor. So I would imagine they have hunters that, you know, go and hunt on their property, even the golf courses, I've heard from. Even communities in Kula, where they have deer now invading, you know, their property, and what are they going to do, right? So there's a lot of important legal and liability questions to what you're asking. And that...I think that if we could hear from all the different private landowners, they're all trying to combat the same problem. So we can, you know, address that. So that might...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So then, I guess my follow-up question for Mr. Jamison...I have two. One, is it possible to give grants for liability insurance for private landowners if there are significant numbers of axis deer on their property so that they don't need to worry too much about the hunters? And the second question, when there was a drought, did anybody apply for grants to like use water as bait or something so that,

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

you know, we can kind of corral them into one area with attraction of like food or water and cull the herd in that way?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So I will tell you that, if I could, Keani sent me a message in chat and say maybe you can have the other speakers present. Because some of the questions that are coming up are going to be covered by Lānaʻi with Gabe, and then with Molokaʻi, you're going to hear...Stan Ruidas talked about that at that Lānaʻi meeting, talking exactly about what you're saying. So if we could, Tamara, if you have a quick question other than that, I'm going to give presenters after Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Well...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You're going to hear...you're going to hear what Lānaʻi is doing. They're pretty amazing.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Those...I asked the question. I'm not sure if Mr. Jamison has a answer, but I don't have further questions besides those questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay, good.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm not sure if Mr. Jamison wanted to try to answer.

MR. JAMISON: There was a grantee, and I think Councilmember Sugimura's point is that the guys from Lānaʻi might be able to share on that because this is one of the strategies that they implemented in their program was the use of corrals and water and...yeah, so they may have more information on that. But in short, yes, it's being used.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any more, Tamara?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Then I'll put Alice Lee in. Okay. Thank you. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Chair. I have a question for Mr. Jamison about the application process. Now, Member Johnson asked if people could still apply. And did I hear that the deadline is January 31st of this year, like in 10 days almost, 11 days; is that correct?

MR. JAMISON: Correct, for Molokaʻi and Lānaʻi. The announcement right now is for Molokaʻi and Lānaʻi.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MR. JAMISON: It opened on January . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Because the process...grant process in the past has been very rigorous, and the application itself used to be like 20-some pages, plus the fact that you

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

have to provide an audit from the previous year and all kinds of requirements that go with the application. Is it different with this type of grant?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Jamison.

MR. JAMISON: No, not necessarily. The requirements are still there and we have qualifying standards. A lot of those requirements are to ensure that one, the entity can do business with the County; and two, that they meet all the requirements, especially from Code 3.36, and other items that will come out as requirements per the agreement.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Because I just...

MR. JAMISON: So we reduced the page numbers by finding a way to consolidate it and ease the budget application process to it. So that's reduced probably about seven pages of paperwork.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So there's maybe 13 or more pages in the application. But I just didn't want people to be misled in the sense that it's that easy to apply for a grant because generally grantees...you know, the Department actually takes application months ahead of a...of a deadline, not days ahead of a deadline. So I just don't want people to think, oh, I'm just going to go run down, and sign up, and send in an application. It's not that easy, just want to let everybody know. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So maybe...Mr. Jamison, when did you announce the re-announcement of this RFP? Because I think it was weeks before that you put this out again, right? So it's been out there?

MR. JAMISON: Correct. Funding opened January 1. The announcement went out January 1. It was in the newspaper, we made a press release. And so it...we tried to call...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Have you had any applications? Have you...anybody respond?

MR. JAMISON: We have not received a formal application yet, but we have had quite a few phone calls and inquiries on people preparing applications.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Thank you. Thank you for the information. So I'm going to ask Gabe to introduce Lāna'i, your presenters, if you would, and then Keani after that. And then we can take questions from the Members.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Would you like me to introduce Jonathan Sprague?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Jonathan, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Jonathan Sprague, if you're on the call, we'd like to

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

welcome you. He's a co-director of the Pūlama Lānaʻi Conservation Program. He is knee deep into the deer issue on the Island of Lānaʻi. He's my former boss. So he's a great guy to work for and a good...long...a good standing resident on the Island of Lānaʻi. And he's...he'll...he's going to wow you with the data. These guys are really good at data collection and having a really good plan. I think it's the model, and we all can learn a lot. So with that being said, go ahead, Mr. Sprague. The floor is yours.

MR. SPRAGUE: Sure. Thank you so much. So mingalarbar, Chair. And thank you, Gabe, for the introduction. I really appreciate it. That's a pretty high bar to say that we're the standard. I don't think we are. You know, one of the things that I'm going to present on here a little bit is, you know, as we all know...and I'm going to share screen here if I can. You know, all of the islands within Maui County, with the exception of Kahoʻolawe, are dealing with their own suite of ungulate issues, right? And the challenge there is that it's not a one solution fits all problems. It really is that even within some of these larger islands in particular, you need to bring different tools to the table, depending on the circumstances that you face and what you're trying to help manage. So as Gabe mentioned...oh, and for what it's worth, I'm alone at my office at work. I suppose that's part of the protocol. So as Gabe...Mr. Johnson mentioned, I am the co-director of Conservation. I've been in this position for about four years. And the Conservation Department with Pūlama Lānaʻi is about 25 people strong. And the mission of our Department is to support the mission of the company, which is to foster a sustainable island community on Lānaʻi. And when we talk about sustainability, what we mean is sustainability from a economic, a cultural, and an ecological perspective. Those are the three components that you need to put together to really have a good system that way. And our department serves a lot of roles in that regard. We do everything from biosecurity to managing the 30-plus endangered species that we have on Lānaʻi. And of course, one of the biggest challenges we face by far is the ungulate management challenge. So we have...we have axis deer and mouflon sheep. Those are our two ungulate species. We do not have pig or goats or those other species. And what I'm going to present to you today is some of the information that we presented at a public meeting that Chair Sugimura, and Senator DeCoite, and Shane De Mattos, and Dr. Steve Hess were a part of about ten days ago. It's been slightly modified, obviously, for this group here. When it comes down to ungulate management on Lānaʻi, our mission is a sustainably sized herd, right? We want a herd that minimizes the detriments that overpopulation of these species can have on the landscape--erosion, invasive species spread, species extinction in some...in some extreme cases--all while maximizing the benefits that these species can have for the residents of Lānaʻi: subsistence hunting, food security, recreational benefits, and economic benefits as well, right. So it is finding that balance between having enough animals to maximize those benefits, but not so many animals that you are damaging the resource that you're really trying to protect because it all goes hand in hand. And as many of you know, Lānaʻi has a long history of hunting. Axis deer celebrated their 100th year on island last year, and Lānaʻi is probably, I'd wager, the most permissive hunting Island in the entire State. Over two-thirds of the island is hunted at one point or another throughout the course of the year, and it is a very important part of our management strategy for keeping these herds in line. So what I want to do is I want to go over some of the issues that we've had over the last four years since I joined in 2018, and some of the things we've done to

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

try to address some of those issues. So when I joined the Conservation Department in 2018, I started talking with hunters and going over some of the data, both the biannual surveys that are done by the State, as well as a survey that was done by Jake Muise with analysis by Dr. Steve Hess in 2012. And there were a couple of things that became very clear relatively quickly. The first was that there were too many animals on the landscape. 2018 was a very green year. Lānaʻi was about as green as it ever gets. We had several consecutive years of wet weather and the vegetation, generally speaking, was in flush. But despite that, when I would walk through the old ag fields and look at some of the foraged grass species, we were already seeing those grasses grazed beyond 90 percent. We were seeing large bunches of grass being completely kicked up. And even though conditions were about as perfect as they get for forage growth, we were still seeing range damage. The other thing that we noticed--and there was this question about how you use survey data--is we took the survey data from the 2012 survey and we coupled it with the hunting data, which we've been maintaining pretty rigorously, particularly since 2015. And what we found when we ran a fairly conservative model was that the population at the current harvest rate was potentially going to double between 2012 and 2022, from about 17,000 animals to over 35,000 animals islandwide. So clearly, the situation was not sustainable, and we had to bring the herd down to a sustainable size kind of as quickly as we could. Now, when it comes down to managing herd size--and people who I've spoken to before, I harp on this all the time--it's all about the does. You're not just managing for the number of animals you have now; you're managing for the number of animals you're going to have after the next breeding season, and the breeding season after that, and the breeding season after that. And axis deer are a remarkably fecund species. They reproduce very, very quickly. And if you have 99 does and a handful of males, all of the does that can get pregnant are going to get pregnant. To give you a sense of how fecund they are, if you have a fertile doe, if you have a sexually mature doe, and if you put that in a pen with a breeding male, in five years you're going to have ten additional deer in that pen without any predation. The reason for that is because in their native range--and this is information that Dr. Steve Hess presented--in their native range in India, 48 percent of the fawns every year are predated by natural predators. 48 percent. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . This is a species that evolves to have high reproduction because it is a species that has very high rates of predation in its native habitat. So in Hawai'i, because those predators did not come with that species, it's humans that have to be the predators, and we have to make up that difference within that breeding population. So it's all about the does. So come 2019, we instituted a bunch of changes, and we adopted a two-phased approach. The first tool we pulled out of the toolkit is we said, all right, we want more hunters on the landscape because really, in a perfect world, we have exactly the number of deer and the exact amount of hunter demand that those two things offset. So we put some implementations in place. We changed some protocols to, you know, increase doe tags. We added a rifle area, offered discounts for multiple hunter parties, all of these things to try to increase the number of hunters taking does. We also worked with the State, with DLNR, DOFAW, and with Shane De Mattos and John Medeiros. And a quick shoutout to them, they've been a great partner in the last four years in working with us to help address this problem. And in 2019 they did a doe control...I'm sorry a doe-only State hunt in the CGMA. And then alongside of that, we do have professional staff who are dedicated, and they're island resident hunters who are on our payroll, and they are

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

dedicated towards going out and toward specifically controlling does to really, again, sort of increase that number. And with those two things combined, we were able to increase our 2019 doe harvest by about 80 percent over the running average of the four years previous. So we were really excited about that. We were happy. We felt like we were on the right trajectory. And we got to the end of 2019 and what could go wrong? Everything was roses. So 2020 hit, and of course it was COVID. And COVID brought a number of challenges to this program, most specifically brought the challenge of not having off-island hunters be able to come and harvest that year. The State had to cancel their CGMA hunt, and COVID protocol basically meant we all...we all hunkered down. There were also some other problems, you know, with food security issues. You know, COVID brought a lot of uncertainty, and I think...we're two years into this, but on Lānaʻi, if we don't get a barge, things go bad, right? And there was real, significant concerns about the ability of us to get food and supplies on island for the residents here. So we had two problems: one, some food security concerns; two, we had too many deer still and we needed to continue doe control. So what we did is we turned to the resources that we had on island that are some of our most important. So the first was...is we maximized the ability of on island resident hunters to be able to go out. And we started operating free hunts, both on the paid side, over on the Pūlama side, and then later we applied for a doe control permit from the State to control...to do doe control hunts within the CGMA. And between those two things combined...and there was a lot of different kinds, and I'm not going to go over all the different methodologies there, but in that time frame, we had over 2,400 free hunter days for Lānaʻi residents, over which time they were able to harvest over 1,600 does. Hand in hand with that, we also continued to increase our effort from the professional staff. So we would go out and continue controlling does in some of the denser areas of the island. And despite the challenges from COVID, we were able to increase doe harvest by another 25 percent from '19 to '20. And you know, I would say, given the circumstances, consider that to be a success. You'll note I'm not going to present '21 data because it's not QA/QC'd and it's not finalized, but I can tell you there has been a further increase over that number this year as all off-island hunters have been welcomed back and we continued to focus on does.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Jonathan, can you wrap up?

MR. SPRAGUE: Of course, yes. So I guess, the punch line here...I have a few more slides, and obviously I'm not going to be able to get through all of it. Maybe it's better to get to questions. We continue to focus on doe control on Lānaʻi. We've been into a drought this past year, and we were grateful for the emergency proclamation that Chair Sugimura and some other Members were able to help extend with the Governor. We've started instituting a couple of larger fence projects that are designed to help change the movement of deer across the landscape and make them easier to manage. We also spent a lot of time working with the community and collecting then-dying animals that were showing up in urban areas. So I guess to round it all out, this is an ongoing problem. And I guess my final message for this is, you don't need to know exactly where you need to go to know that you need to start reducing herd size. Reducing herd size is clear and apparent. It was clear and apparent in 2018. And it's not going to happen so fast that you can't figure out what your destination is on the way. And that's kind of where we are. The herd was reduced this past year. We do have some plans in mind for finding

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

that balance point, but you don't have to wait. If you wait...if we had started this process...this is exponential growth. If we started this process two years earlier [sic], we would've been done four years earlier. That's how the numbers work out with reproduction. So this is a kākou problem. It's going to take kākou solutions. It's going to take the State, the County, private landowners, community hunters, subsistence hunters, trophy hunters. It's going to take all the tools in the toolkit to really kind of address this problem, both on Lānaʻi, and I think throughout the County. So with that, thank you for the time. I appreciate it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Jonathan. Good job. I was impressed on...at your community meeting, and I can...I can see the value of your work in...on Lānaʻi. So next can we have Shane? Gabe, you want to introduce Shane De Mattos?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Shane De Mattos is State, and he's been a valuable asset to our community because, as Jonathan Sprague was talking about, is how much of our local guys hunt. And local hunters are always asking me about the State hunt, and I'm so glad he's here because he has a whole lot more knowledge than I do when it comes to that. So...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. DE MATTOS: Oh, okay. Good morning, everyone. To reiterate, my name is Shane De Mattos. I am the Wildlife Biologist for the District of Maui. My primary responsibility is to manage the hunting program for the three islands: Maui, Molokaʻi, and of course, Lānaʻi. You know, Lānaʻi being pretty much my focal point, we lease from Pūlama Lānaʻi 30,000 acres for public hunting. And you know, I...you know, it's been a, you know, pleasure working with Jon Sprague and Pūlama Lānaʻi for the last, I think, eight or ten years because, you know, they've been supportive of what we're trying to do. And I like to think that we are all supportive of what their overall plan for the population management on Lānaʻi is. So you know, as a...as for a State agency, we are required to provide fair and equitable hunting opportunities that we hope is...you know, it minimizes the cost because we understand that 90 to 95 percent of the hunters that hunt on Lānaʻi are from the neighbor islands, and we do have a lot of interest from mainland hunters who also apply and participate. And so we also want to provide favorable hunting opportunities there. You know, with that being said, we do have some objectives that we want to maintain there. One, we want to go ahead and maintain animal populations that balance the needs of the private landowners, the hunting community, what the State of Hawaiʻi wants; and also, and most importantly, the...what the ecosystem tells us. Because we don't want to go ahead and have an overpopulation of animals that leads to erosion, leads to degradation of our habitat, leads to, you know, die offs that we saw during the drought. And then with the subsequent flood that occurred in December, we had a lot of animals dying. So all that comes down to population management. And so that's our goal that we focus on on Lānaʻi specifically, and of course, specifically from a State standpoint, from the game management area. Again, we do surveys every year, once in the spring and once in the fall, to get a population estimate. Again, it's not a population estimate per se, like what the survey that Mr. Muise provided to the County. It's more of an index for the State that gives us

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

a...an animal number that allows us to look at trends in the animal population. So from one animal population, it really doesn't tell us anything, but if we can see that, you know, our numbers from year to year are trending upwards, we can kind of determine that we have a...an increasing population, whether it...and if it's declining, can have a declining population. And that allows us to determine our seasons and our bag limits that we'll allow. So right now, as everyone knows, we're in a position where the animals are too high. We've been working with Pūlama Lānaʻi to allow more hunting opportunities within the game management area. In our 2021 season, we expanded the bag limit for does especially because we understand that that is the...what drives population numbers. Unfortunately, with COVID, we had to go ahead and limit the number of participants. So that kind of curbed the impact. However, we can say that the amount of does that were harvested in 2021 I believe was the highest that we've ever had. So that was a good point. In 2022, we continue to...or we plan to continue to expand hunting opportunities. You know, we're holding...we're crossing our fingers and hoping that there are no restrictions so that we can allow everyone who applies for the hunt on Lānaʻi to participate. And we hope to go ahead and again look at, you know, doing our part in controlling the deer population, and also the mouflon population on the Island of Lānaʻi so that it meets both the goals of the...Pūlama Lānaʻi, and meets the goals of the State of Hawaiʻi in collaboration with the hunting community. You know, with that, that's all I had. And if there's any questions, I'm going...oh, you know, we also meet with, you know, our Game Management Advisory Commission Member, which is Stan Ruidas, you know, periodically. There's really no set times. Prior to the pandemic, the State of Hawaiʻi used to meet with the Lānaʻi community once a year, normally in the...in the fall, to kind of both go over what our management objectives are for the upcoming year, what our hunts...proposed hunts. And any other questions that the hunting community had for us that would...we could answer for them. And with that, I am done. And thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Shane. Good job. Shane is with DLNR, and I was just impressed with the program that Lānaʻi has put together. Next speaker, Gabe?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Next speaker is Stan Ruidas, long time Lānaʻi resident. He is the chair of the Game Management Advisory Committee, and whenever I need to bend the ear of my community in regards to hunting issues, I go to Stan. He is well plugged into what the folks on Lānaʻi are speaking about when it comes to hunting issues. He's very knowledgeable, and has been doing this for quite some time...very long time. So Stan.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. RUIDAS: Good morning, everyone. Thanks, Gabe. Thanks, Yuki Lei, for having me this morning. You know, we talk about the GMAC, which is the Game Management Advisory Commission. It was formed about five years ago. So what we do is we have commissioners from every island, that represent every island, but we don't have a representative from Maui...from Maui right now. But prior to the COVID pandemic, we were supposed to meet on Maui. And we still have to meet on Maui, but what we do is we bring the hunters and the DLNR together. We...we're like the liaison between them.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

And you know, throughout the State, you know...you think Maui got a problem, the whole State got a problem with ungulates. But anyway...and I wear several different hats on Lānaʻi. I work very closely with Jonathan Sprague and Shane. And you know, as far as hunting on Lānaʻi, you know, it's like on Molokaʻi--Keani, you know--people fish, people hunt, people gather, and that's how we survive on...you know, on an island like this that the cost of living is so high. I mean, our gas is \$6.29. And you know, the...I think the issue for you guys is...and for us is, you know, let the hunters hunt and, you know, do their thing, because they know how to get the animals, and they know how to distribute animals. They know what to do with the animals. They're not going to waste it, you know, because it's, you know, subsistence. And you know, Tasha hit it on the...on the money...is you know, use the monies that you guys have to create a management plan. And whether it be for the next drought or for...what we have here is we got a lot of invasive plants. You're talking about the Formosan Koa, you're talking about the fireweed, lantana, and Christmas berry. So it's all about access. Hunters cannot access the animals if you don't control the invasives. And also, the deer or the animals don't have food if the invasives getting...are getting worse. And yes, the does, if you think about it, they drop babies twice a year. It used...before, you know, I would say maybe ten years ago, they used to drop, you know, once a year, once a year, and what we've been seeing lately that they're dropping twice a year. So that's why the population is growing more. So yeah, you have to control the does, but let the hunters do it. And the way you control them is water. You know, they follow...wherever the water is, that's where they're going to go. So with that said, I think that's all I have unless you want me to say more, Yuki Lei.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sorry. The first time I met Stan, he called me when we launched...we were talking about the axis deer task force. And when I called him back, he was actually hunting. That's how much he loves hunting. Thank you very much. And so Gabe, you have anybody else?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No, that's...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That's who we have.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. And then I'm going to...I'm going to ask Keani to introduce Molokaʻi because you're going to find every island is so unique. Go ahead, Keani.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. And you know, having Mr. Ruidas right before our next speaker is a perfect segue because I think what he shared really resonates with our community in empowering our hunters to do their thing. And as our next speaker, Justin Luafalemana, he is the president of our Molokaʻi Hunting Club. And to me, he...the Hunting Club has definitely been a gold standard in working with all the landowners on Molokaʻi because, unlike Lānaʻi, we have multiple

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

large landowners and different Government agencies that own and manage large tracts of land. And trying to navigate all of that has been really impressive to watch the Hunting Club do. So they received the feral animal management grant last fiscal year, and he'll...he can speak to that as well, but he is a born and raised Moloka'i hunter all his life. He came from a family of hunters and land managers, and I'm really pleased and privileged to introduce Mr. Luafalemana. Mahalo for joining us today.

MR. LUAFALEMANA: Aloha. Thank you, Keani. And thank you, everyone, for having me here today. I guess just to reiterate what Keani said, the...I am the president of the Moloka'i Hunting Club. We were established back in, actually 2019, but we did receive the County grant, and we received 198,000. Out of that 198,000, we did...we did 102 hunts total within 24 weeks. And within that 24 weeks, from April 1st to September 30th, we removed 544 deer; 197 were males, 347 were females. So we had a lot of challenges, like Keani was saying. You know, Lāna'i, they have a big landowner. And for Moloka'i, we have multiple landowners. And the club went and we tried to work with all these landowners. You know, different landowners have different restrictions, and these restrictions depend on what they're doing and what the landowner's goal is overall. So you know, when we talk about management plan, and I know someone brought that up, it's just that you have to incorporate the management plan according to the landowner, and what they want to do, and what their goals are. But we...as a club, we removed that 544 deer, and we donated back 19,350 pounds of deer meat back to the community. So all these meat were bagged up in Ziplocs. We did burger some. And what we did find...that you know, if we don't cook it and we let them know that...you know, they're willing to take it, and you know, there's no restrictions upon that. So you know, it wasn't just a part of the hunting and removal, it was also processing, transporting. So the community had a big involvement with it...with this. So yeah, you know, great support from the community. When we look at working with different landowners, some landowners were willing to work with us, some wasn't. You know, Moloka'i, we do have a deer problem, but access is a big issue. The Moloka'i Hunting Club, we are a nonprofit organization, we do have our own liability insurance, and we do...we do purchase our own background checks. And even with the background check and liability insurance, we still find resistance from major landowners, and we continue to knock on their doors. We see how we can help them. Can we help them? So you know, there's a lot of restrictions, a lot of questions that you guys are asking. Right now, the club is already, you know, just on that path on solving these issues, but our major goal as a club is to secure a positive working relationship with all these different landowners. You know, we want to continuously control the population, manage the deer population by removing the...by removing the axis deer. You know, Jonathan said it best. There's all different tools. There's all different tools. A lot of the conservationists, they look to fencing. Well, as for the club, we look to actually removing the problem by reducing the population, and not just by moving the herds. So you know, we're continuously trying to work with five landowners right now. We do want to hunt more areas. We do want to get more access to different areas. The club has secured a lease on Moloka'i, and we're continuing to do our best efforts. There's about 200 members in our club, and we range from all...kids all the way to adults, senior citizens. But it's a bunch of us in the club, and there's a bunch of hunters that just are eager to hunt and just be a part of the solution. Yeah, so if I did...if I did miss anything, access is, and will continue to be,

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

a big issue. And you know, if you guys can help us with that, or if you guys have got any recommendations or suggestions for that, please do. Please do, you know. Everything has restrictions, everything has limitations, and everything is...things are contributing factors. We have a lot of contributing factors here on Moloka'i that restrict us from removing the deer. So...great. Any questions, I'll be gladly to answer them after. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you very much for the work you're doing. Keani, want to wrap it up?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Love to. I think Mr. Luafalemana did a perfect job because it's not just about managing the herd but, you know, feeding the community, especially during the pandemic, when it was a struggle, right? Everyone was losing their jobs. So they were key during that time to keep everyone fed. But I wanted to add that in addition to having a management plan, having someone to hold people accountable...landowners accountable to what the management plan is will also be key. Otherwise it's just a management plan that sits on a shelf and collects dust. And so that was one of the reasons that I put that proviso, or that condition, in our budget about having a deer management coordinator. You know, and then I explained to the community about what that looks like. And hopefully, you know, that's something that we can make happen for...I don't know if it would be for each island or how that would look, like Mr. De Mattos. But I think, you know, like having that position to carry out the management and sustain, you know, those goals, and see through the objectives are going to be critical. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, very important. Thank you very much, Keani. Thank you very much. Boy, Moloka'i Hunting Club, you found your path to success. So congratulations on that. Members...so it is now 10:46. So if you want, we can take a break, or we can do some questions and have a round of questions. What do you want to do? It's 10:46 right now.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Questions.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Break.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Break? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Do we have more speakers?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's it for speakers. We've heard all...from all the speakers. I'm so grateful. Such a...interesting how all the islands are doing different things. So that's it, right, Keani? You have just the Moloka'i Hunting Club?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. So I...

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Just Mr. Luafalemana. And Chair, if we can, you know, we only have this one item, and I would prefer not to hold our speakers on, you know --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- longer than they would need to be. So perhaps if, you know, some of the speakers need to go, we can ask them now, and if we need to take a break...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Is that all right, Members? Is that okay if we ask...Tamara?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, if we're asking questions, I had a question for Mr. Ruidas.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. And then Mr. Molina has to leave at 11:40, just a kind of heads up for everybody. Stan, are you still on the call?

MR. RUIDAS: I'm here. Hello.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Tamara Paltin has a question for you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Ruidas. I just was wondering if I could clarify. I didn't understand how the invasive species like lantana or Christmas berry affects hunters' access to the axis deer.

MR. RUIDAS: Okay. So if you take native grass, like pili grass, 'a'ali'i bushes, ilima, you can easily walk through. You have like one big tree, like one Christmas berry, Formosan koa, lantana, you know, all the lands that used to be, you know, what you call...have, what you call, molasses. Now you cannot penetrate. Now you have the deer hiding in those areas, and you cannot access the deer. And that's one of the things that you have to take care of. And it also takes away from the grasses that the animals can eat. So now they're getting pushed out, they're getting less food, and the population is going up. That's where the imbalance is. So you know, access for the hunters, roads, you know, just, you know, access.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So like they don't want to go through the lantana because you get scratched by all the thorns kind of thing, but then the deer hide in there kind of thing?

MR. RUIDAS: Yeah. Well, it's like a big wall. You cannot walk through. Only the deer can go...walk through those places. And you know, if you got like even one acre of that, you cannot penetrate from one end to the other end without, you know...you know.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, like all lantana then? Or all...

MR. RUIDAS: Lantana. Mostly the berry bush and the Formosan koa, but then you get the fireweed that is also not good for animals, especially cattle. But you know, it's like, you

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

know, the deer is losing their habitat, their food, and it becomes like a...what you call, a bedding area for them. So the hunters cannot access them. So you know, if you had like a management plan to control these areas, like to cut them down or plow them down and use that as, say mulch or fuel, you could use that as...burn it as fuel because it's already growing. And those are drought tolerant plants that in a drought, you're only going to see those things green. The rest of the stuff is going to die.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And are those invasive walls of plants, is it...do you know if it's on...is it on that area that the State leases from Pūlama, or is it on private lands and is that why it's not able to be addressed?

MR. RUIDAS: It's on both sides. It's in the entire island. You know, I'm sure that...I know Maui has a lot of areas that hunters have a hard time accessing. You know, I only can talk about the DOFAW lands in Maui, but all the private lands, I'm sure it's really outgrown with the invasives. So you know, that would be also a problem. So if, you know, monies would be geared towards a plan to take care of the invasives rather than looking at the deer as being the culprit, then you know, maybe we can find a balance in between those.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And do you have any ideas on solutions? Like you wouldn't want to do like napalm or anything like that, huh?

MR. RUIDAS: Oh, no, no, no, no. No. You know, that's why I say, you have the monies, you write the plan, you execute the plan, and you have a timeline that you have to do things, and...you know, for certain areas. And you know, yes, you have different landowners, but ultimately, it's also their kuleana to take care of their invasives, but you know, maybe they don't have the means to do it, they don't have the equipment to do it. So maybe that would be something to look...to be looked at. Maybe you had a...you had some kind of equipment, like land management equipment that, you know, is like...could be like a co-op or something that everyone could use and...you know, to take care of that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Ruidas, for my opportunity.

MR. RUIDAS: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So I'm going to give everybody three minutes since it looks like there's more questions. Kelly King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, I do have a question. I think my first question is for the Moloka'i Hunting Club. And thank you for, you know, your speaking to us. When you're looking for access on private lands, is there a...have you offered an exchange of what you're...you know, what you're hunting? You know, like we have hunters that come on our farm regularly, and they give us venison, and they give us...well, they actually hunt birds as well. But is there like that kind of an exchange?

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

MR. LUAFALEMANA: Yes. Great question. The Moloka'i Hunting Club is willing to do whatever it takes to start the relationship with the landowners. So yes, if trading deer meat is something that the landowner wants to do, we'll definitely do that. If they want to help with invasive weed control, you know, we'll do that. The club itself is more than just a hunting club. You know, we're out there in the community, you know, doing waste disposal, establishing and restoring lo'is. So we're an educational group, you know, to teach our kids, you know, mauka to makai and the full circle of being more sustainable. But yes, we do offer things back to the landowners.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: That's great. And maybe if somebody can start an education piece on how delicious axis deer are. Because there are people who still think it's gamey, and...you know, and I'm constantly telling people that, you know, come to my house, no really, try it. It doesn't...it doesn't...it's not like the deer on the mainland, you know, that taste really gamey. So you know, I think personally I eat more than...probably more axis deer than any other meat on the island. But the other question I have--and I don't know if it's for you or Stan--is have you identified invasives, like weeds that grow on farms that the deer . . .(timer sounds). . .will eat that the deer can actually help with?

MR. LUAFALEMANA: I mean, you know, the deer itself is just like us, and we get certain foods that we want to eat. They're going to be picky when they're...what they're eating and what's available. So during the drought seasons, you know, that's when they're going to start eating at all these invasive weeds. You know, fireweed is bad. It is poisonous, you know. So it will harm the animals. And that's how we see all these malnourished deers. I mean, look at the lantana. It doesn't offer much nutritions [sic] towards the deer. You look at the ti leaf. They eat the li leaf, got high in fiber, you know. So depending on what's available and where they're at is what they're going to try and feed on. Over here on Moloka'i, you know, if we look at movement for the food, some deer is going to eat a lot of these strawberry guava, and then they're going to move towards the lilikoi. You know, whatever's available, whatever they have adjusted to is what they're looking at. And some animals, they actually know when these fruits or when these grasses actually flush and turn green because of their moving pattern.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. I was just thinking it might help landowners to know what invasive species the axis deer might be able to help them with, you know, eradicate, you know, as part of a...you know, all of...all of us who are trying to farm regeneratively are not using pesticides or herbicides, but we get inundated with different, you know, invasive weeds. So it might be helpful to know which ones the deer can actually help with. And so I think...I think I went over my time. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you very much. Tasha Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So real quick, I just have a couple questions. And I'm not sure who to address this to, but if any one of the presenters could answer it, I'd be okay with that. So does deer have a pattern? Do they...do they always take the same route, or are they kind of like wanderers, they just go wherever? That's my first question. Then the second question is, when you talk to these landowners, what is the benefit to them in terms of what you folks are doing? How does it benefit the landowner?

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

Because I think sometimes if there's a benefit to me, I'm kind of more likely to say, hey, yeah, go for it. But unless there isn't a benefit, then I might be some resistant to that. But...so anybody can ask those two...answer those two questions. Thank you, Chair.

MR. RUIDAS: I think I can answer part of it. Yes, deer does move around. They migrate wherever the water is, wherever the food is. And the moon also plays a very big part in their movements. And with that said, I think that's it. I...for the second question, brother from Moloka'i can do that.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. Thank you, Stan.

MR. LUFALEMANA: Yeah, so great question, you know. So we do work with some conservation groups, Moloka'i Land Trust. And you know, their mission statement, you know, they want to control and manage the deer population. So their mission statement lines up with us. So we work with them and we provide, you know, meat back to them. Some of these ranchers, private landowners, are ranchers...cattle ranchers. So we're helping to reduce the population of axis deer on their...on their pastures so that way their cattle can actually eat more of that feed. But yeah, when, you know...that's a great point on what does the private landowner get back. And you know, you look at it, you know, it's their kuleana and responsibility too, to have a program that actually manages the deer. I know you guys mentioned all these erosions and runoffs, and you know, the deer is contributing to some of that, but not doing nothing about it and we just talking about it is even more of the problem. So yes, I hope that answers your question.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes, it does. And thank you so very much. And I know that landowners such as Bishop Estate, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . DLNR, they, in many ways, have a fiduciary responsibility, take care for the land. And that also includes, I think, taking care of and ridding of the axis deer. So I don't know what other landowners and...I think if you're a private landowner, you have to understand the land that you're on and the history of that land, and what that land really means in terms of what our State motto actually says. So thank you so much for the work that you're doing, and I so do appreciate you folks. And thank you, Keani, for being such great stewards of our land. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you very much. Any other Member have questions? Mr. Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Sorry if...I had to go off camera for a few minutes. I had to take care of some personal business, if you know what I mean. So I'll just add, I feel very relieved right now. But anyway...but at some point we should consider a break for Staff as well, Madam Chair, you know, and everybody else. But anyway, staying on the topic of deer, I guess maybe Mr. De Mattos, if he's still on, I'm just curious about the bag limits and how is that determined in the deer.

MR. DE MATTOS: So bag limits on Lāna'i. So we do...as I mentioned before, we do a spring survey and a small...I mean a...and a fall survey, excuse me. And again, I want to reiterate that that does not provide us with absolute numbers, it just provides us with

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

an index of the animals present at that time that we do the survey. And again, it provides us with trend data. So what we've done over the last like 10 or 12 years, you know...so the 30,000 acres that the State manages on the Island of Lānaʻi, I've come up with a...population numbers I'd like to hit on the fall surveys. And there's no science behind it, but I think if you look at it from an anecdotal perspective, it somewhat makes sense. And so what it is...those numbers are 2,000 deer and 1,500 mouflon.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay.

MR. DE MATTOS: And again, those are not set in stone, but it's something that we can kind of begin to work with, yeah. So the fall survey, once we do our population estimate...or index, that number will determine...when I compare it to the numbers that we're targeting for the population levels, that will go ahead and determine the amount of animals that we're going to be allowed to harvest within that area. So like this past...unfortunately we were not able to do a fall survey in 2020 because of COVID, but we did do one in the spring of 2021. And the amount of deer that we saw on the landscape was much higher than we had...we want. And so that's when we decided to lift the bag limit for does on the Island of Lānaʻi, thus allowing the hunters to...who are allowed to participate to harvest as many animals as they could, and hopefully drop the population and getting it more in line with what we're managing for.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay, good. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Thank you. I was just curious as to how it...Madam Chair, if I could just ask one quick question maybe for anyone to answer. Maybe Mr. Sprague, just on Lānaʻi...during the break I went to check out the State of Texas and I guess maybe other states on the mainland, they offer like...you know, as part of, I guess, economic development, they offer like deer hunting packages or something like that. Has that topic ever been discussed, I guess, for Hawaiʻi and, you know, to provide a different business experience, so to speak. You know, come hunt deer over here as part of your stay, and maybe hopefully help with eradication as well, or controlling the population. Any thoughts on that?

MR. SPRAGUE: Yeah, absolutely. You know, our focus for deer harvest really is trying to provide for the locals first. You know, that really is...that's our first...our first kuleana is making sure that residents have easy access to be able to go and harvest. And so really, the question of expanding to off island for some different visitor experiences is kind of secondary to that. That said, we do have a contractor on island who does guided hunts. They're an independent contractor called Pineapple Brothers, and they do, you know, guided hunts that are both for does, for just for meat hunts up to, you know, trophy hunts that are several thousand dollars. What we also find is that Lānaʻi, because we are such a permissive hunting area, we have kind of a...an established clientele who come from out of state on a relatively routine basis to come and hunt here. And they pay a premium because that helps to subsidize the cost of providing hunts for the on island guys. But we do have that. At this point we haven't really had to advertise it, and I think we're also running into a little bit of capacity issue. We have so many hunting areas on the landscape, and so many hunters, finding ways of allowing more hunters in while also providing for other land users easy and free access to those resources is a little bit of a challenge. So at this point, I don't think we're in a place

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

where we want to advertise widely to increase the number of off island people. I think really what we want to do is we want to continue increasing the ability of residents, particularly on Lānaʻi, but also Statewide, the ability to come and harvest. So hopefully that answers your question.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, thank you. Thank you, Mr. Sprague. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Gabe.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for giving me the chance to speak. This is a great conversation. This question is for Shane De Mattos from our State. So this question for you, Shane, is in regards to what Jonathan Sprague had mentioned. He said that Pūlama had a...had to request for a permit for doe control hunts. Now, you guys issue that permit; is that correct?

MR. DE MATTOS: Yes. That is issued by our Staff. It's called a Wildlife Control Permit. Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So is that only available to large landowners, or can, say, Mr. Luafalemana, if I got that correctly...can the Molokaʻi Hunting Club guys come in and apply for that? Can I as a hunter come and apply for that? What...can you expand on that?

MR. DE MATTOS: So it's not a simple request because that Wildlife Control Permit is issued to a specific landowner. They're...it is to the landowner. However, we are...we do allow landowners to designate individuals who are given permission...can do Wildlife Control Permit on the said landowner's property. But there is a formal process for applying for a permit. And we don't issue it to the individual person, we issue it to the landowner or someone approved by the landowner to do the control work.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. That is a really...that's news to me. And I would love to...you know, if any large landowners are listening, this is a great way...but anyways, the other thing is...and again, I'm just going to ask you. And please don't take this out of context, but in 1999, the State had a bunchy top banana disease explode through the island, and it almost killed the banana industry. The State Department of Ag issued a court order to have workers come on and cut down this...these plants. That was met by huge resistance by large landowners, but when the State had to, they did a court order and said we're going to...we're coming on your land. So that is a tool in the toolbox. And I'm going to throw this out to you. Is that...is that something, in a...in a time of...when the Governor says he has a proclamation, this is an emergency drought issue, this is a big problem. . . .(timer sounds). . . The deer are dying, they're hurting our...they're hurting our cars, all these things. Is that a tool in your toolbox?

MR. DE MATTOS: You know what, I wouldn't be able to answer that question. That would be beyond my pay grade. So I wouldn't, and I'd be...I'd be...I wouldn't be able to answer that question, to be honest with you.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. I just figured I'd throw it out there for the record. And the bell rang, so you're off the hook. Thank you, Chair. I have no further questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Does anybody have any other questions? Okay, Tamara, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. This question would be for Mr. Luafalemana. You know, in the landowners that will not allow access, do they ever give a reason?

MR. LUAFALEMANA: Yes, yes. A lot of these landowners are homeowner's association, and so in their bylaws, they state no hunting and no use of a firearm. So we can get around with no use of a firearm. There's different tools that we can use for dispatch. But when you have no hunting allowed in your bylaws, that's a restriction. That's a limitation that is put on the hunters. And when you look at it, that is where the areas of the highest population is, is within these areas.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Couple follow up on that. When it's into this mode where it's such a problem, could it get around the no hunting by classifying it as invasive species management possibly? And second question would be, the homeowner's association, are these residential, or, ag, or rural zoned land, if you're aware?

MR. LUAFALEMANA: A lot of these areas are residential, but they're residential in some areas and bigger in...conservation areas in other, but still a part of that association. I wouldn't be able to answer if...that question with the deer being invasive. However, you know, I just know that there needs to be something done to manage the deers within those certain areas.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And if you get around the guns with bows, could you get around the hunting with traps? . . .(*timer sounds*). . .

MR. LUAFALEMANA: I think that's a question for Shane because when you're dealing with traps or food, you'd also need a permit for that. And Shane can actually comment back on that, I believe.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'd love that.

MR. DE MATTOS: I'm sorry, I missed the...I missed the question. I...what is the question again? About trapping?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, because I guess what he was saying was a preventative for them going on to some of the private landowners was no hunting HOA laws. And I just was wondering what if you trap them there and take them somewhere else and hunt them?

MR. DE MATTOS: So we...from a State perspective, we do issue more pig traps because we do have some concern with pigs within our residential areas. And we do issue that. We highly discourage people from trapping and then releasing it because you're making

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

your problem potentially somebody else's problem. So what we want to do is...what we encourage them is prior to setting up a trap, have in place someone or people from the hunting community--or anybody else for that matter--who would be able to assist you with properly disposing of the animal so that we don't go ahead and make one problem somebody else's problem.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And so you only do that kine traps, not snares or anything like that?

MR. DE MATTOS: Yeah, snares are a little bit...there's rules for that. You know, we...it's not that we don't allow it, but snares have a tendency to...for non-target species, right? You know, it's...you know, if you set up a snare for a deer, there's no guarantee that it's only going to catch snares [sic]. You know, we had situations where, you know, a snare unfortunately caught a neighbor's dog. And so that wasn't...that stuff. So we've got to be really careful with snares. It's got to be properly maintained, it's got to be properly managed, and then we got to make sure that the animal is dispatched in a humane and quick manner.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, unless Mr. Luafalemana wanted to also add in something.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, do you have a...

MR. LUFALEMANA: No, I just want to go ahead. Shane, does that include for deers too, with the trapping? If they was to make a fence, a corral, would they need a permit from the State of . . . (inaudible) . . .

MR. DE MATTOS: No, we wouldn't require necessarily a permit, but you know, deer are a challenge because you got to build a, you know, eight or ten-foot high fence. You know, again...but it'd be good like...for like Moloka'i. You have the hunting community to maybe assist the landowners with developing, creating, maintaining, managing trapping so that they can go ahead and assist you...you guys can assist the landowner with controlling axis deer, which is a benefit to the landowner. And it's a benefit to the community at large because you reduce the deer population--excuse me--and you provide, you know, subsistence for the community. So that's a win-win situation for both parties.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Tasha Kama, then Keani Rawlins. And I wonder if we should take a break. We're getting closer to 11:00.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay, real quick. I wanted to address this to the Moloka'i Hunting Club that...you know, to me it seems like residents who are part of a homeowner's association would want to be able to help in terms of alleviating or decreasing, you know, the axis deer population, because they would benefit from that. But...so has any attempt been made to address the homeowner's association members? Because as a homeowner's association, their bylaws are their bylaws, but like all laws, they can be amended, they can be changed, I mean, depending on what the body feels is most beneficial to them as a community. So I think this is a community issue within a community, and I think that maybe if some effort...and I know this is more work on you, but if it's possible to go and visit them and actually have a meeting with them, and share all of this with them, that they have a...probably a deeper understanding of what's actually going on. Because if you all weren't here today to tell us the depth, and the scope, and the height, and the width, and the breadth of the situation, we probably wouldn't know it the way that you now have transcended it to us. And I think the more people that know about it, the more will want to probably participate in taking care of the situation. So has that ever been done, or has that been contemplated?

MR. LUAFALEMANA: Yes, great question. So we did talk with the board members for the associations. We sat down with them. We did speak with them. You know, we actually just, you know, tried to work with them and see what goals they have and see how we can help them reach those goals. However, when they voted, they voted against us. So we did ask if they could help change their bylaws, and . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . yeah, maybe that's something that I would have to go and revisit, but we did talk with two homeowners associations, and both associations did vote against us.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Tasha. Any more questions? Oh, Keani.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Just a quick question for Mr. Luafalemana and any of our other speakers. How can Council best help you?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Luafalemana.

MR. LUAFALEMANA: That's a great...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MR. LUAFALEMANA: Keani, that's a great question. You know, I mean...you know, these grants were awesome. They were awesome. They did help us as a club. We got to actually go out and reach out to these homeowners. You know, being compensated were a great way for hunters to actually take some expenses off of their shoulder, and it was a way for the community to actually work together. And you know, when you're looking at finding the balance, yeah, on this...on deer and management of deer, you know, education is a big...a big thing. If we can actually try and get, you know, something within the DOE about educating our younger generations about natural resources, about deer, you know...for us as the club, we did actually try to apply for the

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

second round of the grant, and you know, we didn't...we don't have the right audit. So we never received the grant. I'm just...you know, having other opportunities and maybe trying to put restrictions on these landowners and saying, hey, if you guys are not doing something about these deer on your property, this is what's going to happen, or this what can happen, or you guys need to actually do something. Push them to do something, encourage them to do something about the deer, and try and get more people involved. I mean, the club is involved and we're trying our best, but you know, overall, for Moloka'i, for me, this is an islandwide problem, and we need everyone to help and be a part of the solution. So yeah, if you Councils can continue...you know, the grants for us is something that's limited, right? It's going to run out. The money's going to run out, and we want to try and see how we can sustain ourselves with the funding that you guys have now. So if we can try and look at . . .(timer sounds). . . other ways where the club can actually generate funds, that's something else that should be looked at also, economic-wise.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you. That's a really good question. Yes. Keani, you have more?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I just had a quick question. Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So Mister...I see Mr. Ruidas turned his video on. I think he wanted to respond to the question too.

MR. RUIDAS: How can Council help Lāna'i? Well, the major issue we have here is housing, okay? So you know, we have, you know, houses that is unpermitted, but mostly run by kupunas. So that gives them an extra income. You know, trying to create something for...unique for housing for Lāna'i so that we can have more housing for local people to come and hunt and fish, you know, that would be the best way to help the hunting program here. And also, just to keep the conversation going. You know, communication is key, and I think this, you know, avenue like we're doing right now is the best part of what's happening today. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Mr. Ruidas. We have to get somebody from Maui to be on your DLNR group. Anybody else have questions for the speakers? Kelly King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, thank you, Chair. Just really quickly, I just wanted to make a comment about the homeowner's associations and maybe give you a suggestion because I was part of...we had a piece of property that we hadn't built on Upcountry that we recently sold because we just don't have time to do that. But there was a homeowner's association that had rules about hunting, but they allowed each homeowner in the association to decide whether or not they wanted hunters on their land. And so...you know, because we had a problem because I'd go on the land...since I wasn't living there, we'd go on the land and we'd find shells and sometimes we found bones. So I don't know what they were doing there, but you know, I was very dissatisfied with the hunters that we had in the area. So I asked them not to come on our property because I didn't want to find bits of ammunition. But the point is that it gave each homeowner the opportunity to make that decision for ourselves whether we wanted

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

something...someone on our land. So the homeowners association allowed it. They were able to allow it, but each homeowner got to make that decision. So that might be a suggestion when you're dealing with homeowner's associations because some of the people really liked having hunters on their land because they had issues with their gardens or their...just the plants they had for landscaping. And they appreciated the fact that, you know, they were taking care of the deer who were eating it. But for those of us who just found some undesirable, you know, activity that we were able to actually stop it from happening on our property. That's all I wanted to say is that, you know, that might be an option.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Kelly. Members, if there are no other questions--I don't see any hands up--I'm going to thank the speakers. Thank you very much for joining us. This is such a interesting discussion. I mean, really, really, yeah, bravo. I mean, look how different all the Islands are. And I guess we need to create a Maui Hunting Club. We need a representative to work with Chair Stan Ruidas with that DLNR group. We...I learned other things, you know, and...but I...Jonathan Sprague, the work that you guys are doing on Lānaʻi along with DLNR and working together because DLNR has access to certain acres...30,000 acres of your land on Lānaʻi. But just seeing how you work together, I mean, it's very encouraging. And I think those formulas are available to us on Maui also. So I look forward to that. And Stan, can you get a representative from Maui to be part of your group? Or I don't know why Maui, that seat is empty, and we can help you fill it, I bet you.

MR. RUIDAS: We need...we need some help. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, I'm not sure what the challenges are, but yeah, there's a lot of hunters who have made themselves known with the axis deer task force group. Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I just was wondering, you know, like the testifier mentioned, if Mr. Ruidas is familiar with Mr. Davidson, Kawika Davidson. I guess he was...before the DHHL paid someone to manage Kahikinui, he...I understand he was doing it for free. Are you aware of Mr. Davidson, and could he be our Maui rep if he's interested?

MR. RUIDAS: I'm not familiar with him, but you know, anyone can submit their resume and apply. Shane De Mattos can, you know, veer them to the correct website. But yeah, it would be under Shane's supervision or, you know, kuleana.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. RUIDAS: You know, and that's...that would be a good thing. We always had a problem getting a representative from Maui. Although I guess maybe they kind of like say that...you know, they're not too keen about the, I guess, DLNR and DOFAW, but you know, we don't have as much lands in DOFAW on Maui to hunt on, not like Lānaʻi. We have 30,000 acres. So I don't know. A lot of people just want to hunt private land. So they disregard public, you know, hunting. So maybe that would be, you know, something to look at.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Tamara.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- would Shane De Mattos be willing to give us how someone from Maui could apply to that? I mean, maybe somebody watching at home?

MR. DE MATTOS: Yeah, so I believe that you can apply on the, I guess, commission's website. And what I believe is you apply, you submit your resume, and then you submit it to, I believe, our administrative office on Oahu. And then I believe they'll review the process, and then it goes to the Governor for approval. So we have been, you know, encouraging people to, you know, participate, but again, it's challenging for a variety of reasons. But yes, anybody who is interested from the Island of Maui, they can give me a call and I can kind of try to explain to them what it is. It is a voluntary position, so that's one of those challenges also. But yeah, I'd be more than willing to talk to them, kind of give them an idea of what this entails, and then we can move forward with that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, awesome. And would you mind letting us know your number, or is that too much?

MR. DE MATTOS: Oh, absolutely. My...so my...the direct line is area code 808-984-8113.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MR. DE MATTOS: And again, I'm Shane De Mattos, the Wildlife Biologist for the District of Maui.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Mr. De Mattos. Thank you, Chair Sugimura.

MR. DE MATTOS: You're welcome.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. And we're all going to call you now, Shane. So thank you very much. Members, I think we're...we are way past our break period, but we wanted to ask the resource people questions. It was such a good presentation. So I really, really appreciate you making the time and educating us, and I hope we can continue working together because we can learn from each island how to make our islands, you know, better. And yeah, there's things that we can do budget-wise that I think that, you know, we're all kind of walking together on the same path of trying to make it better, you know, in our community of a more balanced amount of the axis deer or the, you know, feral animals so that it is better. Right now on Maui, they are absolutely winning the war. So it's something that's affecting our ranchers and our small ag people, or our ag people. Even Kula Ag Park is getting devastated. So Members, at this time, thank you very much. It's way past our break. I have 11:27, but before I adjourn this meeting, I wanted to just let you know we heard back from Senator Schatz's office, and the...he is available

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

at 9:00 on Thursday the 27th. I think we still need to get Keani's approval and Chair Lee's approval on that, but I just wanted to give you a heads up so that he can talk to us about the Infrastructure Jobs Act and have a presentation at that meeting. So are you all available on that date? What does that look like for you guys?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: HSAC. HSAC at 10:00.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I see.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair, thank our resources for coming so that they can...they can go.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay, I'm sorry. Okay. Thank you, everybody. The resource people, you can, you know, continue your good work. Thank you, Curtis. You know, thank you, Moloka'i Hunting Club. That was very interesting. Shane, I look forward to working with you.

MR. DE MATTOS: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And thanks for your phone number.

MR. DE MATTOS: Thank you. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And Jonathan, Pūlama Lāna'i, Stan Ruidas, keep on hunting, and we'll look for somebody to join your team. But Curtis, good job. You guys have really come a long way with this unusual grant that's in your Department. So appreciate your hard work. Thank you very much. So Members, I just wanted to announce that...thank you. I just wanted to announce that that's a date that we just got approval as we were going through this meeting. Laks and Jordan from my office notified that that's a date that Senator agreed to if we're available.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: At what time? What time?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: At 9:00 in the morning. 9:00 on the 27th.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I can do it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, thanks.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I've got HSAC at 10:00.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 10:00. So you want to leave and come back?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Well, I've got HSAC, that'll probably go until noon, and then I've got a presentation from noon to 1:00 with the renewable energy. So I could come for the first hour.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, great. He'll be glad to see you. And anybody else...

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: We can ask these questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: What was the date again? I'm sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: The 27th of January. Thursday, next week Thursday. So Chair Lee is available. I'm available. Tasha Kama? You are available? Okay, good.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I'm available, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm available, Chair, and I did approve that request, I think.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you did. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The other day. The other day, yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Oh, thank you. Thank you. Okay. Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Well, I'm a HSAC alternate at 10:00, but if Member King's going to be there, I guess I can be with you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: We always...we always like to have you there too, Tamara, but it's up to you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Mike Molina. Oh, Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So I won't be able to make it. I have two meetings at that time. Sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, you cannot. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But it's still okay for quorum, right, because...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Yeah, yeah. Okay. Well, thank you, Keani. Thank you, Alice, for approving that time. And Laks, you can get back to Senator Schatz's Office and confirm that, along with Ed Sniffen from State DOT, as well as the other Departments that may be interested in attending. So thank you, everybody. I didn't give you a break. We both worked really hard on this. It's so interesting. I'm grateful to have the wealth of knowledge and how different each island is, right, from each other. So I think with Maui

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

we have a lot of catching up to do, and I've learned a lot. I'm going to call the Moloka'i Hunting Club to see how they put themselves together. So maybe we can do that on Maui. Very interesting. Thank you, everybody. Good meeting. Thanks for all your questions and for hanging in there. Thank you very much. Bye.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Good job, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, see you. Thank you very much to the resources.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Excellent meeting. Excellent.

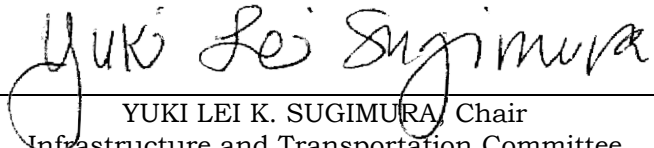
COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair, are you going to adjourn?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, meeting is now adjourned. . . .(gavel). . .

ACTION: DEFER PENDING FURTHER DISCUSSION.

ADJOURN: 11:32 a.m.

APPROVED:



YUKI LEI K. SUGIMURA, Chair
Infrastructure and Transportation Committee

it:min:220120:bc

Transcribed by: Brenda Clark

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 20, 2022

CERTIFICATION

I, Brenda Clark, hereby certify that pages 1 through 48 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 23rd day of February 2022, in Wailuku, Hawai'i

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Brenda Clark", is written over a horizontal line.

Brenda Clark