## **COUNCIL CHAIR'S MEETING**

Council of the County of Maui

## **MINUTES**

## May 11, 2022

## Online Only via BlueJeans

**CONVENE:** 10:04 a.m.

**PRESENT:** Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Chair

Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Vice-Chair, and Chair,

Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee

Councilmember Tasha Kama, Presiding Officer Pro Tempore, and Chair,

Human Concerns and Parks Committee

Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Chair, Affordable Housing Committee

Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Chair, Planning and Sustainable Land Use

Committee (Out 10:52 a.m.)

Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Chair, Agriculture and Public Trust

Committee

Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair, Infrastructure and

Transportation Committee

**EXCUSED:** Councilmember Kelly Takaya King, Chair, Climate Action, Resilience,

and Environment Committee

Councilmember Michael J. Molina, Chair, Government Relations, Ethics,

and Transparency Committee

**STAFF:** Traci N. T. Fujita, Director, Office of Council Services

David M. Raatz, Deputy Director, Office of Council Services

Tammy M. Frias, Supervising Committee Secretary

#### **Additional Staff:**

Office of Council Services:

Eric Abe, Council Services Technician

Laksmi Abraham, Legislative Analyst

Alison Stewart, Legislative Analyst

Kasie Apo Takayama, Legislative Analyst

Clarita Balala, Committee Secretary

Yvette Bouthillier, Committee Secretary

Lenora (Lei) Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk

Paige Greco, Legislative Analyst

Wilton Leauanae, Legislative Analyst

Lesley Milner, Budget Committee Analyst

Gerardo (Jerry) Paredes, Legislative Analyst

Jean Pokipala, Council Services Assistant Clerk

Brittney Sunderland, Legislative Analyst

Stacey Vinoray, Committee Secretary

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Office of the County Clerk:

Kathy Kaohu, County Clerk
James Krueger, Deputy County Clerk
Joyce Murashige, Clerk to the County Council
Lauren Saldana, Assistant Clerk to the County Council
Dell-Fin Yoshida, Council Information and Reference Technician
Mei Mailou-Santos, Temporary Election Clerk

Executive Assistants for Council Chair Alice L. Lee:

Diane Wakamatsu

Executive Assistant for Council Vice-Chair Keani N.W.

<u>Rawlins-Fernandez</u>: Sarah Freistat Pajimola

Kainoa Kaumeheiwa-Rego

Executive Assistants for Presiding Officer Pro Tempore Tasha Kama:

Evan Dust Davideane Lei Sickels Lois Whitney

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Gabe Johnson:

Kate Griffiths

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Kelly Takaya King:

Axel Beers

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Tamara Paltin:

Angela Lucero

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci:

Dawn Lono Gina Young

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura:

Jordan Helle Miki Yokouchi

**District Office Staff:** 

Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, East Maui District Office Roxanne Morita, Lanai District Office Anabelle Hernandez, Makawao-Haiku-Paia District Office Daniel Kanahele, South Maui District Office Christian Balagso, West Maui District Office

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**OTHERS:** Lance Taguchi, County Auditor

Katheen Aoki

Additional attendees (3)

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CHAIR LEE: ...(gavel)... Okay. I'll just say again, will the Chair's meeting please come to order. All right. Everybody please silence your phones. And I'm expecting this to be a very short meeting since we are missing three Members this morning. So Members, in accordance with the Sunshine Law, if you are not in the Council Chamber, please identify by name who, if any, is in the room--oh, good morning, Member Paltin--in the room--

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha kakahiaka.

CHAIR LEE: -- good morning--vehicle or workspace with you today. So I am Alice Lee, your Chair. I am home alone in my workspace. Next we have the Vice-Chair.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka. I'm at the Moloka'i District Office. There are no testifiers here at the office. And I would like to wish Member Sinenci's EA Gina Young aloha la hanau. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: All right. Pro Tem Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair, and aloha to all my colleagues on the Council. And I'd also like to extend my best wishes to Gina Young, our...our East Maui representative's EA. And good morning to everyone. And looking forward to a very productive meeting this morning. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: And I am in my home in my room, and Lena and her caregiver are on the other side getting ready to do the housework. So thank you, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Going to be noisy.

CHAIR LEE: Member Johnson, good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Good morning, Chair. Good morning, Councilmembers. I'm alone in my workspace. There's no testifiers at the Lāna'i District Office. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. So then we have...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Happy birthday, Gina.

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- CHAIR LEE: And then Kelly King, Member, is excused. Member Michael Molina is excused. And then Member Paltin...Member Paltin, I'm hoping your mom is doing okay. Is she?
- COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, I'm waiting for the call for me to get to pick her up at the hospital. They're just waiting on the insurance so that they can schedule home PT. So she's walking, she was walking on Monday, so that's good news. I'm here at 1974 Kaiwiki Road and my dad, Sam Paltin, is right outside on the lanai reading a magazine. And happy birthday to Gina. And it's not raining here in Hilo Town.
- CHAIR LEE: So happy to have the good news about your mom. Please give her our best. Thank you. Okay. And Member Sinenci, Member Shane Sinenci.
- COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Hey. Aloha kakahiaka, everyone. And I wanted to...yeah, best wishes, birthday wishes to Gina Young today on her birthday. Nice to see everybody. I am in Kahului by myself, so I think Aunty Mavis will let us know if there's any testifiers in the district office.
- CHAIR LEE: All right. Thank you very much. And Member Yuki Lei Sugimura.
- COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Good morning, everybody. I'm in Kula today, and actually my husband is downstairs, so he's, you know, not in the same room as me. But looking forward to this meeting, and thank you. Oh, happy birthday, Gina. I see she's on the call too.

CHAIR LEE: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Yes. And...yes. Let me add my happy birthday wishes to you, Gina. Hope you have a wonderful day. Now, as far as Staff, we have Traci Fujita on the call, David Raatz, Tammy Frias, Lei Dinneen, and Jean Pokipala. This meeting is being conducted in accordance with the Sunshine Law. Nothing said in the meeting or included in the agenda is intended to create obligations in excess of those required under Sunshine Law. If BlueJeans connectivity affecting quorum is lost, the Council Chair's meeting will be in recess. It will not be considered a loss of quorum unless connectivity cannot be restored within 30 minutes. If the BlueJeans connection is prematurely terminated for whatever reason, please log back in to the same link. Okay. And then we have...let's begin with public testimony. Oral testimony via phone or video conference will be accepted in addition to in-person testimony. Testifiers wanting to provide video please join BlueJeans testimony, by going to the link https://bluejeans.com/309360621, as noted...it's actually noted on today's agenda. Testifiers wanting to provide audio testimony, please join by calling 1-408-915-6290 and entering the code 309 360 621, which is also noted on today's agenda. We intend to keep the same meeting link and phone number for all Council Chair's meetings in this term for the ease and convenience of Members and the public. Written testimony is highly encouraged using the eComment link listed for today's agenda on mauicounty.us/agendas. Construction...instructions on how to submit testimony via

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eComment can also be found at Maui County US...mauicounty.us/ecomment. Okay. Moving on to oral testimony. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes per item. If you are still testifying beyond that time, I will kindly ask you to complete your testimony. When testifying, please state your first and last name. If you are testifying on behalf of an organization or a paid lobbyist...or are a paid lobbyist, please inform the Committee. Please be mindful of the use of chat during the meeting. Chat should not be used to provide testimony or chat with Councilmembers or other testifiers. Staff has posted a link to the testifiers' log in chat so that testifiers will be able to see where they are on the list. If...if providing testimony, please be courteous to others by muting your microphone and your video while waiting for your turn to testify. Councilmembers and the Members of the public for being patient if we run into any challenges during this meeting. I will now proceed with oral testimony. Okay. Staff has been monitoring individuals joining today's meeting by phone and by video, and we will do our best to take each person up in an orderly fashion. If the testifier is joining the meeting by phone, remind them to unmute themselves by pressing star four. Is there anyone wishing to testify? Staff, do we have anyone here to testify?

- MS. FRIAS: Chair, there's no testimony in the Chambers.
- CHAIR LEE: Members, are there any testifiers in your...your locations in your districts? None on Moloka'i. None...oh, you're not in Lāhainā. Member Paltin, do you have anybody staffing your office in Lāhainā?
- COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, yes. Christian Balagso, he'll probably be typing in the chat any moment now. Oh, no testifiers in the West Maui District Office.
- CHAIR LEE: All right. And then none on Moloka'i. Any in Hāna, Mr. Sinenci? Any on Lāna'i, Mister...Mr. Johnson?
- COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No, Chair, there's none on Lāna'i.
- CHAIR LEE: Okay. Members, any objections to receiving written testimony into the record and closing public testimony?
- COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.
- CHAIR LEE: No? So ordered. Let's proceed with the agenda. (Audio interference) Okay. Who's doing that?

#### 1. **YOUTH COUNCIL** (Councilmember King)

- CHAIR LEE: The first item is the Youth Council, and we do have Axel here. Can you please provide the...the report for Councilmember King? Axel Beers?
- MR. BEERS: Hey, good morning. Good morning, Chair and Members. Thanks for having me to give this quick update. So the Youth Council applications closed at the beginning of

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this month, the beginning of May. We had 19 total applicants who submitted. And so we have one member...one applicant from East Maui, four from Kahului, two from Kula, one from...two from Lāna'i, three from Makawao-Ha'ikū-Pā'iā, one from South Maui, three from Wailuku-Waihe'e-Waikapu, two from West Maui, one is unknown, but probably Kahului or Kīhei based on their school, and we had no applicants from Moloka'i. So looking at that, I wanted to keep applications open for students from Moloka'i because I think it's important to try to get them in. And one thing that I want to try to do is reach out to some people I know from the College of Education. I know a teacher at Moloka'i High, so I want to talk him. I think he works with the foundation there too. So I just want to say that it is important for me to get that student in from Moloka'i so we can have an even representation from the districts. So right now, the process is that we're just...I'm just confirming participation with the people who submitted applications, making sure that they're willing to commit, running by a list of...a schedule and a list of sessions. We're planning on doing eight sessions from June through September on the off-weeks where there's no Council meeting, at the end of the week for about two-and-a-half hours. So I'm just running that by all the students who had submitted applications, trying to see what works for everybody's schedule, and then when I get that all squared away, we can finalize things and...and start to work on it. I'm also working on the planning and curriculum for these students based on what they said their interest is in the application. Like for example, we had one student who said that they wanted to join because their...their brother has autism, and they felt like there wasn't adequate services for people with autism in the community, so they joined because they wanted to work on that issue. And then we had a couple students also talk about mental health, so I thought okay, so that would be one topic, right, that the students are interested in. So we got to reach out those folks and bring them in, like Mental Health Kokua, whoever works with these populations so that the students know what's in the community and what the needs might be if they wanted to propose that as a piece of legislation. So again, just the goal is that they're going to come together, learn about the process, have their own sort of Youth Council body, introduce...learn how to draft resolutions, learn how to make ideas into policy, and then propose it themselves, debate it themselves in the final session, and then come together with a stack of Youth Council resolutions that we can hopefully transmit to the Council. And that will be, you know, the Youth Legislative Package of 2022. So that's...that's the hope, and hopefully these eight sessions will get us there. And so I have sketched out dates here, but before I send it to all of you I wanted to just make sure that it works for the students because I wouldn't want to, you know, put forward a date that doesn't actually come to fruition. It looks like we'll be doing things online with Zoom or BlueJeans, that was the preference of the students as I met with them because of their different activities that they're doing, and some are going on, you know, summer vacation so they wanted to do it virtually. Maybe the last session we can try to do inperson. And then just as like a final note, one thing that I'll probably be reaching out to you once I get the dates firmed up is to reach out if you would like to lead a session with the students. I...I have like some possible topics that I think you would be able to share a lot of insight on, like how to turn an idea into legislation, or how to work with community members and peers, how to address like large problems with small steps. But whatever you think is important to, you know, share with our students, I want you to sort of think about that, and...and when we have some dates I'll be reaching out and

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asking if you would like to participate and how. So that's just the quick update of where we are. Still just trying to confirm with the people who applied, and then get everything ready to go starting in June. But it's been good. I met with the students twice already, just like the applicants before we got to the due date, just to kind of see where they're at, and it was exciting. It was like being a classroom teacher again. And there's a lot of energy and a lot of passion, so I think we're going to see some great things coming out of this group. But yeah, any question?

CHAIR LEE: Wonderful report, Axel. That's terrific. And of course, you know, I would like to participate in however you want me to, so just let me know. Members, do you have any questions for...for Axel? Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Beers. I had two questions. Is everybody that applies, all of them can do it, or do you have to just pick one from each district was my first question. And then my second question was for the South Maui kids, do you think the South Maui Community Plan could be a component? Because we really...I mean, it...that plan is going to affect them in their lifetime, so I just was wondering. Those were my two questions.

MR. BEERS: That's a --

CHAIR LEE: Axel?

MR. BEERS: -- point, and you know, we got applicants from West Maui who said they joined because their parents were involved in the West Maui Community Plan, and they're like...they said they heard the conversations around the dinner table, and so they wanted to get involved because of what they heard there and like their concerns for their community in the future. So I think that's a great connection. And for sure, for our South Maui students, and even just for all of them, to understand the Maui Island Plan I think is important. And so I was thinking for like some of our first sessions we might do a little...you know, a real quick rundown of the Maui Island Plan just so the students understand, you know, how these...the framework is for the decisions that get made. And then as far as like determining the membership, that's kind of a challenge, but because it was less than 20 students that had applied, I decided to just accept everybody. But then when it comes to like that last session where we want to have, you know, them seated as like the nine, right, that's kind of an open question that was I going to pose to the group when they start to meet. Because it may be that, you know, one of them would rather be in the background doing research, but not be the face to introduce and...and fight for legislation, you know what I mean? And that's okay, like, these are all roles that we need. So I want to see if...if like...you know, if they all would want to be participating and be on the floor, then we can try to figure out how to make that work. Maybe it would have to be a competitive process, maybe we could do like Youth Council A, Youth Council B since it's, you know, almost around 18, that might work out. Or...or yeah, it might just be if you want it, you can have the seat, and then if you don't want it, you can be the researcher for them, you can be the EA, right? So that's...that's kind of the thought process, but I'm open to feedback on that one.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. That sounds great. And all my questions got answered. Love it.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Anybody else? Oh, Member Paltin? I mean...not Paltin, but Member Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: You're doing it again. So thank you very much, Axel. You know, I've been waiting for this report because I was really excited to hear this. So my question is, do you have any Micronesian students who have applied who have expressed interest?

MR. BEERS: That's a really great question. You know, I was really concerned about demographics, especially at the start --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

MR. BEERS: -- because --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

MR. BEERS: -- we got a lot of students coming from...from private schools. Like at least in the...in the beginning, we had a lot of private school --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

MR. BEERS: -- applicants and, you know, nothing wrong with that --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

MR. BEERS: -- of course, but we want to make sure that it's open --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Oh, absolutely.

MR. BEERS: -- to like, you know, our...our population.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

MR. BEERS: But I didn't collect any racial data, and I haven't met with every single student to really know their background. But I think that for...I do think that's important because I started to realize that as I was going through the process, like understanding why students want to join and what experiences they have. Like...like even just with that West Maui Community Plan example, not every student is going to have parents who, you know, talk about the community plan --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes, absolutely.

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MR. BEERS: -- it's not all of them are going to be...have that same level of exposure, right? So how do we try to even the playing field so even students who never had that exposure can, you know, have some --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Absolutely.

MR. BEERS: -- (audio interference) understand and want to join.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

MR. BEERS: So I think collecting demographic data may be at the end point, or like when the group is convening. Because what I want to do is put together a report on this process and like on the Youth Council just so that for future people who might want to run with this, they have a...a blueprint and ideas and recommendations.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

MR. BEERS: And one of them, I think, will...will have to be like surveying the students about how the program went, and in that survey I can include any demographic data so that we know what populations are being represented or not.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes. Okay. Well, thank you. Thank you for that report and...and imua. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Any more questions? Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, great job, Axel. So I'm just wondering, maybe this is a question for you, Chair, if there's any budget needs, would this group be able to have access to some funding? Or maybe there's no...

CHAIR LEE: I'm sure Axel will let me know when the time comes.

MR. BEERS: Yeah, and that's...I mean we did design it to not be...not have...to be...to not have any budget needs, to be budget neutral, at least because we know it's a pilot program. And then one of the things I was hoping to task the students with is, you know, what kind of activities would be great in the future, do those activities have any cost, and then asking them to prepare a budget request for like the next cohort perhaps.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Very good. You've...you've thought of everything. Any more questions, Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Good. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Terrific. All right. Any more questions? Member Paltin, are you...you're in the dark. Is that on purpose? You're muted.

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- COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No, Hilo's not usually this sunny, so I...I guess that's might be why.
- CHAIR LEE: Okay. All right. Anybody else with questions or comments? If not, thank you very, very much, Axel. We appreciate your hard work, and this sounds like an outstanding project, and we can't see...we can't wait for it to become a reality.
- MR. BEERS: Yeah, thank you so much for your support. And any time, call or email and I'll do my best to, you know, stay in touch and keep you updated. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you again.

## 2. **PLAN TRANSITION BACK TO COUNTY BUILDING (OR HYBRID)** (Council Chair Lee)

- CHAIR LEE: So the next item on the agenda is the Plan Transition Back to County Building (or Hybrid). Now Members, we haven't rushed back to the building for several reasons. Number one, we are under renovations, number...you know, we have renovations going on. We also...there's also a surge in the COVID cases, so to me, I think we need to be very cautious. And as a...as a first step, I was wondering if you would be open to just returning to the Council Chambers for Council meetings for now, and then...of course it's optional, you can come any time, but as an expectation of all Members to return to the Council Chambers for Council meetings, not necessarily all Committee meetings. So how...how do you feel about that? Can I get some feedback? Pro Tem Kama?
- COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. I can commit to coming to the Council for all of our Council meetings.
- CHAIR LEE: Okay. Anybody else? Member Sinenci, then Member Sugimura.
- COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Yeah I...I try to come out every other week on the off-week, so I think for Council meetings, if...if I'm taking Committee meetings at home, maybe I can...I can try and do the Council meetings. I did enjoy coming back to the Council for ceremonial resolutions. That was...that was fun. It took a while, but I don't know. Now if...if cases are...are coming up, I don't know if we can continue with the...the leis and stuff like that. But I'm sure we can be safe and...and still congratulate them from a distance maybe. Thank you, Chair.
- CHAIR LEE: Are you suggesting that...okay, so like handing them the lei, but...but they can be in the Chamber?
- COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: If...yeah, whatever...whatever works and to keep everybody safe, Chair.
- CHAIR LEE: Okay. Member Sugimura?

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COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah. So I guess we all get notices of, or we see on the news the COVID numbers is little bit different than when we were Delta, it's probably the worst, but so we'll be sensitive...sensitive to that. But I am agreeable, I think we should...or I will work in the...in the Chambers for the Chair's...your Council meeting, as well as I told my Committee that I'm going to take my IT Committee in the Council Chambers, and everybody else can be online or whatever you want to do, but I'm going to do the...my IT meeting. The first one is May 23rd, and I'll do it from the Council Chambers. So I'm taking steps forward and I'll be sensitive, we'll pull back if we have to because of COVID, but that's my decision. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Member Paltin, then Vice-Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I'm okay with it. I just was hoping that, you know, if we have circumstance we could still participate virtually. I'm going to be rotating with one of my sisters and my brother here in Hilo until...maybe until my mom can drive again, if they allow that. Or you know, if somebody gets a cold, even if it's not COVID, maybe it would be best practice to participate virtually. So I'm okay with coming back, but just take advantage of this new technology for certain circumstances.

CHAIR LEE: Of course. I don't think anybody has any objections, you know, to helping your family, yeah. Of course not. Okay. Vice-Chair?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. I...I...I support what Member Paltin is saving. I don't know if Member Paltin is feeling like we should develop protocols, or if we're going to just let everyone kind of use their best judgment. I...I would support written protocols, that way everyone is clear on what it is that...you know, and we're not just leaving it up to best judgment, but that's me. So I...you know, like I would be supportive of Committee meetings remaining online and then, you know, Council meetings being in person to kind of strike that balance of having that time in person together. I...I went to the Chambers for the first time since the pandemic started to...to remember what it feels like to be in the Chambers. It was quite an adjustment for me, but it was really nice to see everyone in person. I think that no matter what, we should continue to accept testimony online from wherever the person is. I think that that's kind of expected of us now since we developed the technology to do that. So I would like to, no matter what, continue to do that. But as far as attending in the Chamber, I think it's important to continue to have, you know, that technology that will allow us to go back fully virtually because we're not out of the pandemic yet. And so as it surges and ebbs and flows, you know, we have that agility to...to go with the...the ebb and flow of...of it all. Mahalo.

CHAIR LEE: Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. So you know, I live on Lāna'i and it's...it is a bit of a burden to travel to the ferry and, you know, making it on time and everything. I...I'm okay with the...the meeting in person on Fridays, I'd have to come over, but I also have my meeting in Monday, so it's like the butt end of both...of the beginning of the week and the end of the week. So if I were to come over for my Monday meeting, you know. So I thought maybe if...if I could trade with maybe...I think Thursday 1:30, is

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that Tasha Kama's Committee? I...I can't recall off the top of my head. I think it is Councilmember Kama's. Maybe I could switch with her and then we could do...that's just an idea I'm thinking right now, but that way, if we were to do full committees, then I would...I would kind of, you know, be here a Thursday and a Friday as opposed to a Monday and a Friday. That's...but that's kind of shuffling up the whole...shifting up the whole schedule, but I...I mean I just...it's an idea. But as far as virtually attending, I like the idea of virtual attending because it's so...you know, the travel is just so much. But you know, that's my two cents, it's the will of the body. I...I appreciate what Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez was saying, is that we have the technology now and people are used to it. So I'm up for having it open for testifiers, of course, I don't think that's an issue, it's just a matter of the amount of travel and the amount of costs and everything that...that comes with this, it's a lot, so. Especially with the rates of hotels are going astronomically right now. So \$400 for the, you know --

CHAIR LEE: Maui Beach.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- the cheaper ones, right, the...the ones that are not like on Kā'anapali. So I can't imagine what those are. So it's just maybe we could switch a schedule, I don't know, I'm just thinking out loud. So thank you, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: I saw Pro Tem Kama's hand up.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. And you know, I would not mind at all switching, you know, with Member Johnson to be able to help him to stay here on island overnight and then leave. And you know, we do have couches, right, in our conference room back there, so make yourself at home. You know, we have coffee in my office, we have water, we have whatever, so you know. But I would be open to that, and without...it's not a problem, Chair. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Wow, thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Oh, that's an idea, Member Johnson, the...the Chamber hotel.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All for the good of the people --

CHAIR LEE: All right. So --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- I guess.

CHAIR LEE: -- so Members, again, so we have a couple things on the table. We have the suggestion of leaving it optional for a Chair to run his or her meeting from the Chamber. That doesn't mean the Members have to be there, but have that option for if the Chair of a Committee wants to run it from the Chamber, have that opportunity, as well as...I wouldn't say a mandate for everyone to attend Council meetings in person, but encourage everybody to...to try to come to the meetings in person for Council meetings. Of course there are going to be circumstances where you can't do it and...you know, and you'll do it from wherever you are. Sometimes you're traveling or whatever. But

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those are...and then...and then too, develop a protocol for all of those circumstances. Is that acceptable to everybody so far? Member Johnson?

- COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. I'm...I'm acceptable to that. I...I forgot to mention one quick thing, and let me just add on one more last thing, is that, you know, we have a spike of COVID in Lāna'i right now, and I kind of consider myself a high risk, I only have one lung because I survived lung cancer when I was a kid, so I try to stay...try to stay indoors a lot and, you know, wear my mask and do all that. So I'm trying to do the best I can, and it might affect the way I do my job. So just letting you know. Thank you, Chair.
- CHAIR LEE: Of course we're going to accommodate you however we can, so don't even apologize for that. Oh, another thing we need to consider is the new update on the Sunshine Law, and you'll be seeing a response from me, and I'm...I'm speaking for myself, but I'm pretty sure I'm speaking for all of you. What...what's happening is the Governor is requiring the...the testifiers be able to speak after...before each item. Instead of all at that the beginning of the meeting, that they can possibly choose to speak before an item comes up. That happens at the Planning Commission from time to time. But now, you know, with our full agenda that's going to be very difficult. Very, very difficult. In a way I don't blame them, in a sense, because oftentimes, after they speak then we are distributed information, yeah, that they don't get to see. And so...so there's two sides of this argument and...but I just thought I'd let you know this is in the works. Vice-Chair, and then Member Johnson.
- VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. I think, you know, if...if they're going to mandate that, oftentimes they're...they're thinking more of like boards and commissions that have smaller agendas and not like elected Councilmembers. And so if that is something...if we can communicate to the Governor, if he's going to be requiring something like that, to carve out an exception for elected Councilmembers, Council meetings because that's...that's ridiculous. So I...yeah, I don't know if we can ask Staff to like address that and communicate to the Governor that it may be an oversight on his part to require Councils to do it, but boards and commissions would be understandable. Our Planning Commission already does that. But yeah, to have the councils, all the councils, all the County Councils, I...I just...that's just not feasible. Mahalo, Chair.
- CHAIR LEE: Okay. So anybody oppose...I'm already in the process of drafting a letter to the Governor. Anybody opposed to me doing that? Okay. Member Paltin?
- COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I just was wondering, is that in his authority? Like didn't the law pass about the Sunshine Law, and he's just tacking stuff on, is that allowed?
- CHAIR LEE: I don't know all the details, all I know is that I had a Staff discussion a couple of days ago about the latest iteration on Sunshine Law, and that is in it. So we have to respond and respond quickly. Because that would be --

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR LEE: -- totally disruptive to our meetings. You know --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR LEE: -- if everybody had a chance to speak before every item, you know how many items we have on the agenda? So in other words, speak on the item when it comes up.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. And then...

CHAIR LEE: I mean we...we could have Council meetings for days.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then his intention would be for both the Committee meetings and the Council meetings and all the meetings is...is what he was --

CHAIR LEE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- implying?

CHAIR LEE: Yeah, the Sunshine Law applies across the board.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm here.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, just to disclose, my Aunty (audio interference) just arrived, I guess. So if the hospital calls, she's going to watch my dad.

CHAIR LEE: Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm here.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Vice-Chair?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. And then, you know, I...I know we're thinking about like our perspective, but also from the perspective of the testifiers, I...I think it's more convenient for them to be able to have a slated time where they would testify instead of having to monitor the meeting all day long to watch for their item to come up. And that's what happens at like the...the DL...BLNR and CWRM meetings, it...it...you know, like when I'm in, you know, those meetings and simultaneously another meeting, it's...you have to monitor very closely for when the item comes up because then once the item comes up, they open public testimony...well, actually they have a presentation first. And then they open public testimony, and then if you don't quickly make it known that you want to testify, they...they shut it down, and then you're done. And then there went your opportunity to testify. So even from the standpoint of

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a testifier, it...it's ...it's not good, it's not beneficial, I...I don't think. So if we can include that in your...in your letter to the Governor, I think that would be good. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Member Johnson, then Pro Tem Kama.

- COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, I mean I think the body's in agreement, this is...would be a big old mess. And I...I go...you know, I go to Lāna'i Planning Commissions, and they do exactly what this is. And it's confusing, you...you...some...you know, technology, sometimes I'm listening, but all of a sudden I got to run and get there, you know, in time to testify and speak up. It's a mess. It doesn't...it doesn't make the discussion flow, it jams...it's...it's a start and stop, start and stop, and it's...I...I don't know. So I don't...I don't know if I need to keep saying that point because it seems to me that it's just common sense that this is not the way to go. So thank you, Chair.
- CHAIR LEE: And...and in case anybody's listening, this is conjunction with number 2, the transition back, this is all part of that discussion. Member Kama, you had your hand up.
- COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So I just wanted to concur with Member Johnson and...and Member Rawlins-Fernandez that I think in the letter...I think in the letter, we need to make sure that the language is clear that in the experiences that we have experienced here on Maui when those meetings are held like that do not benefit the community. And our main focus is to ensure that we have transparency, but that...at that same time, we want to ensure that we're taking into consideration our...our community's time, and taking into consideration, you know, that what we do is always to benefit them. And therefore, it's something...what he is proposing, if anything, would not benefit them, would probably be a detriment to the time that they would need to spend monitoring when their time is coming to testify. So I think that should be iterated and maybe underlined or in dark lettering or something that actually speaks to the Governor of the seriousness of how we've talked about this, and how we've looked at this, and we've agreed to this. So thank you, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Member Sinenci? You're muted. Okay.

- COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. And my question would be, would this also be for referrals? I know that you, Chair, have kind of impressed on the testifiers that things are being sent to Committees, individual Committees for further discussion and in the Committees to do, you know, additional work there. So I mean if...if we're...we would have to take testimony on the referrals too, that would kind of even take even more time up too, Chair.
- CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Yeah. Okay. You guys are making many, many good points, and we...we'll incorporate them in the letter. Any more on this subject before we move on to the next item? Vice-Chair?

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VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. This is related to item 2, the transition back. And if we, you know, continue to have virtual meetings, there...there was a suggestion for the body's consideration about remaining muted during recesses and before we gavel in. That way, you know, nothing private is, you know, accidentally shared or intentionally, and other things that, you know, perhaps aren't as professional like...yeah. So that we...you know, we keep, you know, the integrity of the...the body, of the Council. And so when I say like private, I mean like healthcare information, medical, private medical information, that that's not...you know, like I said earlier, we...we rely on everyone's best judgment and sometimes what we consider best judgment isn't the same for other people, and information that shouldn't be shared is shared before gaveling in. And you know, people are on BlueJeans listening even if we're not on Akakū.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. That is an issue that we need to address; however, that's not something that we can do right away because...because we can mute people if they're online, but it's more difficult to mute them in the Chamber. So we are in the process of trying to figure that out because otherwise we'll just have to remind people, but other...what we need if...if we can have the ability to mute somebody online, we should have that same ability to mute somebody in the Chamber. So we are looking --

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, Chair, I mean --

CHAIR LEE: -- into it.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- before gaveling in. Because the...there is one button, which is the Council Chamber, that can be muted, and then it would mute all the mics of everyone in the Chamber. And that's...that's what, you know, the Staff can do and they do. But during the Council meetings, or during any Council or Committee meetings, it's harder to do what you're saying. But before gaveling in or between gaveling after gavel, before the next gavel, that mute button can be pressed for the Council Chamber so no one inadvertently has a mic on and has a hot mic and, you know, says anything that they wouldn't want publicly said inadvertently. So it can be done.

CHAIR LEE: So Members, are you open to that being...I...I hate to call it a rule, but to be a practice...to be a practice that the...the Chamber mics and all mics be muted until it's time to gavel in. So...so in other words, all those, you know, little questions that you guys ask me or, you know, will not be available to you. Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I'm just curious why. I mean I look at the...before we gavel in, time to, you know, oh, happy birthday, whatever. I mean it's kind of like what you would do if you were in an office, and it gave...to me, it gives our Council body a personal, you know, interaction. If you're in person, if I'm sitting next to Tamara or...or Tasha Kama in the Council Chamber, then you have a little opportunity to chat. You know, I think that's the personal part. I don't...I don't see it as a problem. Maybe that's more it. I'm not sure what the problem is that you don't want anybody to talk to each

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other before we gavel in. Is that what we're saying, Chair, or what...what does this mean?

CHAIR LEE: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR LEE: I'm not proposing it, so it's Vice-Chair, Vice-Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh. Oh, okay. Okay.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Right. So you know, when we're chatting in the Chambers, the public doesn't...they don't hear what we're saying because our mics are muted and we're just right there, we're right next to each other. And you know, sometimes, you know, if we're joking, like it's not...you know, maybe we'll get the joke wrong and we don't everyone to hear our joke be told wrong, and it's humiliating. But more on a serious note though, you know, there...there was a couple times where someone tested positive for COVID and the name was stated, you know, on BlueJeans during a recess. And you know, like we shouldn't be disclosing that kind of information publicly. Even though we only see each other's videos, there's a lot of other people on, and a lot of other people are hearing, including, you know, like not just our Staff, but the public as well. And like that...like I know many of you wouldn't do it, but it was done. And so, you know, like if we can't trust that that kind of information is not going to be just freely shared that way, then...then we need to be safe. And that's why I proposed, you know, having, you know, in-person meetings not to be mandated but, you know, to encourage Council meetings to be in person, and that way we can have that comradery in person. Because I agree, Member Sugimura, that it is, you know, nice to have that and build that relationship, but not at the expense of jeopardizing that kind of information being disclosed to the public. And so, you know, since that happened, that's why I...I...I think that we...we should just be muted until we gavel in.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. I see your hand, Pro Tem Kama, then we'll go back to Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Oh, okay. Thank you, Chair. So I just want to be clear that what we're talking about is when people are in the Chambers, right, or even if they're not in the Chamber, everybody's mic will be muted by Staff. So that if you're in the Chamber you can have that comradery that usually goes on in person, but to protect information from getting outside of these wieldy conversations, I guess, to protect everyone you got to mute everyone just for that protection. And the way to participate maybe in that comradery is maybe to be in the Chambers on Council day maybe. I don't know, but that's what my understanding is. And I do want to be able to protect conversations that I admit I...and I admit, get unwieldy because sometimes my mic is hot, and I say stuff that I shouldn't and then I have to apologize for it. But...but I think to protect other conversations too. The humiliation and embarrassment I can take, but personal information about people is something else, and that needs to be protected. So thank you, Chair.

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CHAIR LEE: Member Paltin, I have no idea what you're trying to say, but anyway, it's Member Sugimura's turn.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I got to get going. Support. See you guys later.

CHAIR LEE: Oh, okay. Oh, you have to leave. Oh, you want to say something before you go?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do good jobs. I...may the force be with you. And I...I trust your guys' judgment. Don't let me down. A hui hou.

CHAIR LEE: All right. Okay. You know what, I...I think we're going to make a decision on this when everybody comes back. Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I'm fine. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Bye, Tamara. God bless you. God bless your mom.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah.

CHAIR LEE: Yeah. From all of us. Anybody else? Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I was just waving bye. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Oh. All right. Members...Members, if you don't mind deferring this item? Yeah. As...as with number 1, deferring number 1 and number 2.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Then number...no objections, so ordered.

#### 3. 3-MONTH PLANNING CALENDAR

CHAIR LEE: Number 3 is the three-month calendar. Did everybody get it? Any comments, questions? Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I wasn't...or I was made aware from Staff that some of our changes to the APT Committee wasn't included in this version. I think OCS is working on it. But just to remind Members that it's to add on our Charter amendment discussion that was referred to the GREAT Committee on Friday and Reso 22-119. And so we'll probably have a couple discussions in APT prior to hearing it in the GREAT Committee. And so I just wanted to invite the other Members who are not in the APT, they can always sit in the...in the APT Committee and...and be part of the discussion. And...and I can remind you guys when we're...we're bringing those discussions on. Thank you, Chair.

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CHAIR LEE: Okay. Any other comments about changes or additions? If not...as you know, there will be changes as time goes on, things happen. Any objections to deferring this item?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. So ordered So number 4...

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So Chair? Chair?

CHAIR LEE: Yes?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I have a question.

CHAIR LEE: Member Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So you know, I just recently looked at this calendar, this is the 2022 calendar for the Maui County Council that OCS, you know, did for us. And when I looked at the calendar and...because I was concerned about a certain date in June, and it has the Council meeting on June the 3rd, but on our three-month calendar there are no meetings on June 3rd. So I just wanted to be clear that the calendar that I will be now following is not this calendar, but it's the calendar...the three-month calendar that we are using. And because there's an error in this, and the public will be getting this, right, they get this all the time and this is...so how will this be corrected if I know this, but the public doesn't?

CHAIR LEE: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Because I'm looking at our three-month calendar.

CHAIR LEE: Yeah. Well, generally we can't correct it, it's...it's sort of too late.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Right. Right.

CHAIR LEE: However, you have people follow the...most people who follow us follow --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

CHAIR LEE: -- the agendas, and not those types of pre-printed calendars.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Okay.

CHAIR LEE: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Just checking to make sure.

CHAIR LEE: Vice-Chair?

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COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. The...there is a disclaimer on the brochure that it's all subject to change, and that they should look to the mauicounty.us website for any potential changes. And Ms. Apo Takayama also put in the chat that the updated calendar is available at this link. So it's okay because there's a disclaimer saying, you know, like for...to make sure that, you know, the...you know what the schedule is, go to the website.

CHAIR LEE: All right. So defer this item as well.

# 4. HAWAII STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (HSAC)/NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACo)/WESTERN INTERSTATE REGION (WIR) MATTERS

CHAIR LEE: And then number 4, I really don't have a report. Normally we would have a report from Member Paltin or Member King. But maybe Staff...Staff, do you have anything to add to this item, number 4? Traci?

MS. FUJITA: No. No comments for this item, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Do you know who requested this item to be on the agenda?

MS. FUJITA: This is a standing item, so it's on each Chair's meeting agenda.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. All right. Just...it's just a standing item. Member Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So...so I know that this is the...the...the WIR meeting happening in Alaska, and I was wondering if anyone was going to Alaska. Oh, there we are. So maybe we can hear whoever is going to tell us a little bit about it, because I'm going to the conference in Colorado, and that's the big NACo conference . . . (inaudible). . . But I would like to hear if anybody's going to Alaska, and you know, why...why I didn't want to go, it's too cold. But anyway, if we could, Chair? Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: You mean you don't want to hear from them after the conference, you want to hear...

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: No, I want to know. I mean why before and after.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Why. Vice-Chair, and then Member Sinenci.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I was pointing to Member Sinenci who is going, not myself. Mahalo.

CHAIR LEE: Member Sinenci?

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, thank you, Chair. We attended the...it's the Western Interstate Regional [sic], so it's mostly all the western states, right. Mostly...and instead of the NACo would be all the...I mean all the counties are invited, but the...the WIR is focused on the western states. So we're heading up next week, and it looks like there's a couple...what they'll do is they'll take you on a field trip to certain places. And so there were three field trips that were offered next week, and going to visit maybe some of the military bases up in Alaska near the Arctic Circle. But it was too close to Russia for us, so we didn't want to take that field trip. And then of course they'll...they'll visit some other energy systems. Last time in Utah we went to see some of the...the fracking operations. And also, you get to see some of the...what some of their CIP projects are. And then of course just the comradery, and then the exchange, sharing amongst what people are doing in their individual counties. So last October the Utah one was focused on fire...forest wildfires and...and how you can partner with some of the...the national forest helping in kind of mitigating fire...forest fires.

CHAIR LEE: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: In a nutshell.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you, Mr. Sinenci. So Member Kama, you want to change your mind and go to Alaska? Too late.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Oh, oh, no. No, thank you, Chair. I'm just happy that Member Sinenci has snowshoes and snow boots and, you know, is outfitted. I...I...the closest thing I have to a jacket is my one jacket, and I want to stay in a more warmer climate. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Yeah. Okay. Very good. Thank you. So any objections to deferring this item?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR LEE: If not, so ordered.

#### 5. COVID-19 MANDATES AND PROTOCOLS

CHAIR LEE: And the...so the last item would be COVID-19 Mandates and Protocols. So this one is more complicated because we don't know where, you know, COVID is going to take us next. But...but it's...but anyway, anybody have any concerns about any mandates and protocols? Let me ask you that first. It's hard to establish protocols when we're not even sure what's, you know, happening tomorrow. Member...Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. You know, the word on the street, and I'm sure you guys have heard it from other constituents, is that COVID is over, let's get back...you know, no more mask mandate, and I hear everybody kind of like saying COVID is over and...but it's not. And I think we...the...the...you know, we really have

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to inform the public. And whether the mandates...you know, we can talk about the mandates, but I think what we can do for our role is to really kind of do...you know, use the bully pulpit and tell everybody it's not over, try to...try your best to stay safe, still keep your distance, still wear your mask. And I know a lot of people on Lāna'i are wearing their mask, in fact it's a really unique way to see, you know, who our guests are on the island, who are locals, because the local guys are still wearing their masks. And it's...it's...I want to kind of use my...my voice to, you know, maybe do a PSA and maybe this body, if you guys are interested, we could do a PSA and tell...and explain to our...our communities that you still got to stay safe, that numbers are...the numbers are higher than...they're...they're pretty high for Lāna'i. So there still are...you know, it's been lower before, let's just say that. So I thought, you know, we...maybe as a body we can come together. I'm not saying like a rap video or 'Imi Pono stuff, I'm just saying if we want to do like a...like a PSA, I'm...I'm willing to go out there and...and do something like that. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. That's an interesting idea. Anybody...yes, Member Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I think that's a great idea, and I think people look at the Councilmembers as leaders. And I think that, you know, we should take the lead in...in putting out this...this precautionary video. And I know that, you know, *Akakū* is always open to us doing those kinds of PSAs, you know, for our community, and I think it's worth doing. So we can call *Akakū* and see what we can do, but I think it's a great idea. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Johnson.

CHAIR LEE: All right. Very good. Just so happens I don't have anything to do today so I'll work on it, Member Johnson. Okay. Let's see, anything else before we adjourn? This...this will be another standing item, so we'll defer it if there are no objections.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Move it as another standing item. Anything else, Members, before we adjourn? Because this (audio interference)

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: When's our next Chair's meeting, Chair?

CHAIR LEE: I don't know. It's June...that might...that might be subject to change, so I...I rather not tell you. All right. This concludes the meeting. And it is approximately 11:04 a.m. Thank you very much, Members. The meeting is adjourned. ...(gavel)...

**ADJOURN:** 11:04 a.m.

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APPROVED:

ALICE L. LEE Council Chair

chr:min:220511:ds Transcribed by: Daniel Schoenbeck

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# **CERTIFICATION**

I, Daniel Schoenbeck, hereby certify that pages 1 through 23 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 22nd day of June 2022, in Kula, Hawai'i

Daniel Schoenbeck