

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

June 29, 2022

Online Only via BlueJeans

CONVENE: 1:33 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Chair
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Member
Councilmember Kelly Takaya King, Member
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member (in 1:36 p.m.)
Councilmember Michael J. Molina, Member
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Member

STAFF: Lesley Milner, Legislative Analyst
Jerry Paredes, Legislative Analyst
Richard Mitchell, Legislative Attorney
Yvette Bouthillier, Committee Secretary
Jean Pokipala, Council Services Assistant Clerk

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez:
Sarah Freistat Pajimola
Mahina Poepoe
Kainoa Kaumeheiwa-Rego

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Gabe Johnson:
Kate Griffiths

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Tasha Kama:
Davideane Kama-Sickels
Lois Whitney
Evan Dust

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Kelly Takaya King:
Axel Beers
Ellen McKinley

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci:
Dawn Lono

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

June 29, 2022

District Office Staff:

Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, Council Aide, East Maui District Office
Denise Fernandez, Council Aide, Lanai District Office
Zhantell Lindo, Council Aide, Moloka'i Council Office
Daniel Kanahele, Council Aide, South Maui District Office

ADMIN.: David Underwood, Director, Department of Personnel Services
(BFED-6(2), -6(3), -6(4), -6(5), -6(6))
Scott Teruya, Director, Department of Finance (BFED-82, -111)
Marcy Martin, Real Property Tax Administrator, Department of Finance
(BFED-82, -111)
Kristina Toshikiyo, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the
Corporation Counsel

OTHERS: Sean Lester (BFED-111)
Ralph Thomas (BFED-111)
Patrick Borge (BFED-111)
Jeremey Irvine, Maui Division Chairman, Hawai'i Firefighters Association
(BFED-6(6))
Celeste Nip, Hawai'i Firefighters Association (BFED-6(6))

Resource:

Sean Lester (BFED-111)

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

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . . *(gavel)*. . . Aloha 'auinalā kākou.
'Ekolu...kanakolukūmākolū --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Tamara, did you say something to me? I can't...I think you're on mute.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I gaveled in. We've started the meeting. Okay. All right. So it's still kanakolukūmākolū o kahola minuke o kahola 'ekahi ma iwakāluakūmāiwa o Inue i ka makahiki 'elua kaukani iwakāluakūmālua. E 'olu'olu mai, e ho'omalū ke Komike Mo'ohelu Kālā a me ho'omohala Waiwai. 'O wai kaluna ho'omalū o kēia Komike o Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. Will the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee please come to order? I'm your Chair Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. It was 1:33, now 1:34. Mahalo everyone who is online. We're keeping everyone's videos on mute for this time. When it's time to testify, you're...you'll be welcome to unmute your video at that time. I keia lā me ko kākou eia hope luna ho'omalū Tamara Paltin. Aloha.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Aloha 'auinalā and ello kākou man from Jamaica, I think it was. Broadcasting live and direct from rainy Hilo town where it's currently raining. And with me I have my parents, Mildred and Samuel Paltin. And they're eating lunch. We have no testifiers at the Lāhainā District Office. Thank you.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

June 29, 2022

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. And mahalo for that reminder, Committee Vice-Chair Paltin. There are no testifiers here at the Moloka'i District Office, which is where I am located, alone on my side of the office. And we have my Legislative Analyst Mahina Poepoe and our Community Outreach Specialist Zhantell Lindo . . . *(inaudible)* . . . at the Moloka'i District Office. Okay. And next we have Committee Member Shane Sinenci. Aloha 'auinalā.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha 'auinalā, Chair, and ello kākou. This afternoon I'm broadcasting from my home office by myself. It looks like Ms. Medeiros has included in a chat that there are no testifiers at the Hāna District Office, and . . . *(inaudible)* . . . everybody.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. And Member Mike Molina, aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Aloha 'auinalā. And aloha, Madam Chair, and colleagues, and everyone else tuning in for our Budget and Finance meeting today. I'm transmitting from my home in Makawao, and in the other room is my spouse. And to my knowledge there is no...there are no testifiers at the Pā'ia District Office. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Committee Member Alice Lee, aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Ello to my colleagues and my Jamaican friends all over the world. I am here in my County office at the building, and no one is here with me.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Committee Member Kelly King, aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Aloha and ello, men and women. I hope you can see me all right. I'm in my home office, and my husband is two rooms away, my husband Bob King. No one else is in the room. We have no testifiers at the South Maui District Office. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Committee Member Gabe Johnson, aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Ello, Chair. Ello, Councilmembers. And ello community members. I am alone in my workspace on Lāna'i. And there are no testifiers at the District Office on Lāna'i. And we have a nice, cool afternoon breeze, and ready for some work. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Committee Member Yuki Lei Sugimura, aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: . . . *(inaudible)* . . . everybody. I'm on the 8th Floor in the County Building in my office, and I'm the only one here at the moment. And looking forward to a very productive meeting, I'm...you're going to get...you're going to make a lot of unions very happy by your agenda, so looking forward to this. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I aim to please. Mahalo. Okay. And Committee Member

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

June 29, 2022

Tasha Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Aloha ‘auinalā, Chair, and ello to my fellow colleagues. I am here in my workspace in my home. Lena and her caregiver are in the other room. And I'm looking for a very productive day in our Committee today. And thank you, Chair. But I'll have to leave early today because I have a meeting this afternoon. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: What time, Member Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I think 4:00 is good.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then Member King needs to leave at 3:30, and I also need to leave at 4:00. So let's try to end by 3:30.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I am with you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All right. All right. Sounds good. Okay. And then from Corporation Counsel, Deputy Corporation Counsel Kristina Toshikiyo, aloha. Oh, I think you're muted. We saw your video though. Uh-oh. I think...I think maybe something might be wrong with your mike. Okay, we'll get that...we'll get that figured out later. Okay. Aloha. All right. And then our Committee Staff, Committee Secretary Yvette Bouthillier, aloha.

MS. BOUTHILLIER: Aloha. Good afternoon, Committee Chair and Committee Members.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Budget Committee Analyst Lesley Milner, aloha.

MS. MILNER: Aloha, Chair. Aloha, Committee Members.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Legislative Analyst Jerry Paredes, aloha.

MR. PAREDES: Aloha and ello, Committee Chair and Members.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Legislative Attorney Richard E. Mitchell, aloha.

MR. MITCHELL: Aloha, Chair and Members.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And Council Services Assistant Clerk Jean Pokipala, aloha. Okay, our disclaimer. Please see the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity. We have seven items on today's agenda, and we're going to get this done by 3:30. BFED-6(2) Contract Negotiations...Contract Negotiations and Cost Item Proposals (Resolution 22-111, Cost Item Proposal (Bargaining Unit 02 (Included))); BFED-6(3) Contract Negotiations and Cost Item Proposals (Resolution 22-115, Cost Item

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

June 29, 2022

Proposals (Bargaining Unit 3 (Excluded), 4 (Excluded), and 13 (Excluded))); BFED-6(4) Contract Negotiations and Cost Item Proposals (Resolution 22-116, Cost Item Proposals (Bargaining Units 3 (Included), 4 (Included), and 13 (Included))); BFED-6(5) Contract Negotiations and Cost Item Proposals (Resolution 22-121, Cost Item Proposals (Bargaining Unit 11, Fire Fighters (Excluded))); BFED-6(6) Contract Negotiations and Cost Item Proposals (Resolution 22-122, Cost Item Proposals (Bargaining Unit 11, Fire Fighters (Included))); BFED-82, Bill 93 (2022) Homeowner Exemption; BFED-111, Bill 110 (2022) Homes of Unmarried Surviving Spouses of Veterans Who Died While on Duty and Totally Disabled Veterans. We have five individuals that we have on the list to testify. We'll begin with public testimony. Oral testimony via phone or video conference will be accepted. Please note that if you are on...if you are signed on, you are on the list to testify even if you did not request to testify. Please let Staff know if you are...in the chat if you are signed on and do not intend to testify. As noted on today's agenda, in-person testimony will be accepted in the Council Chambers and at the six courtesy testimony sites. Testifiers wanting to provide video testimony, please join by going to the BlueJeans meeting link noted on today's agenda. Testifiers wanting to provide audio testimony, please join by calling the number and entering the meeting code also noted on today's agenda. The Committee intends to keep the same meeting link and phone number for all future BFED Committee meetings. Written testimony is highly encouraged. Instructions on how to submit testimony can be found at mauicounty.us/testify. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes per item. When testifying, please state your first and last name. If you are testifying on behalf of an organization or are a paid lobbyist, please inform the Committee. Staff has posted a link to the testifiers log in the chat so that testifiers will be able to see where they are on the list. 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. If providing testimony, please be courteous to others by muting your microphone and video while waiting your turn to testify. We'll start with public testimony with Sean Lester, followed by Ralph Thomas. Mr. Lester.

. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

MR. LESTER: Aloha kākou. Aloha kākou, Members. Can you hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Loud and clear.

MR. LESTER: Aloha. Great. This is a riot. I haven't been here for a year and a half, and I'm the only one in the Chamber with the exception of Staff. So hi. So today is a somber day in some ways. I...first of all, I want to thank Councilmember Molina for bringing the Bill 110--2022 [sic] to this body. It's very rare that we have an opportunity to help a community that's given so much in a way that is in some ways easy. A lot of times it's a very difficult lift, and this is one of the times when we actually have the ability to do that. This particular bill was brought in in 1980, and it's my understanding it was after Vietnam War when many people were coming back. We had 55,000 killed, almost 250,000 that were wounded out of that war...or 200,000. And since then, it hasn't been upgraded. So Councilmember Molina and myself, along with his Staff, worked through

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

June 29, 2022

and found out that a 70 percent disability point is...means that there are two or more major disabilities. And the way that the Veterans...the VA disability system works is, it's exponential. It's not just linear. So by the time you get into these areas, you have multiples of multiples. I just want to bring something by. We...we're looking at the possibility of helping...I think in Granicus I...hopefully there's...on line 562 of one of the pages, page 10, shows that there are 1,877 total compensations for Maui. This is off of a...the latest VA paperwork. And if you work your way back over, you'll see under 100 percent, there's 373 that are listed. Now...right now, within the County, we're looking at, I think, 340 that are listed as totally exempt. If you take a look to the left of that, you'll see 70 to 90 percent, and that shows 383. So we're basically one to one. So there...the...we have about...according to the last census, we have 8,340 vets here. So we're looking at a very small percentage of the vets that are at this point. One thing about veterans, especially disabled veterans, is usually they won't come here and talk with you. They've got enough on...they've got enough on their plate. They're dealing with some extraordinary challenges. So I feel the weight of my brothers and sisters as I come here to speak to you today, and also to be willing to be a resource person for you. I've done extensive research, as you can see from the couple of pages of my testimony, and I think that this is something that's doable. My testimony speaks for itself because of what I've put out in my...in my writing. I just thank you for giving this a chance and opportunity, and I believe that once Maui County, as it is many times, is on the forefront of possibilities of help and change, as we've seen with a lot of the things we've done here...once this is done, it can be taken to other islands. So thank you very much for your time. I...if you'd like me to be here, I'm more than happy to be a research person...or I'll stand by as a research person for you. Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Lester.

MR. LESTER: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. I think I see Member Molina with his hand up. Member Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah. Thank you very much, Madam Chair. If there are no objections, I'd like to ask to have Mr. Lester as a resource for this. And if I could just ask a quick clarifying question of Mr. Lester. My understanding in...with this proposal...I guess other states...there's a movement in other states as well?

MR. LESTER: There...there is. This is...it's interesting because when I went back and started doing ancillary work, Texas has really started to...they're going down to even lower levels than this. And so there's an...there's an awareness now that...the VA...very people...few people understand the VA, but now that we have more and more veterans of different wars, that started being seen. The one thing I do want to interject is that if we take a look at the...at the demographics of age, we're looking at people that are...the majority of these are 60-plus. And so we're getting into...I think they're really starting to try and take care of major challenges in areas like that. But yes, it's a...it's a...it's a nationwide movement, for sure.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

June 29, 2022

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay, great. Okay. Thank you very much, Mr. Lester. Thank you, Madam Chair.

MR. LESTER: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina. Members, any objections to asking Mr. Lester to stay on as a resource?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, Members. And at that time, I will ask to designate him as a resource under our Council Rules. Our next testifier is Ralph Thomas, followed by Patrick Borge.

MR. THOMAS: Aloha, Chair. And aloha, Councilmembers.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha, Mr. Thomas. You're welcome to turn on your video if you'd like.

MR. THOMAS: Bad hair day. All right, so --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MR. THOMAS: -- I'd like to really just tell you all thank you for taking this opportunity to try and grant veterans a well-needed benefit. I can't think of anyone who wouldn't mind a tax break in some way, shape, or fashion, but I think the years of service, along with the disability or loss of a loved one, actually does a great benefit to those individuals because we could use those individuals within the County. Because I believe that veterans are more connected to the communities in which they live, and try to make it better as a whole. And that's all that I have to say about it. All right. Thank you for taking this up and seriously considering it. Greatly appreciate it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Thomas. Members, any questions for our testifier? Okay. Seeing none, just seeing Members waving. Okay. Mahalo, Mr. Thomas. Aloha.

MR. THOMAS: Mahalo. And I'd also like to say that I...it's extended the offer to my VFW brothers and sisters that can, that they should be chiming in somewhere, hopefully. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Our next testifier is Patrick Borge, followed by Jeremy Irvine.

MR. BORGE: Good afternoon, Councilmembers. And I just want to cut it short here. I support Bill 110. I want to thank Mike Molina for bringing it forward to the Council here. And, you know, I don't think by supporting this bill will affect the budget in any way. You know, it's about helping out a vet. And also, there's another program that I would like

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

June 29, 2022

to see that the County Council think about helping out vets is building a equestrian center for...you know, for the vets. I mean, they have it all over the United States where they have programs by using horses and helping the vets with their...with their post-traumatic stress. And anything to do with vets, it's a plus. I mean, like I always said, if it wasn't for the vets, we wouldn't be here today, and just having discussions over government issues, and having the freedom that we have today. So God bless you all, and you guys have a good rodeo weekend. I hope I see you up there at the rodeo. And aloha. Take care. That's it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Borge. I'm seeing only salutes to you and mahalo waves. So we'll thank you for your testimony. Aloha.

MR. BORGE: Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All right. Our next testifier is Jeremy Irvine, followed by participant signed in as Celeste. Jeremy Irvine?

MR. IRVINE: Okay, aloha. Can you guys hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Yes, loud and clear. Please proceed.

MR. IRVINE: All right. Kala mai. So aloha and good afternoon. My name is Jeremy Irvine, and I am the Maui Division Chairman for the Hawai'i Firefighters Association, and I am here in...to testify in full support of Resolution 22-122, which is our funding for our arbitration award. So I'm here testifying at my house by myself. However, I am representing 300-plus firefighters here in Maui County, and 3,000-plus members, firefighters, our Bargaining Unit 11 members Statewide. And it's my belief that you guys have our written testimony from our office, so I just wanted to come in here and respectfully urge you to commit funds to meet our arbitration award. And mahalo for you guys' continued support of our firefighters. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Irvine. Okay, Members. Seeing no questions, we'll thank you for your testimony today. Aloha.

MR. IRVINE: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And the last testifier on our list is Celeste. And Ms. Celeste, if you'll please identify your last name for the record, and you may proceed with your testimony.

MS. NIP: Oh. Thank you very much. Good afternoon. I am...was a backup to Jeremy. My name is Celeste Nip. I represent the Hawai'i Firefighters Association. So we kind of did it in tandem. I know he was...he wasn't sure, but I know he did...made an...he made every effort and he got on. But certainly, we have come before the Council before on our previous arbitration awards. It was a little bit longer or delayed than expected, and we met all the statutory requirements according to Chapter 89, and we look for your support of the arbitration award. And if you have any questions, we're here to answer

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

June 29, 2022

them. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Nip. Okay. Seeing no questions, we'll thank you for your testimony. Oh, okay. We have one caller with the last four digits 0244.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's my number.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: 0244, you're unmuted. *(Audio interference)* Okay, I muted you again. So if you're listening on a device or the TV, if you can mute that device, and then I'll unmute you again. And if you would like to testify, you may, but if you, you know, are not wishing to testify, just let us know. No pressure to, of course. Okay, I'm going to unmute you now. 0244? *(Audio interference)*. Okay. Okay, and the caller left the call. Okay. I will now ask if there is anyone signed on that would like to provide testimony. You may unmute yourself at this time and proceed with your testimony. Okay. Hearing no one speaking up to testify. Members, are there any objections to closing oral testimony and accepting written testimony into the record?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS

. . .END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Members. All right. So perhaps we'll take the first three. Okay. Any objections to taking the first three items up together, BFED-6(2), -6(3), -6(4)?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Great. That helps us finish by 3:30.

**ITEM 6(2): RESOLUTION 22-111, COST ITEM PROPOSAL (BARGAINING
UNIT 02 (INCLUDED)) (Reso. 22-111)**

**ITEM 6(3): RESOLUTION 22-115, COST ITEM PROPOSAL (BARGAINING
UNITS 3 (EXCLUDED), 4 (EXCLUDED), AND 13 (EXCLUDED))
(Reso. 22-115)**

**ITEM 6(4): RESOLUTION 22-116, COST ITEM PROPOSAL (BARGAINING
UNITS 3 (INCLUDED), 4 (INCLUDED), AND 13 (INCLUDED))
(Reso. 22-116)**

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All right. So BFED-6(2), Contract Negotiations and Cost Item . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . -- sorry -- Cost Item Proposals, Resolution 22-111, Cost Item Proposal (Bargaining Unit 02 (Included)); BFED-6(3), Contract Negotiations and Cost Item Proposals, Resolution 22-115, Cost Item Proposal (Bargaining Units 3 (Excluded), 4 (Excluded), and 13 (Excluded)); BFED-6(4), Contract Negotiations and Cost Item Proposals, Resolution 22-116, Cost Item Proposals (Bargaining Unit 3 (Included), 4 (Included), and 13 (Included)). HGEA has submitted written testimony on these items,

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

June 29, 2022

and we have with us Director of Personnel Services David Underwood. Director Underwood, would you like to provide any remarks...opening remarks?

MR. UNDERWOOD: Thank you, Chair. Good afternoon, Members of the Committee. You have before you the cost items for the negotiated settlements for Bargaining Units 2, 3, 4, and 13. They are for the contract period of July 1st, 2021 through June 30th, 2025. Did you want me to go through the details of each one, Chair, or is...prefer to get that from the reso?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Members, what's your pleasure? Would you like to hear the details, or read it for yourself? I think it would be good. I don't think it would be that long.

MR. UNDERWOOD: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then the public would be able to hear it as well.

MR. UNDERWOOD: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Director.

MR. UNDERWOOD: Thank you. Okay. I will go through. And just for the Committee's awareness, we are not the...you know, all the legislative bodies have to hear and approve these cost items. We are not the first legislative body to hear this. These cost items have been heard and approved by the State Legislature, the County of Hawai'i, and the City and County of Honolulu. So it's just pending our hearing and County of Kaua'i. So for Bargaining Unit 2, it is...it is a four-year contract. In Fiscal Year 2022, it does provide for a 1 percent lump sum payment. There is no other adjustment. There's no steps, no increase, other than the 1 percent lump sum. In Fiscal Year 2023, it does provide for a 3.72 percent across the board increase. In Fiscal Year 2024, it provides for a 5 percent across the board increase. And in Fiscal Year 2025, it provides for a 5 percent across the board increase. There are no step movements for this unit. It is only those increases. There are no other substantive changes to the bargaining unit, other than to continue the existing employee-employer split of the health fund premiums. So that's a summary of Bargaining Unit 2. For Bargaining Unit 3 . . . *(inaudible)*. . . again, this also covers the same contract period of July 1st, 2021 through June 30th of 2025. So for Bargaining Unit 3, there will...in Fiscal Year 2022, there's a \$1,000 one-time, lump sum payment. That is the only adjustment for that fiscal year. There's no step or across the board increase. In Fiscal Year 2023, there's a 3.72 percent across the board increase. In Fiscal Year 2024, there is a 5 percent across the board increase. And in Fiscal Year 2025, there's another 5 percent across the board increase. Again, there are no step movements provided as part of this agreement, and there is no other substantive changes, other than to continue the employer-employer split...employee-employer split of the health fund premiums. For Bargaining Unit 4, it's very similar...a similar structure. In Fiscal Year 2022, it's a 1 percent lump sum payment, and that's the only increase for that year. In Fiscal Year 2023, there's a 3.72 percent across the board increase. In Fiscal Year 2024, there's a 4.96 percent across the board increase. And in

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

June 29, 2022

Fiscal Year 2025, there's a 5 percent across the board increase. There are no other substantive changes, other than to continue the existing employee-employer split of the health fund premiums, and a minor adjustment in the meal allowance and uniform allowance. For Bargaining Unit 13, another similar structure again. It's the same contract period, July 1, 2021 through June 30th, 2025. In Fiscal Year 2022, there is a 2 percent lump sum payment for those employees that are on the maximum step, or not on the salary schedule. That is the only adjustment in that fiscal year. In Fiscal Year 2023, employees who would have been eligible for a step movement in Fiscal Year 2022 will receive their step movement on July 1st, and then step movements will continue throughout the year as normal, and there's a 2 percent pay...across the board pay increase. For Fiscal Year 2024, step movements will continue throughout the year. Employees who are on step C will move to step D, and we will delete step C of the salary schedule, and there is a 4 percent pay increase...across the board pay increase. Fiscal Year 2025, there is a 3.59 percent pay increase...across the board pay increase, and step movements will continue. There are no other substantive changes to that contract, other than to continue the employer...employee-employer split of the health fund. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Very nice. Nice.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director Underwood. Okay, Members, questions? I saw Member Johnson with his hand up. Member Johnson, I'll put three minutes on the clock for you. Please proceed.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Good afternoon, Mr. Underwood. I appreciate you giving us that information. I have a clarifying question. Do you track, or do you know how many of these bargaining units, any of their members are making less than \$15 an hour?

MR. UNDERWOOD: We do have that information. I don't believe there are any...we have not run that in a few months. I don't believe there are any at the current time. Most of the bargaining units start about 15...a little over \$15. So I don't believe anybody is under \$15 an hour of the regular bargaining unit member employees. We did have some temporary employees that--you know, PALS--you know, that were, but they...they've been increased.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Great.

MR. UNDERWOOD: So no, there won't be. And we did ask the State Office of Collective Bargaining to project out and make sure that there would not be any conflict with the new minimum wage law that was passed, and there will not be any conflict.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Yeah, that's where I was leading. Good to hear. So you know, you mentioned that some of the wages are still kind of low, starting at 15, maybe 16. Does your...does your department...and Chair, allow me if it's not an appropriate question. Do we help folks find other ways, like...you know, help them get on food stamps or help them supplement their income with rental assistance that the

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

June 29, 2022

County has? I mean, do we...are we doing anything else besides...or anything else in addition to?

MR. UNDERWOOD: Chair, thank you. Our department does not reach out in that particular...and maybe the other County Departments do, but our Department does not.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. I only say...ask that because that happens at Walmart. When they don't...they don't get a good wage, they put them on...they help them get on welfare. So okay. Thank you. Thank you. I have no further questions, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Johnson. Members, any other questions for Director Underwood? Okay. I have a question regarding Bargaining Unit 3. And I'm not sure if it's BU-3 included or excluded. So I recently learned that ZAED zoning inspectors are in BU-3. Again, I'm not sure if it's the included or excluded. And so they're included in a lot of the assistant and secretarial positions, administrative assistants. And I see that they receive a \$1,000 lump sum payment, whereas the other bargaining units receive a 1 percent lump sum.

MR. UNDERWOOD: I'm sorry, Chair. If you said something, I'm not getting your audio.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, was I muted that whole time?

MR. UNDERWOOD: I missed the end of it.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . the 1 percent versus 1,000. That was the last we heard.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, that was it.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, I didn't understand what the question was.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So we've been...since I got onto the Council, I've been hearing that there's a lot of inequity as far as payment goes, and a lot of women are in Bargaining Unit 3. And so what is being done to correct that inequity there?

MR. UNDERWOOD: Well, you know, we are...we are negotiating as best we can with the unions. I mean, it is a negotiating process, and it is up to the unions to...primarily how they wish to structure their particular compensation formula. You're right. Some of these did have a percentage bonus, some of these had a flat amount. The overall increase to all of them is identical. So it really kind of comes down to the philosophy of the particular bargaining unit, how they wish to negotiate. You know, some kept step movements; some did not. You noticed Bargaining Unit 3 has gone away from step movements, which has a tendency to bring the entry level salaries up because money's not going toward step movements, it's going towards increasing salaries as a whole. So that will increase the lower end quite a bit. And we've also been...the last contract round...not this contract, but the last contract round, we did eliminate some of the lower steps, which also tends to increase the lower paid salaries as well.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

June 29, 2022

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. And I had invited the union for these bargaining units to come so that they would...I guess they declined, and provided written comments. Mahalo, Director. I saw Member Paltin with her hand up. Oh, okay. I understand my audio is not consistent. I don't know what you did not hear. So...I don't know. Okay. Member Paltin, I saw you with your hand up.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I think I was going to kind of say what you...what you said because we're asking Director Underwood, and the County is responsible for negotiating County stance, and the unions are responsible for negotiating on behalf of the workers. And from yours and Member Johnson's questions, it sounded like we wanted to ask the folks that are negotiating on behalf of the workers. I mean, not that Mr. Underwood is the negotiator, because I think in those situations the State takes the lead and the Counties follow along, but just from the questions we're asking him, it seems like we should be asking the union side because it's like we're asking him what the opposite side of the negotiations was doing. Was...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Paltin. So yeah, that's what I said. I don't know if it...when it cut out, but I said that I invited the union for these bargaining units, and they didn't come, and they submitted written comments. Did that come through?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I heard all of that, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. All right. That's good. And I don't fully agree. I think as the employer, we still have a role in not undercutting our employees.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I agree.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Paltin, your hand is up again? Oh, okay. And then I see Member Kama with her hand up too.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I didn't see the written comment from the union. Is it under...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Milner?

MS. MILNER: Chair, it's in eComment. It's not under a specific item. It's a comment on the agenda as a whole. If you give me a moment, I'll put the link in chat.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. And you know, I wholeheartedly agree with you. When we first came in, we heard lots of testimonies from a lot of women that felt like...and I think at the time, we told them that they would have to go back and talk to their units because as far as I was concerned, we were okeydokey as the union contract,

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

June 29, 2022

but we don't have any say as to what is negotiated because that is their union representative's responsibility to do that. But I think that for us as a County, we do want to make sure that our employees are being paid properly, appropriately, and equitably. So...but I'm not sure how to...if the units are not here for us to talk with them, I guess we have to go and talk with them in our own free time about ensuring that our people are getting paid appropriately, and we'd like to see that done. And I'm not sure why they're not negotiating equitably so that across the board, all of our people would be able to make a livable wage. So that's my comment, Chair. Thank you so much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Kama. Any other questions or comments on these three items, Members? Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: So the written...that one page from Randy Perreira, that's what you were referring to? That's all it was? That just...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, okay. All right. I just thought there was more or something. Okay, thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Well, I hoped they would have attended and that we could have dialogue, but...yeah. Okay. All right, Members. Seeing no other questions or comments, due to the time sensitivity of this item, as...oh, no, it was not indicated. There's a time sensitivity of this item, so this...these three items have been posted to Friday's Council agenda for possible action. Okay. So if there are no objections, we'll defer all three of these items. Any objections?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: No objections, Chair. Good job.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Members. Okay. And then the next two items, any objections to taking them together?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Members.

ITEM 6(5): RESOLUTION 22-121, COST ITEM PROPOSAL (BARGAINING UNIT 11, FIRE FIGHTERS (EXCLUDED)) (Reso. 22-121)

ITEM 6(6): RESOLUTION 22-122, COST ITEM PROPOSAL (BARGAINING UNIT 11, FIRE FIGHTERS (INCLUDED)) (Reso. 22-122)

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

June 29, 2022

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. BFED-6(4), Contract Negotiations and Cost Item Proposals, Resolution 22-116, Cost Item Proposals (Bargaining Unit...oh, not that one. BFED-6(5), Contract Negotiations and Cost Item Proposals, Resolution 22-121, Cost Item Proposals (Bargaining Unit 11, Fire Fighters (Excluded)); and BFED-6(6), Contract Negotiations and Cost Item Proposals, Resolution 22-122, Cost Item Proposals (Bargaining Unit 11, Fire Fighters (Included)). Okay. Members, please note that on May 12th, 2022, the Director of Personnel Services submitted a revised Exhibit 1 for this resolution. The Hawai'i Firefighters Association has submitted testimony in eComments, and also provided testimony in person today. We have Director Underwood again for opening comments to summarize the changes to these previous agreements. Director Underwood.

MR. UNDERWOOD: Chair...thank you, Chair. Yeah, this is the resolution to approve the cost items associated with the arbitrated award for Bargaining Unit 11, the firefighters. It is also a four-year contract. The period is July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2025. In the first fiscal year, July...Fiscal Year 2022, there are no salary increases, but their step movement plan does continue. Second year, Fiscal Year 2023, it provides for a 3 percent across the boards wage increase and continuation of steps. Fiscal Year 2024, it provides for a 4 percent across the board wage increase and continuation of steps. And in Fiscal Year 2025, a 4 percent across the board wage increase and continuation of the step movement plan. Those are the only substantive changes, other than continuing the employer...employee-employer split of the health fund premiums. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director Underwood. Members, any questions for the Director? Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. And Mahalo, Director Underwood. I was just curious about the excluded and included. Is there something that . . .(inaudible). . . about the two?

MR. UNDERWOOD: Sure. Thank you, Chair. The bargaining units are set by statute, so different types of work falls into different bargaining units. So firefighters fall in Bargaining Unit 11; police officers fall in Bargaining Unit 12. But the law does recognize that there are some jobs that are involved in, say, confidential employee-employer relationships or are managerial jobs, and so those are excluded from the union, but they are provided the same increases as their included counterparts by statute. So they're separate, but they get the same increases. And it's based on the type of work that they do.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Director, for that explanation. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Members, any other questions or comments? Okay. Seeing none, we'll defer these two items. Again, for the time sensitivity, they have both been posted to the...Friday's Council agenda for possible action. Are there any objections to deferral?

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

June 29, 2022

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Oh, Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I think we asked Jeremy to stand by for...as a resource. Did we want to ask him questions since he's here? He's not here?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I didn't ask him, and he commented in testimony.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Is there a specific question that you would like to ask?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I just thought since he's here and...in case others had. I already spoke to him, so I don't have any questions. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Okay. So if there are no objections, those two items will be deferred and possible action will be taken this Friday.

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Director Underwood, for being with us today.

MR. UNDERWOOD: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Uh-huh.

MR. UNDERWOOD: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Members of the Committee.

ITEM 82: BILL 93 (2022), HOMEOWNER EXEMPTIONS (Bill 93 (2022))

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. The next item is BFED 82, Bill 93 (2022), Homeowner Exemption. We began our discussion of this bill on April 21, 2022 during our Budget Session. This bill would increase the homeowner exemption from 200,000 to 300,000, effective January 1st, 2023. The intent of this increase is to offset the current, artificially high, inflated property valuations. I know this is something that Member Molina tried to do in the 2019 Budget Session, but...so it wouldn't have taken effect until the next fiscal year. So here we are. We're going to take up this bill now. It won't apply to FY '23 budget, but it would apply to FY '24 budget if it passes. That's the proposal. Any...oh, we did invite our Director of Finance, Scott Teruya, on for opening comments. Director Teruya. Mahalo for being with us.

MR. TERUYA: Thank you, Chair. Good afternoon, Members. Bill 93 before you, the proposal to raise the home exemption from 200 to 300,000 is supportive of the Mayor, and we are here to support the measure.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

June 29, 2022

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, that's wonderful. I like when Council and the Mayor agree. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Wonderful. Okay. I see Member Lee with questions.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Director Teruya, what's the fiscal impact of this amendment, or this...this change?

MR. TERUYA: Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Director.

MR. TERUYA: Thank you, Chair. Chair Lee, thank you very much for that question. It's a pretty simple math for us. We have 27,874 parcels in the homeowner class. And if you extrapolate that out with the existing tax rate, versus what the proposed tax rate will be next year, that's the difference. But at the current rate, there will be a subsidy, or a revenue impact, of approximately \$5.7 million.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director Teruya. And to follow up on that response, that is assuming that the tax rates would stay the same. So if we make adjustments, then there wouldn't be that impact. We would just have to make adjustments in the other tier thresholds. Okay, Members? Any other questions or comments? Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Aloha, Mr. Teruya. Sorry I'm squinting, I couldn't find my glasses. That's why I was...disappeared for a while, trying to find them. If I had my glasses on, I could probably find them. So is that...when you gave us that figure, was that...did that include Section B?

MR. TERUYA: I'm sorry, what is Section B?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Section B, the...on the long-term rental exemption where the value of the property...used to read where the value of the property is not in excess of 300,000, but now it's proposing to change that to 400,000. Or did you not calculate the second part?

MR. TERUYA: No. Chair, this calculation is just based off the existing homeowner classification for the units, just extrapolating that out. And just for history, Members, I think it's good to know that in 2006, the exemption was raised from 200 to 300,000. It lasted for six years to 2012, where 2012 it was brought back down to 200,000. So as you see...I think what you guys are doing...the same thing that the Mayor was doing is looking at the values over time, and just making these adjustments as values do make it change. So yeah, I think that's all we're doing.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Right.

MR. TERUYA: And like I said, this just an estimate. So I think the numbers are relatively

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

June 29, 2022

speaking. So you're looking at about \$5.7 million.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Right, but that doesn't include the Section B, the provisions of...for the long-term tax exemption...long-term rental tax exemption?

MR. TERUYA: No. This is only in regards to the homeowner class.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Because isn't that the...Chair, isn't that the other part of the bill that we're going to be passing? That was Section A, and then Section B is changing the long-term rental exemption.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, I see what you're talking about. Okay. So both the homeowners and long-term rental exemption would go up by 100,000.

MR. TERUYA: Okay. Then I need to do additional math. I didn't see that one on our agenda.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, it's part of the same bill, it looks like.

MR. TERUYA: Then you...we would just multiply the amount in that class...we can simply do that. Hang on, Chair. I'll have Staff do that right now.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's for the homeowners...so...okay. There are long-term rentals with the homeowner exemption. And so it adjusts those that have a long-term rental and a homeowner exemption so that it incentivizes someone with a...who is a homeowner or owner-occupied with an ADU to use it as a long-term rental. So it adds that additional exemption. And as I commented earlier, you know, the potential financial impact is based on the rates as it's set right now. And if we don't want the County to realize those impacts, we would just adjust the rates in other sections of RPT. So it...yeah, it's not brain surgery. Okay. Any other questions or comments? Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to clarify, if I'm reading that Section 2.A.1.a., if the value of the property is 200,000 or less, they just pay minimum tax; is that what it is?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. So if...with the exemption, it would be less than what minimum tax is set at. Currently it's set at \$350. So if it's less than \$350, then they would pay minimum tax.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: And then if the value of the property is more than 200,000, but less than 300,000, then their exemption stays at 200,000, and so on and so forth, even for long-term rental? If it's less than 400,000, then the part where it says totally exempt where the value of property is not in excess of 400,000, but it's also owner-occupied long-term rental, then they don't get that additional 100,000 is what's going on?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. Yeah, that's correct.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

June 29, 2022

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Just wanted to make sure that that's what was going on. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Okay. Any other questions or comments? Okay. I know that Member King asked Director Teruya for information, and Director Teruya went to consult with Staff. So since he stepped away, I'm happy to table this one for now until we can get that information if Members would like.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Then we can...okay. All right.

ITEM 111: BILL 110 (2022), HOMES OF UNMARRIED SURVIVING SPOUSES OF VETERANS WHO DIED WHILE ON DUTY AND TOTALLY DISABLED VETERANS (Bill 110 (2022))

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then, Members, we'll take up Bill 110, so BFED 111, Homes of Unmarried Surviving Spouses of Veterans Who Died While on Duty and Totally Disabled Veterans. And this...let me make sure. This was...oh, okay. Aloha, Director Teruya. Mahalo for your speediness.

MR. TERUYA: No problem. Are we on the Bill 110, Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. Bill...oh, sorry. You want to go to...you have the information for Bill 93, or you want to hold off...

MR. TERUYA: Staff is...Staff is in training right now, so they're opening up the proposed bill and looking at it now.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. All right. So we're on Bill 110...

MR. TERUYA: But as far as Bill 110, before you...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. One moment, Director.

MR. TERUYA: They're calling right now.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, they're calling. Okay. All right. Perfect timing. So we're on Bill 110, and we'll just move forward with Bill 110, and then after Bill 110, we'll go back to Bill 93 for less confusion. Bill 110 was introduced by Member Molina. Member Molina, would you like to provide some opening remarks? And then I'll call on Director Teruya for his opening . . . *(inaudible)*. . . the bill. Member Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Thank you very much, Madam Chair. And first of all, thank you all very, very much on behalf of...as a veteran myself and other veterans, for taking this proposal up very expeditiously. And it certainly speaks volumes to all the

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

June 29, 2022

families of the veterans, as well as those veterans who have been afflicted with disabilities. So...and you know, this Council, Madam Chair, has certainly been one that's been very sensitive and very progressive at providing tax relief for our citizens, for homeowners, and also for...tax relief for our generational families who own properties for many years, and also the exemption for, you know, people who are renting long term. So it speaks volumes, you know, of what this Council is doing. And I've been on...what, seven Councils, and this is the most active Council in terms of providing tax relief and reducing property tax rates as well. So I just wanted to preface my opening comments with this. As far as the bill itself, this proposal will lower the qualifying exemption disability for veterans who are currently at 100 percent disabled down to 70 percent. So in other words, more disabled veterans or their surviving spouses would be helped by paying less property taxes at, I believe, the \$150 minimum. And as we had heard from Mr. Lester early on, it's a movement that's happening across several states. I believe also Minnesota and Illinois are two others. I believe Mr. Lester had mentioned Texas. So it's, I guess, a way of our communities throughout the country of recognizing the efforts of our veterans. And now we have a new generation of disabled veterans too. You know, we just recently pulled out of Afghanistan, and we have a lot of folks who are disabled, and a lot of folks who lost their lives. So this is one way of showing support and providing, you know, tax relief to many of these folks who are...who are also on limited income as well. So you know, I present this to you, and I want to thank Mr. Lester for bringing this to my attention, who he himself is also a veteran. So I put this out there for the body's consideration, and I'll wait to hear comments from Mr. Teruya, and also any questions for either myself or Mr. Lester. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina. Director Teruya, opening comments?

MR. TERUYA: Hi, Chair. I don't think...nobody is against this bill, Chair. The only thing for us is we are not the body who qualifies the percentage of a veteran. We need to take that from the doctors. So the only comment I can say is, I don't know how much more people will go into it, but I cannot give you that estimate because I don't know who or how many people are between 70 and 100 percent, but we are supportive of the bill. I think the only caveat I would have to say is that I think this body should also know that we put a lot of restrictions, a lot of exemptions to owner occupants or residents. So just be mindful that this is open to anybody. So you potentially may not live here, then you may get these benefits. And I don't think we're against it, but I just want you guys to know that...what you guys are allowing. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director Teruya. Okay. And if there are no objections, we'll designate Mr. Sean Lester under Rule 18(A) of the Rules of the Council as a resource person. Any objections?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, Members. So we heard from Mr. Lester in his testimony. So if you have questions for Member Molina, Mr. Lester, or Director Teruya, we will open the floor now. I have three minutes on the clock, starting with Member

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

June 29, 2022

Paltin, and then Member Johnson, and then Member King. Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I guess first question would probably be for Mr. Teruya. Because it's real property owner...owned and occupied, would they have to fill out a homeowners exemption, or how do you determine that information?

MR. TERUYA: Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Director.

MR. TERUYA: Thank you. To my understanding, I do not believe we're required...the form...the existing form requires you to be a owner occupant. I believe the form just states that whether or not you are disabled or not. That is my understanding.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Because 3.48.475(A) says real property owned and occupied as a home.

MR. TERUYA: Correct.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: So how do you determine that?

MR. TERUYA: But I do...I...you know, I wish Staff would be on this, and I don't know if she's on, but I need to clarify that as well. Because when I look at it, I didn't see that as...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I see Ms. Martin.

MR. TERUYA: Oh, perfect.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha, Marcy Martin, our Real Property Tax Administrator. Ms. Martin, did you hear Member Paltin's question regarding real property owned and occupied as a home?

MS. MARTIN: No. Since I just jumped on, I might need the context repeated.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Paltin, would you like to repeat your question for Ms. Martin?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Sure. I just was wondering...because this would be...you wouldn't need a homeowner exemption. It's only \$175 property tax. But how do they determine if the real property is owned and occupied as a home by an unmarried surviving spouse of a veteran and all the rest of it? How is that determined?

MS. MARTIN: Thank you for asking. So right now, we do classify them in the same way that we do the home exemptions. So we run them through all of the same edits that we do for the home exemption. You know, we check mailing address. We check, you know, the tax returns. We collect all the same information. However, this section of the Code is more lenient in that it doesn't require filing of the tax return prior. But we try to use other means to make sure that they own and occupy the property.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

June 29, 2022

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Is there a standard form that they can fill out, or how would they do that?

MS. MARTIN: Yes, there is an application. And if...there's a certification line on the application that says, I own and occupy this property as my principal residence.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay, great. And then the numbers that we got in Mr. Lester's, I believe, second testimony, the chart . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . that would...I'll wait until my next opportunity.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Member Johnson, followed by Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I just want to take this time to rise in full support of this bill, and I want to thank Councilmember Molina for introducing it. Severely disabled veterans have 99 problems and we don't need the government to be one of them. So that's why I'm really happy that we're taking...we're following the lead from some of the mainland communities that are doing it. So...but we're first in the State to do it, and I think that's...that speaks of the creativity that we have as a body. And I just want to echo my support in that. So thank you, Chair. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Johnson. Any questions, Members? Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Thank you. I just wanted to...I think Member Paltin covered my question, but I just wanted to check with Mr. Teruya. Because when you were...when you were giving your opening comments, you said something about everybody could apply, and we have all these restrictions on nonowner-occupied. But this wouldn't apply to nonowner-occupied; isn't that right? Because you have to be occupying your house.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Martin.

MR. TERUYA: Yeah, I'll defer to Ms. Martin. I misspoke on that because I thought initially that this didn't require a home exemption, but I guess I was mistaken. So if Ms. Martin can clarify that. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director.

MS. MARTIN: Thank you, Chair. So it is required to be owner-occupied. However, that tax return criteria isn't there. So we don't ask that they file prior. And so far, it has not been a problem in determining occupancy. So the number is very manageable, you know, 350 versus 27,000 plus. I don't think we need to go to that extreme. Plus, this exemption kind of caters to an older population. So it's a little different than the home exemption as well. It should be owner-occupied, and we should do the edits, but I don't think we need as stringent criteria as we do for the home exemption.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

June 29, 2022

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. All right. Thank you. I just wanted to clear that up. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member King. Member Sugimura, and then we'll check in if anyone else has...okay. And then we'll go Member Molina. Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. So I appreciate that this bill has come forward. I did a lot of work with Senator Akaka and U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono to help veterans. And I do see that the qualification would be that severely disabled means the individual has been given a 70 percent or higher disability rating by the United States Department of Veteran Affairs. And I will say that the Federal Government is...does pretty stringent work to get to whatever that percentage is, and it is quite hard to get even rated, even if, you know, they are veterans who have gone to war, who come back and said that, you know, they have had...they have...you know, are disabled. But the U.S. Government...the foreign...United States Department of Veteran Affairs does a pretty good job of determining that. And I guess not until we do this bill will we see how many veterans are at 70 percent. But I wondered why 70 percent was selected --

MR. LESTER: If I could.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: -- versus another.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sugimura, would you like Mr. Lester to respond to your question?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah. I thought maybe Mr. Molina had it, or...

MR. LESTER: Okay, sure. Thank you very much. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Just a...oh, okay. Is that for me, or...okay, great.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's for Member Sugimura, but you can respond to her question.

MR. LESTER: Okay, thank you. So as it stands, the way it is...as I was saying, the...and I'm...I've gotten into this quite deeply as a...as a non-vet and working with other friends and acquaintances. The numbers...once you get above 30 percent, it's considered a major disability. They...there is a criteria where the medical starts to kick in after 30 percent. At 50 percent, there's another level that kicks in. And in discussion with...I worked with the State Department of Veterans Affairs. They...they're...they think this is really amazing, but it's the fact that at 70 percent, you're showing that you have at least two major disabilities. And the way the disability system works is if you're at 50 percent, and you get another 50 percent, it only comes up to 80. And if you're at 80 percent, and you get other stuff that's wrong, they give you 2 or 3 or 4 percent more. So it's an exponential rise coming up. So it means that at 60 percent, that's the possibility of a single, very debilitating; but at 70 percent, we're absolutely assured

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

June 29, 2022

that...I mean, maybe perhaps, you may want to look at lowering the system at a different time or whatever. And also, the demographics that I have here show the 70 percent to 90 percent as well. They group them in categories like this for a reason, and it's only 70, 80, 90, or 100. It's never 5 or 6 percent. It's always on the 10 percents. But at 70 percent, you're guaranteed...you're helping people that are in desperate need. One thing I would like to...if you wouldn't mind, to take a second. These statistics came out in 2000...sorry. Let me...I apologize. I should have had this out. These statistics came out in 2016, and the median household here on Maui at that time was 657,400. It's six years later, and it's 1.2 million. And so when you're looking at disabled veterans who are trying to keep things together with their families, or widows, that's a huge burden as far as the tax side. And that's where this can make a difference. It's just a few hundred families, but it can make a huge difference for a lot of people, especially in our rural communities. I'm sorry if I took too long in that, but I really wanted to get that in.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Lester. Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Member Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah. Thank you very much, Madam Chair. And just for the Members' information, I tried to make contact with the local VA office for comments on this bill; did not get a response back. So if I could ask for your consideration, maybe having a letter under your signature sent...just for comments. And you know, just on a side note, sometimes there are complaints from veterans about sometimes slow responses we get from our local VA offices. So maybe they might respond a little faster if they see an official letter under your signature requesting comment about this proposal. I can't see them opposing it, but still, it would be nice for them to comment. And maybe also provide additional comments on Member Sugimura's answer about the 70 percent and so forth. So something along those lines, I think, would be helpful so this way, you know, we can cover as many bases as we can with regards to this proposal. But again, I would be shocked if they would have any major concerns because this certainly would help a lot of veterans with disabilities. So if I could ask for that consideration, Madam Chair, with a letter to the VA office. And I can get that address for you as well, if you'd like. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina.

MR. LESTER: Also, if I could, Madam Chair, with your...with your...if I could on this, I actually stopped by the State Department of Veterans Affairs. For two years, there's been COVID. Many of these cases have to be taken before court. This one gentleman I'm working with--there are three staff in the office--he has 1,000 veterans...1,000 veterans that he's working with. He's doing 12-hour days, six days a week. So he said he'd love to have done it, but he was on his way out to cover another court. So these are the dedicated...and he was a veteran himself. So we're all trying to help on this side . . .
.(timer sounds). . . and I'm sure they will. Thank you so much for your time.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Lester, for that additional context. That's really

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

June 29, 2022

unfortunate that the Federal Government is not appropriately funding the offices for our veterans.

MR. LESTER: It's actually the State. This is the State Department of Veterans, yeah. Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. How unfortunate. Okay. Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to clarify on Mr. Lester's chart in his second written testimony that was sent in. The 383 number of the 70 to 90 percent, that's just the number on Maui. So that would be the max because we don't know that all of the 383 are homeowners; is that correct?

MR. LESTER: That's correct. And if you'll take a look at that page 10, which I think you're looking at, that was sent to you over Granulus [sic]...or Granulus [sic]--if you take a look at the other page that I gave you, page 21 of the Maui County Real Property...who pays minimum tax, you'll notice that there are 334 disabled veterans shown there, and that's 100 percent. If you follow across on the...page 10, you'll notice that there are 373 that are set up here. If you look at the 70 to 100 percent, you'll see 383. So it's basically on a...on par. So if you...out of...out of the 373 that are possible at 100 percent, we have 334 that have actually put in and are under the disability exemption. We can look at basically the same number for the 70 to 100 percent. That's the way I extrapolated that. Does that make sense?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah, you're just estimating how many of those --

MR. LESTER: Correct.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- that they're 70 percent and above, but below 100 percent, that are homeowners, or that their surviving spouses are homeowners and unmarried still?

MR. LESTER: That's correct. It's a rough approximation. It's the best we have with the data that we have.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. You know, I fully support this. I would support it more if we could stop making disabled vets by stop fighting wars. I think that would be the ultimate solution, but until that time, this is, I guess, better than nothing.

MR. LESTER: I think that's in all...I think that's in all of our hearts, honestly. Really do.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. I...I'm...that's all my questions. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Fully agree with your last comment. Members, any other questions or comments? No questions, and then we'll do the motion, and then *(audio interference)* Member Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just a question for the Department. Would it be possible, if the bill were to become effective before the end of the year, for

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

June 29, 2022

veterans to apply for the exemption as soon as possible, or do you need more time? I mean, say if, you know, this bill were to pass, gets through Council by, say, late July, August, is that sufficient time for, you know, veterans or eligible spouses to apply for this exemption?

MR. TERUYA: Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Or is this something that we'd have to wait...a later implementation date?

MR. TERUYA: Chair.

MS. MARTIN: Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Director.

MR. TERUYA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Molina, for that question. All exemptions...everything to do...that we have in the tax program is effective January 1. We do not prorate or backdate anything similar to home exemptions, et cetera. And I think moreover, the system would not let us to do that right now. All of our systems, all of your exemptions are all as of January 1. So you must apply prior to the start of the assessment year, which is prior to the fiscal year. It would be problematic also because you would open the can of worms of if you do an amended assessment, you're also...are allowed to appeal again. And then that would affect all of your certification reports. I could go on and on, but it's just a little problematic. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Got it.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Thank you for that response. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina. Ms. Martin, I heard your voice. Did you want to add anything additional?

MS. MARTIN: I would just like to say, though, that moving forward, you know, as soon as the bill passes, we can make an application. And I would urge potential applicants to file their application first, just in case the VA takes, say, six weeks. You don't want to miss the deadline waiting for that paperwork. So first file your paperwork, then go to the VA and get your documentation.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Great recommendation, Ms. Martin. Mahalo. Okay. Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you so much, Chair. I just had a thought. So I think I'd like to ask probably Member Molina. You know, the resolu...the bill talks about spouses of the deceased veteran or the veteran himself. But in situations where the vet has passed and he doesn't have a wife, but they have children, did you guys ever consider what would happen in that situation?

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

June 29, 2022

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Hmm. You know, to be...Madam Chair, yeah? To be honest --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: -- I didn't, but I don't know if maybe Mr. Lester wants to add to that. But I guess I...we're just thinking in terms of the spouse.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: But I guess maybe if you had a veteran who was single, and maybe his or her children was living in the same household, then...you know, I don't know. You know, that's a good question. I'd like to get input from Mr. Lester about maybe surviving children.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, yeah.

MR. LESTER: Sure. Madam Chair...or...

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Lester.

MR. LESTER: Sure, Madam Chair. And thank you for the question. You know, I think that we get into a complexity. We were trying to take a simple bill and make simple changes. And I think these are great questions because bringing this forward, you're actually looking at the bill through a granularity that we didn't have before. My recommendation would be to get this bill through now, and then take...come back in, say, a year, see how things are working, and look at the changes that are necessary so that we can begin to address...we don't have to...the longer we take now, the less of a chance we have of being able to serve the vet public. And I think that what Councilmember Kama's brought up is absolutely germane, but it's just a matter of timing. So I think this would be something great to bring up next year, and at the same time...and also I want to thank the person from...I apologize...Marcy, but I should use her last name. And I apologize. I can't remember. Thank you very much because...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Martin.

MR. LESTER: Yeah, I'm sorry. Yes, Ms. Martin. I think the suggestion that I made to do a mailing to the owner-occupied class since they have to be, by definition, owner-occupied...it's only 2,788 people to do that mailing out with just the form saying, hey, this is available. It'll catch the veterans. A lot of these veterans are remote without any kind of Internet or anything else, it would give them a chance to stick something in an envelope and send it back, and that...I think that would be a minor cost. And the other thing that I would do is make sure that this is set up so there are no problems--and Ms. Martin perhaps could say something about this too--to make sure that this bill is as of the next fiscal year, so somebody doesn't try to come back and say my husband

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

June 29, 2022

died ten years ago; I need ten years' worth of exemptions or whatever. Make sure that it's in the bill that it starts as of January 1st or whenever . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . whatever period that you want to put on there. Okay, thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Lester. Mahalo, Member Kama. All right. Members, any other questions? Okay. I have a question for Ms. Martin. Ms. Martin, do you have any other recommendations or any other comments for us to consider?

MS. MARTIN: No, other than helping...if it does pass, helping getting the word out is always good. Letting us know as soon as possible if it does pass so we can get the application out. I'm going to look at my notes here. And of course, if you do speak with the VA, I would ask them to help us get the word out, and help us identify areas that we can do marketing and promotion.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Since they have the list of that 200, yeah, that makes sense. Mahalo, Ms. Martin. Okay. And a question for Member Molina regarding the \$150 in property taxes?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Um-hum.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The rationale behind the \$150, and if something tied to minimum tax, like 50 percent of minimum tax, would be something you'd be open to.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Certainly, yeah. Easy.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. But with the 150, there wasn't...I guess I get concerned sometimes, you know, about it not...it getting locked in there without any way to move it. But...Member Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: No, I...you know, I'm open to...I think already this is a big step we're taking, so I'm certainly open to that suggestion. I mean, the mere fact we're discussing this and we're ready to move it along, I think, would be a very, very good thing for our veterans, and opens the door for more veterans with disabilities who are rated less than 100 percent, a chance for them to get any type of tax relief, or their families, is much appreciated, especially in the times we're living in, where prices have just escalated, you know. And you know, Mr. Lester's sheet that he provided us, that was five years ago, and look at what property values are now. So...and, you know, many veterans are very, maybe, reluctant or maybe not aware of any of these types of...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, so anyway, sorry. I think I've went over my limit.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I have 30 seconds.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Oh, okay.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

June 29, 2022

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I have 30 seconds left.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: All right. Okay. No problem. I don't want to time hog. Thanks.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So...okay. So this, like other property tax legislation, Ms. Martin or Director Teruya, would take effect starting January 1st?

MS. MARTIN: Chair, yes.

MR. TERUYA: Yes. That's the year starting January 1st for Fiscal Year...yeah, the following fiscal year, yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And then it would take effect January 1st, but it wouldn't be applied to our budget until . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . July 1st *(audio interference)* for those watching. Okay. Is there anything else that Members would like us to consider? If not, we can move forward. We do have time, since it's June, if there is anything...we'd like to wait for a response from the VA or anything like that. Any preference, Members? Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I'm in support...full support, Chair. I'm ready to vote on this if we want to move it forward.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Any Members wishing to have it in Committee for further discussion? If not, the Chair will entertain a motion to recommend passage on first reading of Bill 110 (2022), entitled "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 3.48.475, MAUI COUNTY CODE, RELATING TO HOMES OF UNMARRIED SURVIVING SPOUSES OF VETERANS WHO DIED WHILE ON DUTY AND TOTALLY DISABLED VETERANS." Incorporating --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So moved.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- mahalo, Member Kama. Incorporating any nonsubstantive revisions.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Second.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Seconded by Member Molina. Discussion? Okay. Member Molina...

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Chair . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, Member Kama, followed by Member Molina, and then Member Sinenci. Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I'm so excited to be able to move on this bill. I just feel bad in my heart that this came too late for my brother's children. When he passed, he was a widow [sic]. He had nine children under the age of 18 that was left in the home that he had

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

June 29, 2022

purchased with him and his wife, and the kids had to figure out how to make it work. And I think the youngest at the time was four. But I'm very happy that we get to save future families from this kind of grief. So, thank you, Mr. Molina. Thank you, Mr. Lester, for the research. And thank you, Chair, for the letter that you're going to send to the VA to ask these questions that are so important for our people. So thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Kama. Member Molina, followed by Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah. Thank you, Madam Chair. Well, I certainly echo the sentiments of my colleague, Ms. Kama. And, you know, thank you, Madam Chair, for again, bringing this matter expeditiously. It was just recently referred from Council, and you know, you let me know that you were going to address this ASAP. So I certainly appreciate it, and many of our veterans, and also Mr. Lester as a resource who approached me about this. So, you know, although I'm introducing this, I want to make sure credit goes where it appropriately does, Mr. Lester and other veterans. And I want to thank all of our veterans for serving our country. And those who are experiencing disabilities, it's certainly not easy, after serving your country, and then you come home disabled, and especially, then, those who lost their lives, and their spouses and families having to live without their mom or dad. So this is just one small way the County of Maui can thank all of our veterans. So thank you again, Chair, for shepherding this bill. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina. Oh, I forgot. Did you want to make a motion to amend the property tax of \$150 per year to 50 percent of minimum tax? No pressure to.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. All right. So moved.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Second.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Moved by Member Molina, seconded by Member Kama. Any discussion on that motion?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: No further discussion.

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

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED AYE

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Motion passes unanimously.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

June 29, 2022

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

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **None.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: **APPROVE amendment to main motion.**

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Chair, for my opportunity, I'd just like to speak in strong support and express my appreciation to Member Molina and Mr. Lester for bringing this forward for us to consider today. Although it is for spouses of veterans and . . . *(inaudible)*. . . do see a lot of our homeless population that are veterans and who are mostly Hawaiian or both Hawaiian and veteran. Before they get to that situation, we're happy to support whatever we can do prior to . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I think your computer did the same thing my computer did. It muted for like the last five words of what you said, Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Happy to support our veterans, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. It's so frustrating, yeah? Okay. Anyone else wishing to speak to the main motion as amended? Seeing no other hands, I'll thank Member Molina again, and Mr. Lester, for bringing this legislation forward for the Council's consideration, and the Finance Department for working with us on this. Okay. So I'll call for the question. All those in favor of the main motion as amended, please raise your hand and say, "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED AYE

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Motion passes unanimously.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

June 29, 2022

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

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **None.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: Recommending **FIRST READING** of Bill 110, CD1 (2022), by C.R.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you, Members.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina.

ITEM 82: BILL 93 (2022), HOMEOWNER EXEMPTIONS (Bill 93 (2022))

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And we're at 3:02, and we just were getting the last information on Bill 93, and then we can adjourn our meeting. Director Teruya, on Bill 93, Homeowners Exemptions.

MR. TERUYA: Chair, I'd like to maybe defer to Ms. Martin, as she did the initial calculation, so she'll be able to state more astutely as to what her numbers represented. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Ms. Martin.

MS. MARTIN: Thank you, Chair. So we were addressing the revenue impact based upon this year's numbers, and that does consider the changes to both sections of the Code. So that was the total number.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Martin. Okay. Thumbs up by Member King. Okay. Any other questions? Okay. Any other need to keep this in Committee? Okay. Members, the Chair will entertain a motion to recommend passage on first reading of Bill 93 (2022), entitled "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 3.48.450 AND 3.48.466, MAUI COUNTY CODE, RELATING TO HOMEOWNER EXEMPTIONS," incorporating any nonsubstantive revisions.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So moved.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

June 29, 2022

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Second.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Moved by Member King, seconded by Member Kama. Did I go mute again? Oh, okay. All right. Okay. Any discussion on the motion? Okay. Seeing none, I'll call for the question. All those in favor of the motion on the floor, please raise your hand and say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED AYE

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. Oh. Okay. The motion passes unanimously.

VOTE:	AYES:	Chair Rawlins-Fernandez, Vice-Chair Paltin, and Councilmembers Johnson, Kama, King, Lee, Molina, Sinenci, and Sugimura.
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NOES:	None.
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ABSTAIN:	None.
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ABSENT:	None.
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EXC.:	None.
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MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: Recommending **FIRST READING** of Bill 93 (2022) by C.R.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. All right. Mahalo, Director Teruya, for being with us today. Mahalo, Ms. Martin, for jumping on so quickly, multitasking over there. All right. That concludes today's Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee meeting. Mahalo, Members, for getting us out so quickly. It's 3:05. And tomorrow we have PSLU Committee meeting at 9:00, and Affordable Housing Committee meeting at 1:30. That's a schedule change, so that'll be from here on out: Affordable Housing Thursday afternoon, and HCP on Monday afternoon. And that's...okay. Any other announcements before we adjourn? All right. Seeing none, it's 3:05 on June 29th...oh. Today? Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Chair, yeah, just a reminder. Tomorrow at 1:00 p.m., the Conservation Committee . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Is that the Conservation Planning Committee?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yes.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

June 29, 2022

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, that's going to be their first meeting? Oh, no, it's the second meeting. Okay. Anyway, there's a meeting tomorrow at 1:00. All right. It's now 3:06 on June 29th. Good job, Members. Mahalo for your expeditious work. The Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee is now adjourned. . . .(gavel). . .

ADJOURN: 3:06 p.m.

APPROVED:



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

bfed:min:220629:bc

Transcribed by: Brenda Clark

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

June 29, 2022

CERTIFICATION

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

DATED the 27th day of July 2022, in Wailuku, Hawai'i



Brenda Clark