

HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

M I N U T E S

September 12, 2022

1:30 p.m.

Online Only via BlueJeans

CONVENE: 1:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Tasha Kama, Chair
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Vice-Chair (In at 1:37 p.m.)
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member

STAFF: Jerry Paredes, Legislative Analyst
Laksmi Abraham, Legislative Analyst
James Forrest, Legislative Attorney
Stacey Vinoray, Committee Secretary
Jean Pokipala, Council Services Assistant Clerk
Lenora "Lei" Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk
Nalani Fujihara, Hawaiian Language Communications Specialist

Evan Dust, Executive Assistant, Councilmember Kama
Davideane Kama-Sickels, Executive Assistant, Councilmember Kama
Lois Whitney, Executive Assistant, Councilmember Kama
Ellen McKinley, Executive Assistant, Councilmember King
Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, Council Aide, Hāna District Office
Denise Fernandez, Council Aide, Lāna`i District Office
Zhantell Lindo, Council Aide, Moloka`i District Office
Christian Balagso, Council Aide, West Maui District Office

ADMIN.: Daniel Kunkel, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel
Lori Tsuhako, Director, Department of Housing and Human Concerns
Curtis Jamison, Grants Program Administrator, Department of Housing and Human Concerns

OTHERS: Kelly Pearson, Executive Director, Boys and Girls Club of Maui
Additional attendees (5)

PRESS: Akakū: Maui Community Television, Inc.

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**ITEM HCP-11: GRANT PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORTS FOR
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND HUMAN CONCERNS
GRANTEES**

CHAIR KAMA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Will the Human Concerns and Parks Committee meeting of September 12, 2022, come to order. It is now 1:30 p.m. I'm Tasha Kama, and I am the Chair of the HCP Committee. Members, in accordance with the Sunshine Law, if you're not in the Council Chamber, please identify by name who, if anyone, is in the room, vehicle, or workspace with you today. So, please see the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity. Any questions before we continue, Members? Okay. Seeing as I see none, thank you. So, we're going to do our roll call for the day, and I want to begin with Chair Lee. Aloha 'auinalā...because you have put into the chat this afternoon's greeting. So, aloha 'auinalā, Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aloha 'auinalā, Madam Chair, and today's greeting comes from Italy. This morning we talked about buongiorno. And now, this afternoon, it's buon pomeriggio, buon pomeriggio. I'm here alone in my workspace, looking forward to your meeting.

CHAIR KAMA: Oh, buon pomeriggio, Chair Lee. And the same to you, Member Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Buon pomeriggio. Perfect, it goes right along with my hamburger macaroni...and aloha 'auinalā kākou. Broadcasting live and direct from the eighth floor of the County Building, and there's no testifiers at the Lāhainā District Office. Thank you.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Member Paltin. And aloha 'auinalā and buon pomeriggio to you, Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Buon pomeriggio, Chair, and aloha 'auinalā kākou mai Maui hikina. Today we're home alone from my home office, and it looks like there are no testifiers at the Hāna District Office.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Member Sinenci. So I too am home in my workspace, and I too am alone. So, our Non-Voting Members on our Committee are Members Johnson, King, and Molina, and Rawlins-Fernandez. But should they feel the need to attend, they are certainly more than welcome. So, this afternoon, we also want to welcome to our Committee meeting our...the Deputy Corp. Counsel who's representing Mimi DesJardin is Mr. Don Kunkel...Dan Kunkel. Buon pomeriggio, Dan, and aloha 'auinalā.

MR. KUNKEL: Buon pomeriggio, and aloha.

CHAIR KAMA: Wow, we're getting this down, Chair Lee. I also want to welcome, from the Department of Housing and Human Concerns, our Director Lori Tshako. Buon pomeriggio, Lori.

MS. TSUHAKO: I was hoping you weren't going to expect me to say that back, but I'll try.

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Boun...buon pomeriggio to you too, Madam Chair. Thank you for having me.

CHAIR KAMA: That was wonderful. We're going to do the same thing to your Grants Management Administrator, Curtis Jamison. Buon pomeriggio to you, Curtis.

MR. JAMISON: Buon pomeriggio, Madam Chair. Thank you for having us.

CHAIR KAMA: Look at what Chair Lee's doing to all of us. And so, we want to also welcome our Committee Staff, Jerry Paredes, our Legislative Analyst. Aloha and buon pomeriggio to you too, Jerry.

MR. PAREDES: Aloha, Committee Chair, and Members. Buon pomeriggio.

CHAIR KAMA: Look at that, I love...it's...I like rolling it off my tongue, so I'm going to keep saying that. And also buon pomeriggio to Laks Abraham, our other Legislative Analyst.

MS. ABRAHAM: Buon pomeriggio, Chair Kama.

CHAIR KAMA: Wonderful. And buon pomeriggio to our Committee Secretary, Stacey Vinoray.

MS. VINORAY: Buon pomeriggio, Chair, and Committee.

CHAIR KAMA: Look at that. I'm so proud of my Staff, I'm telling you. And also, buon pomeriggio to our Legislative Attorney, James Forrest.

MR. FORREST: Bring me some pizza. I'm hungry.

CHAIR KAMA: Buon pomeriggio to you too, Mr. Forrest. And we also have our OCS Assistant Clerk, Jean Pokipala. Aloha and buon pomeriggio to you too, Jean. And I don't see Member Sugimura here, but I'm going to make an assumption she'll be here later because I didn't hear from her. So, when she does come on, we'll welcome her and greet her in the Italian language for the afternoon. So, thank you, Members, for attending today's HCP meeting. We only have one item on the agenda. It is HCP-11. It is the Grant Performance and Evaluation Reports for the Department of Housing and Human Concerns. Staff, do we have any testifiers today?

MR. PAREDES: Chair, at this time, we have one testifier signed up.

CHAIR KAMA: Okay. I'm going to read our instructions for our testifier. So we're going to begin oral testimony...I mean, public testimony. Oral testimony via phone or video conference is going to be accepted. In accordance with the newly revised Sunshine Law, testimony can occur at the beginning of the meeting, but cannot be limited to the start of the meeting. The Chair will receive oral testimony for agenda items at the beginning of the meeting, and when the item is called up upon the agenda. When testifiers sign up to testify, they must let Staff know whether they wish to testify at the beginning of the meeting, or before the agenda item. Otherwise, the Staff will assume the testifier will testify at the beginning of the meeting. Testifiers wanting to provide video or audio

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testimony should have joined the online meeting via the BlueJeans link or phone number noted on today's agenda. If you are logged in to the meeting, Staff will add your name to the testifier list. Written testimony is encouraged, and can be submitted via the eComment link at mauicounty.us/agendas. Oral testimony is limited to a three-minute per person, per item. If you are still testifying beyond that time, I will kindly ask you to complete your testimony. Please clarify by identifying your name, organization, and item you'd like to testify on in the chat. When testifying, please state your name. And if you are testifying on behalf of an organization or are a paid lobbyist, please indicate that on the agenda item or items you are testifying on. You may indicate in the chat if you do not wish to testify. However, that should not be used for discussion or comments. Please be courteous to others by turning off your video and muting your microphone while waiting for your turn to testify. Once you are done testifying, or if you do not wish to testify, you can also view the meeting on *Akakū* Channel 53, Facebook Live, or mauicounty.us/agendas. So, thank you all for your cooperation. I will now proceed with oral testimony. So, Staff has been monitoring people joining today's meeting by phone and by video, and we'll do our best to make, take each person up in an orderly fashion. At this time, we'll be calling our testifier wishing to testify at the beginning of the meeting. Staff, do we have testifiers to testify at the beginning of this meeting?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair.

CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Member Sugimura just came on. Vice-Chair just came on.

CHAIR KAMA: Oh, okay. Thank you. Okay. Before we go into our testimony, Staff, I'd like to be able to greet the Vice-Chair of our Committee, Member Yuki Lei Sugimura, with an aloha 'auinalā, and buon pomeriggio.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's a good one. Buon pomeriggio.

CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: I have to ask Chair Lee what language that's in. And --

CHAIR KAMA: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- sorry I'm late. I drove home to Kula. So I truly am in jacaranda country. Aloha. Thank you.

CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Very good, very good. Well, welcome. We're just going to begin opening our testimony, public testimony before the meeting. So, Staff, is our testifier wanting to testify before the meeting...before the presentation?

. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

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MR. PAREDES: Chair, the testifier has not indicated their preference.

CHAIR KAMA: Could we ask?

MR. PAREDES: Yes, Chair, we can. The first testifier on the list is Kelly Pearson.

CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. PAREDES: Kelly Pearson, would you like to testify at this time or after the presentation?

MS. PEARSON: Okay. Aloha everybody. Actually, I just signed on just to listen to the meeting --

CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MS. PEARSON: -- and if anybody has questions. So I'm sorry. I'm not here to testify.

CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Thank you.

MS. PEARSON: Thank you.

CHAIR KAMA: Staff, do we have any other testifiers?

MR. PAREDES: Chair, we have no further individuals signed up to testify at this time.

CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Well, thank you so very much. So, Members, I would like to be able to close public testimony at the beginning of this meeting if there are no objections.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. Thank you, everyone. Okay. So I think we're going to continue on with the only item on the agenda, HCP-11, Grant Performance and Evaluation Reports for the Department of Housing and Human Concerns. So, Members, I'd like to, at this time, welcome the Department of Housing and Human Concerns, Lori Tsuhako, to provide remarks on the Fiscal Year 2022 Grant Performance and Evaluation Report. Lori, would you like to begin?

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you and good afternoon, Madam Chair, Committee Members, and colleagues. The Department of Housing and Human Concerns is pleased to be able to present to you the Fiscal Year 2022 Year End Grant Evaluation of the grants managed by our Department. Present with me this afternoon is Curtis Jamison, who is our Grants Management Division Administrator. In Fiscal Year '22, the Staff of the Grants Management Division, as well as Program Specialists from the Office on Aging, the Early Childhood Resource Coordinator, and the Assistant Housing Administrator, executed and managed 112 grant agreements, including capital improvement projects. A total of \$21,374,935 in funding was administered by this Department. And as you can see from

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the report that's provided to you, grants were evaluated as problematic; optimal, in which descriptions such as satisfactory or expected are used; and exceptional...so three categories. Nineteen of those grants, or 17 percent, were considered problematic with scores between 6 and 17.5. And out of this total, four were deemed highly problematic, and all of these grants were either terminated, ended, or on corrective action plan. Out of the total 19, 6 grants were within one point of satisfactory. And also, out of the total of 19, 5 have either been terminated for noncompliance or just completed with no renewal in the current fiscal year. Seventy of our total grants were deemed satisfactory or at expected levels, with total scores between 18 and 24. And 23 of our grants demonstrated exceptional performance with scores between 24.5 and 30. So when we compare Fiscal Year '21 to Fiscal Year '22 in terms of these grant evaluations, we'll see that 32 percent, or about 36 grants, decreased in their total score; 16, or 14 percent remained at the same score; and 44 increased in total score. A total of 16, or 14.3 percent, were not evaluated in the previous fiscal year. On behalf of the Department, I want to take the opportunity to thank our nonprofit partners for their efforts to provide much needed social services for our community. I believe that our grantees understand the need for accountability for how government funds are used and spent. This standard is necessary, and should be expected by every member of our community. The nonprofits that are granted County funds must not only provide a needed service, but they must also be able to administer funding properly, and account for how and what the spending is used. And that's a standard that I think we all can universally agree is necessary when taxpayer funds are being used to provide services to the community. Administering the grant funds allocated to this Department is really a collaborative effort that includes our Department, our colleagues at Corporation Counsel, the Department of Finance, the Budget Office, and the Mayor's Office. You know, our Department's work in trying to get funds to grantees is supported by these other entities within the County. And our Grants Managers within the Department work very diligently with the grantees to uphold the social service safety net, and to maintain administrative oversight over government funds. So, Mr. Jamison, will take...I'll defer to Mr. Jamison on the grant-specific questions you might have, but we will do our best to answer any questions that the Committee may have of us this afternoon. And we thank you for your time. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you so much for that opening remarks. Members, if you don't mind, at this time I'd like to open up for testimony again to see if we have any testifiers, and then continue on with your deliberations after that if there are no objections to that.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

CHAIR KAMA: So, Staff, do we have any testifiers wishing to testify on this item right now, HCP-11?

MR. PAREDES: Chair, we have no individuals signed up to testify.

CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Thank you. So, at this time, if there is no one else wishing to testify on this item, I would like to be able to close oral testimony for HCP-11.

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COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

CHAIR KAMA: But still enter into the record written testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

. . .END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. I heard somebody call for the Chair. Was that our Staff? Okay. Okay. Well, thank you, Members. I will now close public testimony for this item. So, at this time, I would like to be able to thank everyone for being here again. And I'd like to see if there are any questions that any of you might have for either Lori or for Jamison, or anyone who's on today. Yes, Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I may have missed it. But I remember the Director saying there was about 21 million that was granted out. Director, did you mention how many grantees there were in total, and then how many grants were there in total?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Council Chair Lee. The...I did mention the 21,374,000-and change. There were 112 grant agreements. I did not count the actual number of grantees. I'll defer to Curtis. Curtis, do you know how many different grantees we had?

MR. JAMISON: I don't have that number off hand. I'd have to run a query through Excel to figure that out. But I could figure that out and get back to the Council with it.

MS. TSUHAKE: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. Yeah, thank you.

CHAIR KAMA: Any other questions, Members? Yes, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I got a lot of questions, but cut me off when I'm being a question hog, okay?

CHAIR KAMA: Well, I'll tell you what. Members, after Member Paltin has made that statement, if you feel like you want to ask a question, just raise your hand and then we can go ahead and interrupt her. Go ahead, Ms. Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. My first question...I don't...I thought OED is under the Mayor, and I know DHHC is under the Mayor. But is this evaluations coming from Ms. Inamasu, or from DHHC?

CHAIR KAMA: Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because it says annual OED grant evaluation. So I just wasn't sure.

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MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you for your question, Member Paltin. I'm sorry for any misunderstanding. This evaluation of...is of those grants that are administered through the Department of Housing and Human Concerns, and not OED.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay, okay. That does clear it up a lot. The other question I had...so a lot of these indicate missing reports or no reports received. And I just was wondering, is there a format and a deadline that the applicants know about, and put on their calendar, and they just neglected it? Or how does that occur?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Member Paltin. I'm going to defer to Curtis because he probably has a much more judicious response to your question than I would.

MR. JAMISON: Yeah. Thank you for the question, Councilmember Paltin. All grantees are informed. It's actually listed in the grant contract. The grant agreement includes all deadlines for reports. So, those dates are already preset upon execution of the grant agreement. Additionally, the Department provides all grantees with reporting forms. We provide them a template for them to report on, and those...so, they're well informed of the deadline and the forms to turn them in on. And then we...so they know well in advance before the deadline occurs. And it's the same...the deadline is the same every quarter. It's on the quarter, and it's the same for all grantees. They're all on the same schedule.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, you guys don't need to send out reminders and...or do you send out reminders in addition, or that's their kuleana to know . . .(inaudible). . .?

MR. JAMISON: We feel that it's their responsibility, after entering into an agreement with them, that they're informed of this, and they agree to those terms. We will...if we don't get them on time, and we start processing, we'll start looking for follow up with them to determine compliance.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then there's a few within my district that are pretty important to my community, but they got low marks. The Nāpili Bay and Beach Foundation, I had the opportunity to use that pathway this weekend, and it looks fairly okay. But they get all zeroes across the board. Is that because they finished it last fiscal year? Like could you explain a little bit about that one because...or is it because it was managed by the CCRS side?

MR. JAMISON: Can you repeat that organization again?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sure, it's on the last page, Nāpili Bay and Beach Foundation, construction of new public beach access path, G5528.

MR. JAMISON: Yeah, I'm sorry, Councilmember Paltin. I don't think that one is administered by our Department.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. That's...so then the zeroes don't mean anything.

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MR. JAMISON: I don't think we can comment. That's not our...one of our grantees. Maybe that's OED.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It does say...I think that's Climate Change, Resilience, Sustainability maybe. And then there's the Revive Glassworks, same thing on the same page.

CHAIR KAMA: I can't find that, Tamara.

MS. TSUHAKE: Councilmember, this is...

CHAIR KAMA: Are you on page 9?

MS. TSUHAKE: I don't see...I don't even see that grantee on my list.

CHAIR KAMA: Neither do I.

MS. TSUHAKE: I think maybe you might be looking at a previous...the...the document that we transmitted over for today's discussion was entitled, Year End Grant Evaluation, next line, DHHC-Fiscal Year 2022. And I believe we have *(audio interference)*.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I'm really working off of an OED paper, that's why I was so confused.

CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Well, Tam, you want to go ahead and go look for that on Granicus so that you can be up to speed? Because I looked at some of your grants in your area too. So, you might want to go look for that and then come back. In the meantime...in the meantime, while Tam's doing that...Lori, you know, in the grant, do you folks inform the grantees that you will be issuing a report card to them, and that that report card is what the Council will be using to evaluate the grants? Is there something that says that in there?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Committee Chair. The grantees have all received the same material that you are reviewing right now.

CHAIR KAMA: Um-hum.

MS. TSUHAKE: They were sent that material, I think, about a week after the formal transmittal was done through the Mayor's Office. So, all of the grantees should have a copy of that. They should be aware of what their scores were. And unless they don't open their email, they should've received that.

CHAIR KAMA: Okay. And then my next question is, you know, when the grant...when you send out a communication to...so you...there are grant reports that are due, it is the grantees' responsibility to get them in. And if they don't get them in, and you send a reminder or something, and they still don't get them in, do they still get their next draw

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down, or do you hold that next draw down until they submit that report?

MS. TSUHAKE: I believe we hold. I don't think we pay that out --

CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MS. TSUHAKE: -- until we receive what's due to the Department.

CHAIR KAMA: Okay. That makes sense.

MS. TSUHAKE: Sometimes what's challenging is that if we pay out too soon without all those...without all those requirements being submitted --

CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MS. TSUHAKE: -- and the accounting doesn't work out, the agencies have to pay us back because we've actually provided them with more money --

CHAIR KAMA: Up front.

MS. TSUHAKE: -- than they've spent. Yeah.

CHAIR KAMA: Right, right. So, it makes sense to me. So, it makes sense that if you're asking me for something, and I don't give you what you want, and I don't get my next draw down, that would be an incentive, I would think--to me--to fill out that form and send it in, so I can get the next draw down that's due to me. And that doesn't seem to be happening in terms of, I think, what we're looking here; is that right?

MS. TSUHAKE: Sometimes it's not, you know. I think sometimes agencies get really busy, and they overlook those timeliness issues. I think at other times, agencies have multiple funding sources. So, they might be able to take in funding from other sources, so the County money is not really everything that they depend upon. So, they feel like they can just put that aside.

CHAIR KAMA: Oh, I see.

MS. TSUHAKE: And we understand that. We understand that there's...you know, many agencies have multiple funding sources, but we try really hard to emphasize to them that, you know, if their agencies are...that are all dependent on County funding in order to maintain their operations, that they signed a grant agreement that has these requirements laid out, and we expect them to be able to meet those reporting requirements.

CHAIR KAMA: Okay. So, Tam, do you have any questions? Okay. You got?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I do. But this...I just got to say that this sheets that I'm looking at now that are the right sheets look a lot better than the OED one. So that's a relief.

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Those scores were not even as good as these ones.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I was wondering...you know, a big one for me is the Lāhainā LEAD Program.

CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And I'm pretty stoked to that they got that together before the end of the money ran out. And I just was wondering if you had any update you could fill us in on, like other areas in the County with the vacant store fronts. Other merchants are calling me and having problems. And I noticed the Wailuku Clean and Safe has like its own website on the County, like mauicounty.gov. And I was just wondering if there's a timeline. I did speak to Mr. Kauha'aha'a, and he said that he's working with Theo Morrison, and they're going to put together a big town hall within the next month. But between now and then, is there like a site where people will know they have that resource to contact that's better than I can help them?

MS. TSUHAKE: Councilmember Paltin, this is Lori. I also had a meeting with Lawrence. I met with him and his fiscal sponsor, Susie Thieman from Lokahi Pacific, last week because there seemed to have been a couple of bumps in the road, which I thought had been overcome several weeks ago. But as it turns out, the actual use of the Ka Hale A Ke Ola's West Side Shelter as a placement for the unsheltered to be brought off the street and placed in a safe place has become an issue, I guess, of regulatory concern for the shelter operator. He has been waiting to get the State's approval for that use of the shelter, and has not received a response yet from the State, which is actually the holder of the contract for homeless shelters. I spoke to the Administrator of the State's Homeless Programs Office, and he indicated to me that the proposed use was fine, it was allowed under the shelter contract. But Monique and I were supposed to speak this morning, but she's off of work for this entire week. So, I don't think that we're going to get anywhere until she returns back to the office. And actually, she hears directly from the State that that arrangement is okay. So, the whole idea was...the hang-up was that originally, the intent was to use the pallet homes, and to set some pallet homes up on the Lāhainā Ka Hale A Ke Ola site. But then in discussions with County colleagues and with the grantees, we found out that building permits and two other regulatory issues had come up. And the agencies were...it was recommended to them that they hire a consultant to sort of navigate the building permit, the planning, the zoning, and all those issues, and they didn't have the funds to do that. So, Ka Hale A Ke Ola had offered spaces in their shelter to house the people taken off the streets, and then these other concerns came up. So, it feels a little bit like we were spinning in a circle for a while. But I think that once Ms. Ibarra returns to the island, and we can get that...her concern about her State contract addressed properly, we should be able to go. I think Mr. Kauha'aha'a is very eager to get that going, and I think he's also fielding those questions from the community and from businesses about, you know, wanting to...wanting to work with those who are unsheltered, and have them in a safe place, but also give them access to those services that are much harder to access when you're

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living in an unsheltered condition. So, that's the update as far as end of last week.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you so much for the update. And just to clarify as well, that...then the Lāhainā Clean and Safe is totally separate from this program that you oversee, and you don't have knowledge of that side of it as well? Because I believe we funded that as well, and I know the LEAD side is to take them off the street, at least ten units. Just wondering about, you know, the feces, and the urine, and like that, on the buildings and the street. And like that would be the Lāhainā Clean and Safe side, and that's not under your purview?

MS. TSUHAKE: You are correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then Ms. Yamashita is going to come back, right?

MS. TSUHAKE: She'd better come back. . . .*(laughing)*. . . I expect her...I expect her to be back next week. That's according to her out of office message that I received when I...she and I were actually supposed to meet this morning at 8:30. But when I sent that invitation out, she responded to me, and said that she had to be on O'ahu, and that she would be out for the entire week.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Just checking. We got a lot of people flying the coop left and right. So, just making sure.

CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I'll yield.

CHAIR KAMA: So, Member Paltin, can we go to Member Sinenci, and then we can come back? Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. Yeah, I just wanted to add to the conversation. So, it looks like...Director Tsuhako, you mentioned there were about 19 grantees that failed to follow through with their applications; is that correct? Is that list including in this, or no?

MS. TSUHAKE: Member Sinenci, so the 19 grants that I spoke of were evaluated to be problematic. So, I was trying to break out, out of the total 112, 19 were considered problematic, which equates to a score of between 6 and 17.5.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And...

MS. TSUHAKE: So, that is reflected in the report card itself under total score.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, it's included in this list?

MS. TSUHAKE: Yeah. So, if you look down the list, and if you find an agency that has a score between 6 and 17.5, that grant would've been considered to be problematic in nature.

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. Thank you for that. I wasn't thinking. Okay. And then...and thanks for the explanations because it...and like you've mentioned, you know, some of the grantees that are much larger in size and qualify for other larger grants beside just County grants, they're able to survive, right, or...or like you mentioned, not even...if...you know, pay attention to the County ones. I did...and mahalo for the Hāna ones because for those Hāna ones...I understand, and I know the Department has been working with it, but we've had some challenges, as you know, where there one, they were going through some leadership changes within the organization. So, they had to deal with that, catching up the new Director. And also, for some of our Hāna nonprofits, they also had to move out of the County space. So, they didn't have any office space, and some of them either...you know, some workers either quit or moved to the other side. So, I know that in the last two years, there was a lot of challenges for some of our nonprofits. And I just kind of wanted to see...you know, it's great that we see all the ones that can still provide their reports on a timely manner, but I just wanted to kind of see the...I guess, the data on, you know, which ones are the smaller ones that might need additional help, or don't get those larger grant, matching grants as well. I do see maybe some of the Living Pono ones. I'm not sure if they're used to receiving grants, and they're more busy with some of their regular operations, like deer management. So, I just kind of wanted to see...and the comments help a lot. And so, I just wanted to say mahalo for helping those Hāna grants that went through some struggles during the last two years, and keeping them on the books. Thank you.

MS. TSUHAKE: Councilmember, you know, the grantees that were...you are discussing, we're not naming. But the ones from Hāna, I think, are a perfect example to the larger nonprofit community that the Office on Aging is not like a hammer, right? We're really trying. Curtis and his colleagues go above and beyond what I expect of them in terms of offering assistance to agencies that are struggling to meet these standards. We want agencies to meet the standard because we want the services to continue without interruption. We know that these services are important to the community, that they're valuable. And sometimes it requires changes in agencies themselves, right? If you have three years of noncompliance, and three years of corrective action, that means that your agency needs some help. You need help. And the Grants Management Division has been very diligent in providing that help. We've...you know, they've met with board members, they've met with executive directors, they've met with back office people. We've collectively met with boards to try and help them to get to understand that, you know, in order to continue receiving County funds, you have to have your performance at this level. You cannot stay here. So, you must get to a minimum level of compliance in order to continue to get County funds. And I think it really is very helpful to have a discussion like we are today so that our nonprofit partners can understand that you guys see these report cards. You, as a Council, see these report cards, and you see...you can see, over time, how agencies have responded. And so, you know, you can always call the Department and advocate, you know, what can I do as a legislator to support this agency. And sometimes what you can do as a legislator is to say, you know, make sure you understand what you're signing when you sign that grant agreement. Make sure you know what your responsibilities are, and make sure that you're meeting those

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responsibilities so that, you know, if I intervene, I only have to intervene to ask for more money for you next year, not to beg the Department's patience about giving you more time to do what you know is your responsibility. So, I...so, that's one of the reasons we particularly appreciate the opportunity to have these discussions, and to actually talk about the behind the...you know, behind the scenes work that's done with each and every nonprofit to be able to achieve those outcomes that are beneficial for the community. So I thank you also for your support.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. Mahalo, Director. I appreciate that because I know you've reached out to our office as well to...for assistance, so...thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR KAMA: Oh, I'm the Chair. I can do what I want. Oh, gosh. So, I have a question. You know, in your comments section, you've got, I think, three grants with the same comment. And it says, it seemed like they're not correctly implementing the grant agreement. So, when I see that, in my head, I'm thinking, if you wrote the grant, you said you're going to do one, two, three, and four. And you're going to do one like this, two like that, three like this, four like that. And so, if I do what I said in the grant, everything should be okay. But it seems like what you told me what you're going to do, you're not doing. So, how do you, how do you assist this particular? Because it seems like it's not just one, but there are multiples in one...in one grantee with, that has multiple grants with different programs. So, if they're getting low scores as they try to do one program, then they're just duplicating, triplicating, that they're not clear about the implementation. So, what do you do to help them to see that what they need to be doing is this, but they're doing that...how do you help them to see through that?

MS. TSUHAKO: One of the key things that Curtis and his colleagues have resumed doing as we've sort of moved out of pandemic mode is that they've been doing more field monitoring. During the pandemic, when we were all sort of isolated, they did desk monitoring, which involves receiving documents from the agencies, making sure that the spending is in line with the budget that's been adopted and approved, and sort of doing what they can to monitor what's happening in the field. But because we've sort of transitioned out of full pandemic mode into a closer to an endemic mode, Curtis' guys have been able to go out into the field and to witness themselves what the outcomes are that these grantees have accomplished. And so, let me give you an example. So, if I were a homeless agency, and I say that I'm going to be able to move 15 people from my shelter into permanent housing, and the County were to come to my office and do monitoring, I would want to know which 15 people were registered in the shelter. So, I need to have proof that they were actually intaked into the shelter. And then I would have to see some sort of verification that they moved successfully from that shelter into a permanent housing situation, right...so, I would look through the actual files of those particular clients to ensure that there's 15 of them that were reported to me in the last report. And I can verify that 15 people have transitioned from the shelter to permanent housing. You know, if I'm doing a substance abuse program, and I say I'm going to get 20 people to successfully complete outpatient treatment, then I want to see that 20 people successfully completed treatment. So, files with their attendance, files with their certificate of completion, right? So, there's different ways that grant monitors would go in to verify the results that were...of those performance measures that were proposed.

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It's a little tricky, if you think about it. If every grant just has outputs--so, I say I'm going to give a peanut butter sandwich to 15,000 people, there's no way I can count 15,000 peanut butter sandwiches, right? But if I say, because of all the great work that I'm doing as a homeless outreach worker, I got 10 people into the shelter from living, you know, by the riverbed, ten of them agreed to go into the shelter because I worked with them and the shelter to get them in, then that's something that's verifiable. Because the homeless outreach would have that person's name, they've been registered in HMIS, and then we could see the shelter has an intake for that person. So, there's all...it depends on what the proposal...the proposed service is. There's all different sort of ways that Curtis and his staff go in to monitor the efficacy of that program.

CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MS. TSUHAKE: And to verify whether those outcomes are actually occurring or not.

CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Thank you. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Director, I'm wondering if within your office, Curtis' section, there may be a need to have folks not only oversee the applications and monitor the activities, but maybe have a counseling or compliance section that helps people fill out their applications correctly, understand the requirements and expectations, and know how to prepare and submit quarterly reports. Because as you know, as a Director in your position, when I was there, we had the same problems, yeah...we had the same problems. And one of the things that I tried to do was to...and the old-time executive directors will know because I went to speak to every one of their boards. And I told them that, you know, it's nice to have sympathetic people on the board, but you need working board members...people who understand finance, people who understand the law, people who can contribute to the operations, yeah. And so...and if you can't...if you can't find those people to be board members, maybe you can just create a task force of...you know, a financial committee, or something like that. Because these people have to understand the bureaucracy. Most people don't, you know, whether it's grants, whether it's permits, whether it's passing a law. Everything is so chock full of paperwork, requirements, and this, and that. The average person...if you were to build a house tomorrow, the average person wouldn't know how to comply, yeah. Because it's...Government has grown to a point where it's overwhelming...the requirements are overwhelming. The same with grants. So, if the Department itself...because I know you were saying the agencies should find some...get help. But if they're not able to get help, the only other people to help would be the County. And so, instead of the people at the County saying okay, you did this wrong, take it back...so, they would just show them, you know, like okay, this is what you have to do. And then...but it takes a certain kind of person to do that. Not all of your grants managers know how to counsel, and vice versa. So, you know, I'm wondering if we can give you a couple more positions in the next budget that could focus on. Because, you know, a lot of the...over 50 percent seem to be okay of the 112 grants, but it's the other 50 percent that need help. But those are the ones that's struggling to do...to perform the service. So, as they're performing the service, they're neglecting their paperwork. So, who else is going to do the paperwork? Maybe we can help by...if you expanded your program, and had...the people in the

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program would be specialists to help those fledgling agencies. Is that a possibility? To you or Curtis.

MS. TSUHAKE: Madam Chair...Madam Chair, I think that is a possibility. I think if I had to prioritize the function of any additional staff for Grants Management, I would be asking for an accountant, somebody with a strong accounting background who can work with the agencies on their budgets...because that's been particularly very challenging for us during this term. I do want to allow Mr. Jamison to respond to your comments because he has more direct knowledge of the depth of that work, and the consultation that's done by his Staff with the nonprofits themselves. So, Curtis, would you mind addressing Council Chair Lee's comments please?

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you.

MR. JAMISON: Yeah, sure. Thank you. Thank you for the question. Yeah, normally we don't provide feedback just telling the grantees that it's wrong. And we're more than willing to sit down with grantees to go over what their issues are. Of the grants that we have, as Lori was...Director Tsuhako was saying at the beginning was, there's really only 17 percent of the grants, or I think it was 19 grantees, that we would actually say are problematic. So, the other 80...what is that, 83 percent of them are actually at least at sufficient level, so there's not a huge amount of grantees that are highly problematic. And we're...the ones that are problematic, we tend to spend a lot of time with them trying to help them with...not simply just knowing that they're having a problem, but trying to help them resolve those issues. So, identifying them, and helping to present paths forward. We don't write the stuff for them, but we do quite a bit with them to help them. And if we can't provide that necessary technical assistance, we'll help point them into the direction of somebody who can. So, we'll refer them to organizations that can help, such as HANO...or if they need assistance with accounting or bookkeeping, maybe they don't have the capacity for that. We've made recommendations for other firms or agencies that do provide those services, and can train them, so that their staff has the capacity to do that.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay, Curtis, let me give you one example. When I was there, the application was 26 pages long. How long is the application now? Is it shorter?

MR. JAMISON: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: How many pages?

MR. JAMISON: I'd have to look it up.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, that right there is daunting. So, if you...if you've cut it in half, that's wonderful. But I used to complain about that because, you know, when you apply for a mortgage, it's one sheet, two-sided...two sided. And that's for the most significant investment in anybody's life. So, I always wondered why our applications had to be so long. I'm glad that you've trimmed it down, and that's a big help. It's those kinds of things that we don't realize how daunting it can be, especially with an agency

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that barely has enough people to make it go. And so, even with the instructions, they're still going to need help, you know, because somebody who has the time to actually complete all the requirements, though it may be...it may be not only your help...you know, your help from your office, it may be recommending that they find an umbrella agency. Or maybe you help them find board members who have that...you know, a lot of bookkeepers, they'll do it as a donation to the agency. It's like, you know, when you putting a board together, the first thing you look for is a bookkeeper or accountant. The second person is an attorney. So, you know, it's that kind of thing that maybe they don't think about. But, you know, I do appreciate that you folks take...you know, take a...so like personal interest in people, and that you don't just simply say you don't finish...you didn't finish the application. I'm glad...I'm glad you have that kind of incentive and motivation in your office. Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR KAMA: You're welcome. Ms. Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Kind of going off of what Member Lee was saying, I just was wondering, you know, how, compared to that other packet I was looking at, like you said, like close to 80 percent are satisfactory, or are not problematic. I just was wondering Mr. Jamison's thoughts about partnering up recipients, you know, like to keep each other accountable, to share in how they fill out their grant, or their paperwork, and things like that, so that, you know, you have somebody that's kind of successful in hitting those categories, and then another one maybe in a similar role on a different island or something. And say like, hey, these guys over here, they do a similar job on Maui, and they have high scores and, you know, maybe you want to reach out and talk to them, or something like that. I just was wondering your thoughts on something like that, like peer counseling, as it were.

CHAIR KAMA: Lori...or Curtis?

MS. TSUHAKE: Curtis, do you mind?

MR. JAMISON: Yeah, sure. Thank you. No, I think it's a good idea. And matching agencies up together so that they can kind of learn from each other and share experiences is a good way for agencies to learn. We haven't done it necessarily peer to peer, we have done it in terms of with like a fiscal agent, and they take on different levels of support for that organization. And then as the newer or less experienced agency kind of gains more of a foot and training or more experience, then they've broken out on their own, and they've applied on their own, and we've funded them independently. And we've seen that happen. And we're more than...yeah, we're more than happy to kind of point them. We have done it also with...on program side. So, organizations that programmatically are maybe in the same field, but maybe geographically they're in different places. We've identified them through our monitoring process, or we'll visit them, we'll learn about their program, and we'll say oh, you're doing something similar to so and so, maybe you should talk to them and see if there's something they can...you can learn from each other. We've done that also on their program side to try to help really...you know, our community is the same community in a lot of ways, right? So, if one person's doing good, and we can find that out through our monitoring, through our reporting and our

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knowledge, then we've...we do find that helpful to share, and we have done that, and shared with other organizations to help them kind of learn and get better at what they're doing. So, yeah, it is something we kind of do, and we do look forward to doing that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then when you work with each individual grantee, is there also like bigger compliance classes where at the start of a grant, there might be a class on it? Or is it all one-on-one guidance on compliance?

MR. JAMISON: Yeah, typically we hold a workshop for grantees in which we'll kind of share not just what the requirements are, but things that we've noticed as the years have gone...so, try to identify trends. One of the things that we try to do is to learn from them as well, to see what things we might be able to adjust to make it a little bit easier and less cumbersome, just as Member Lee was explaining, to try to reduce the burden so that we can really kind of get down to what is important. And that is, are they accountable to the funds, are they performing the program as they proposed, and is it taking place, and is it helping our community. And if there's ways that kind of get in the way of us understanding that, we try to...we try to kind of pare that down. And we try to make sure that our expectations are clearly understood. So, not only are the requirements and the necessary stipulations in the grant agreement, you know, put up forward. So, one of the things we do is in our qualifying standard, there's a document all grantees see upon application that reflects the same language that's in the grant agreement. So, up front, they know what the requirements are. They know they have to keep records of their documentation for accounting purposes, programmatically they have to track all their program outcomes and outputs, they have to keep an independent file for the County funds. These are all up front, and they are then memorialized in the grant agreement. So, they know at the beginning and upon signing. Same with the evaluation, year-end evaluations, we make sure up front they know, we're evaluating on these six criteria, this is what we're kind of looking for, and then, we're going to turn this in to Council and the Mayor at the end of the year. So, you know what we're evaluating you on. So, we try to make sure that the expectation is clear up front as well.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then specifically, I was kind of concerned about the remarks for Mental Health Kokua, where it says things like, reports deviate from agreed budget agreement, narratives unclear, and/or illogical. Grantee struggles to follow grant agreement, previous direction and communication resulting in increased and repetitive errors. Like, I think there's plenty need for Mental Health Kokua. And I just was wondering, based on those remarks, moving forward, what is...what does the future look like for funding on that kind of a situation or remarks? Because I see a need for Mental Health Kokua, but those remarks give concern.

MS. TSUHAKE: Councilmember, this is Lori again. I think you're very much correct stating that there is definitely a need for mental health services. The distinction that I'd like to make is that, you know, mental health services can be provided by a number of different agencies, right? Maybe we don't have enough of it in general. But some of the issues that you provided the detail on are chronic issues. They've happened since the first time I was in this office. So, we're talking 15 years ago when I didn't have any gray hairs on this head. That's how long it's been. So, you know, the work is partly a yielding to

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acknowledging of the need for that service, but also, you know, just saying to this agency, again, we need you to do better. We cannot keep giving you money when you're spending it on stuff, we don't know what you're spending it on, you're not spending it the way you told us you were going to spend it, and maybe the outcome...you're doing stuff that you never said in your proposal you're going to be doing, okay. So, it's all part of...I think it's all part of a comprehensive sort of position that the Department is in, that we want to have the service for the community because we know it's important, and yet, at the very same time, I'm not willing to write a blank check to anybody to say here...because you're...because what you say you're doing is that important, you go do whatever you like. That doesn't work with me. It shouldn't work with any of us.

CHAIR KAMA: So, Lori...so, Lori, I hear what we're saying, and I agree with you. And it's almost like we don't have a choice in this. But what...and you've tried over the years to try to get them to comply. They haven't. So, if we don't...if we don't get, or purchase, or if they're not going to be a provider of service, who else is out there that could be a provider of this type of service? Because I feel like they need help. I feel like...but I just kind of think that, you know, as we evaluate the grants under just this Department, other Departments have other grants that I'm not sure if we are privy to evaluate those also in the different...other different Departments. But I'd like to be able to see what's happening in the other Departments, to see how are the taxpayer dollars being spent, and is it being well spent, and what can we do to maybe bring this into some kind of control, and whether or not maybe we should be doing a Grants Division that might be able to help all the Departments, and to weather these kinds of issues that we're having right now and right here. So, what is your...what is your response?

MS. TSUHAKE: Maybe, Chair, I think that, you know, a few years ago, there was a discussion at this body...with this body, about trying to make the grant review process, this evaluation process, more uniform across different Departments. Because we know that grants are being issued by OED, now they're being also issued by *(audio interference)* and I think the Water Department for their watershed projects. I think Department of Agriculture may soon also be issuing grant agreements in the future. So definitely, you know, the Department Staff has the...has a lot of experience with granting funds and administering grant funds, and we're certainly willing to help the other Departments with that process. I don't know that...because of the...because the subject areas are so broad, and the function of those grants is so different--some of them are issued as grants, some of them are issued as contracts for services--that there is a way to absolutely make that process uniform, make the report card uniform. But I think it was something that was, you know, attempted a few years ago. And I think it was a struggle.

CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Thank you.

MS. TSUHAKE: I'll defer to Council Chair.

CHAIR KAMA: Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. Okay. So, another...my concern is similar to the other Members, Director. Some of these agencies that have the worse scores provide some of

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the most needed services. And...for instance, the agency that was mentioned earlier, I can see why that their scores are low because it wasn't too long ago that they...the Director came to speak to us. I'm not sure for which meeting, but I recall how dedicated she seemed, and she's a field worker. She works in the trenches with the mentally ill. So, I don't really expect her to have the business acumen that she probably needs to fulfill our requirements. So, if you don't have more people in your office to provide that service, and you're not able to, let's say, offer her more money to purchase that service, maybe we should look at, like Mental Health Association in Hawai'i. Now, that's more academic. They're there for...to distribute information, and so forth. I don't think they're field workers like the other one. Maybe...and they have high scores. So, maybe they can help, being that they're in the same field. Or you could...you could speak to the Executive Directors Non-Profits Association, and maybe they can help themselves by coming together as a group. And those who...those who are more successful at...with dealing with the paperwork required by the County could help their sister agencies. So, that might be another way that they can help themselves if some of the other suggestions that have been made today don't seem viable. Maybe that's a starting point. So, I just thought I'd throw out that suggestion to you.

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Council Chair. I think...I know that our Grants Management Staff has a meeting with one of the executive directors of an agency whose evaluation score is relatively low compared to the others. I think one of the other...the other strategies that this Administration has tried to do is to really advocate at the State Legislative level for resources when it comes to issues like mental health. You know, there's...there have been a couple of pilot projects that get initiated for O'ahu, and they've been implemented along the way with more funding, you know, as the years go on. But we want to also make sure that the neighbor islands are on...you know, are there. We're very fortunate to have a very dedicated legislative delegation on O'ahu who always says, well, what's...you know, what's coming to Maui. Because we need to have not just the funding...because funding only goes so far, money is only going to solve a little bit of the problem. We really need to have larger capacity. We need to have people who are trained to do outreach, who are trained to do psychiatric care, who are trained clinical social workers. And we have to be able to build a system that allows the system to attract people to come here to do that work. Because without them, you know, we could have a whole lineup of very well meaning, but undertrained and under resourced people who are not going to be able to get it done. So, part of it is looking at well, how can we work with the State resources, or the Federal resources, and try to get more capacity built so that some of the pukas that we see along our social service safety net can be filled. Or we can encourage...encourage that capacity to be built in ways that don't necessarily mean the County has to do everything. Because I don't necessarily think that that's the solution either, is to have the County do everything. I think it's working with the community, and trying to find some other strategies, as well as with County support, but not...definitely not by ourselves. I don't think we have the capacity to do that by ourselves, even with additional positions to support the compliance with grant making requirements.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You know, I can tell you that I feel very confident, with this Council being focused on the homeless problem, that we will make significant strides in the

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future with regard to those in transition. But the area that is the weakest is the mentally ill population. That is the weakest. And we...like you said, we don't have capacity. We don't even have authority, actually, with regard to that population. So, that's why I shudder to think that these guys are not getting enough support from the County, even though it may be their fault, you know. So, that's why I worry about that...that segment. And you're right, yeah, we need more help from the State, absolutely. I agree with that. Thank you.

CHAIR KAMA: Members...oh, yes, Member Sugimura.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, I want to contribute...or continue that conversation, what Lori is saying. Because I agree, I think the State has a huge vested interest in the success of mental health, homeless, and that puka that Chair Lee is talking about, right? So, I believe the Legislature allocated additional wraparound services to help with that, if we're talking about homeless. But General Mental Health Kokua or Mental Health Association, which takes everybody, is not only the homeless. That if...Lori, if there's something that, you know, we can do to support exactly what you said, that the State needs to take a bigger role in it, I'm here to help you in any way that I can. Because I think that's what I hear you saying. And I think even Tasha Kama's first...her first term, she put in some money to help with suicide prevention. But all these kind of are factors of mental health that we see the illness that, you know, may prevail in the community if we don't take bigger steps. So whatever way I can help, or I'm sure the Council can help the Department, please let us know. Because I hear you saying that it cannot be only the County, and I agree with you. And legislative session is coming up, January, and let's figure out, you know, what that message is that you want sent to the legislature. So, thank you.

CHAIR KAMA: Members, do we have any other questions for Lori or...and her team, or anyone else? Okay.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: One more, if I could just --

CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- ask a question. So, I see the, you know, axis deer, right, so in this grant period, you have the axis deer. So, this is a final report for them that I can report? Is that right, Lori and...

MS. TSUHAKE: This is the final report for the Fiscal Year '22 grants.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: '22 grants, okay.

MS. TSUHAKE: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, all the money has been administered, and it's just a matter of their outcomes, that we can ask you for a report on it individually, yeah.

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MS. TSUHAKE: I think because of the timing of the grants...Curtis, can you tell us? I know that the first...the first reporting was expected in July. So, what is the timeline for that?

MR. JAMISON: Yeah. So, many of the grants for feral animal control that are using FY'22 funds are still ongoing. So, we don't have final outcomes and output measures for the FY'22 grants. They're included here because they began in Fiscal Year '22, but they're still ongoing. Many of them have reported for the first time this past...the end of July reporting period...or end of June reporting period, July 21st was the deadline. And we should get another round of reports on October 21st for the next round. The FY'22 feral animal grants are still ongoing.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. So, I will ask for that because I'm going to have an axis deer task force meeting sometime in October. And if I could get, you know, the results. So, I'll do that, I'll ask for it through the Chair, I guess, and then I'll take it to my Committee. So, thank you very much.

CHAIR KAMA: So, Lori, what are the axis deer population management programs? Their grant was terminated in...last year, December, and the grant was for 193,000. So, the 58 is what was left in their last draw down, is that what that means?

MS. TSUHAKE: Are you...Committee Chair, are you talking about the grant on Lāna'i?

CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

MS. TSUHAKE: Yeah. Curtis, can you please explain the circumstances of that grant, please?

MR. JAMISON: Sure, let me just find it real quick on the...on the page. But yeah, the grant was...the grant was terminated due to noncompliance. The grantee just actually continued to fail to respond to any inquiries from our organization. We followed up with them multiple times, and it wasn't until the letter stating we were going to terminate your grant due to noncompliance and nonresponse that they finally responded, and said oh, we're still trying to do things. But they couldn't produce sufficient documentation to actually say they...what they were really doing. So, we ended up terminating that one. We did end up paying out 58,000. That number there was what was paid out of the 193,000, and those were the costs that they were able to bring forward that we were able to reimburse them for, for some of their activities upon reviewing their documents. There's termination clauses within the grant agreement that we need to follow, and one of those includes the ability to recoup some costs for programs. So, we worked with Corporation Counsel regarding the termination of this grant, and that's what we paid out, the 58,000 of the 193. And then whatever that we...

CHAIR KAMA: So, there's a balance in that grant, right? And what happens to that balance in that grant?

MR. JAMISON: Those funds lapse.

CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Okay. Well, thank you. That was...okay, Members, any other

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last-minute dying, burning questions? Yes, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I just was wondering, you know, those grants that you say are problematic, and maybe they've been problematic for a few years or whatever, but they're incrementally getting better. Just, you know, maybe they were 7 or 8, and now they're 8.5. I just was wondering, is there a strategy on that? Because, I mean, they're getting better, but still problematic. So, just...what's the plan for those types of things? Because...I mean obviously, they must be trying if they're getting better, right, but they're just not jumping over that problematic threshold.

MS. TSUHAKE: Councilmember, this is Lori again. The Grants Management Staff, collectively, is probably one of the more patient and tolerant groups of people I've ever worked with in my very long career. They're incredibly patient, and don't...well, I don't say they don't mind, but I think that they are very redundant when they give instructions, and they're very consistent with how they give instructions, and they try to find different ways to explain the same concept so that it's explained. The challenge, I think, with working with some grantees, not all of them, is that, you know, it becomes a systemic problem...if I can take just a minute to explain this. So, if...let's just say, you run agency A, B, and C, okay, so you get \$200,000 from the County, and you submit a report with your financials and everything. And I say, hey, agency A, B, and C, you know, I notice that you're getting money from DLNR to do this thing. So, you're using County money plus DLNR money to do your mission of your agency. How much money are you getting from the DLNR, and how are you using that money, along with our County money, to do your mission? So, your response to me is, yeah, I get money from DLNR, it's none of your business. You don't need to know. And so, I said no, but you know, if I know what you're...how you're using both sources of funding to get your mission done, it makes more sense to me. And here's the other thing. If you're getting money from DLNR to do this mission, and you're getting money from the County to do this mission, you're charging the County \$75,000 for your salary, \$50,000 for your secretary's salary, and DLNR's contract allows you to take some for salaries, but you're not allocating any money to that, and you won't tell me how much you're getting from DLNR or what the deal...or what the restrictions are, then I'm going to ask you, well, if you're getting money from this other source, how much of your salary are you allocating to that other source, right? But if you're not telling me that, or if you're not showing me what the formula is on how you allocate from this source of money to that source of money, to that source of money, then I don't really have a very clear picture of how you're administering the County's funding. So, what if you're just charging...you know, what if...what if you decide you going give yourself a raise because your board said okay. So, you go from 70,000 a year to 120,000 a year, and you decide County should pay for my whole salary. One year you had 70,000, then you went to 120, and then you turn in that budget request to the County, I'm...I would expect that my Staff would kind of question that. So, not that it's absolutely wrong, but there should be an explanation to it, right? If you're not allocating to either one of those...allocating it properly to those two different grant sources, then that would be a problem. If you are, then tell me what it is. Tell me what your formula is, and show me that your expenses are allocated according to that formula, then it'll be fine. So, that's...I think that's the challenge is...that's some of the challenge. Incremental improvement is always welcome. But if I identify an issue

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with you about how you're allocating, and all you do is change the number on one report so that I'm satisfied that one report was changed, the number was corrected on one report, but the next quarter it reverts back to the original number because you only changed it for the purpose of getting that report accepted, then that becomes a systemic problem. So, you didn't fix...you didn't address the system of how you allocate, you just fixed the numerical correction on that one form. And that happens more times than I can explain to you. People will fix stuff just to get that thing approved, but they don't fix the system from which those numbers were created. So, very time a report is turned in, we got to go back to the whole discussion all over again. And try to do that with seven grantees. You'll pull your hair out.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, basically if they're...if they're problematic, they're problematic, they got to get out of the problematic threshold.

MS. TSUHAKE: That's what we want them to do. We want them to get out of the problematic threshold. And part of that is being willing to, you know, follow through on some of those suggestions. If we say, you know, you really could use the help of an accountant to understand how to do this, and turn in a budget amendment so that we can...we can use County...you can use County funds to go pay for a consultation with an accountant, okay...we'll pay for it. But you got to do a budget amendment to allow that because it's not in your original budget. But it's never done. If it's never done, then we know that you never really contracted that CPA to get the help.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, you guys allow for budget amendments then?

MS. TSUHAKE: We have, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Like how we do.

MS. TSUHAKE: We have.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Like if they have this big plan with their application, and something changes radically, then they can change?

MS. TSUHAKE: Yes, absolutely. Absolutely. We've encouraged it even.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Well, that makes it more sad.

CHAIR KAMA: Yes, it does. Wow, this is a good discussion. I'm glad that we're paying attention to the grantees, and that we're paying attention to what their needs are going to be probably in the future. And it helps us next grant cycle, whether or not we're going to maybe support them or not support them, or, you know, at least have our own red flags about certain grantees. But interesting. Yes, Mr. Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Real quick, I just was wondering if the Council could see if this is the final reports, or can the Council see more detailed reports from some of these grantees that are in trouble?

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MS. TSUHAKE: Councilmember, this is Lori. This is the final report.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MS. TSUHAKE: I think if you would like to look at particular grantee files, certainly, this body could make that request in writing to the Department.

CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Mr. Sinenci, do you have any particular grantees in mind that you would like to be able to get more information about?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR KAMA: And what would that information be?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Just maybe the Mental Health Kokua.

CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, thank you.

CHAIR KAMA: Members, do you all (*audio interference*) --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sorry, Chair, my bad.

CHAIR KAMA: So, Members, do you all have a particular grantee that you too would also like to be able to receive information? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Lāhainā LEAD for me.

CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And West Side Ka Hale A Ke Ola.

CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Member Sugimura.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm interested in the Axis Deer, the Lāna'i Resort one. The grant for that which, I guess, you terminated. So, I'm interested in that. And the Living Pono Axis Deer...I mean, there's what, one, two, three, of them.

CHAIR KAMA: I think there's four.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is there four?

CHAIR KAMA: Yeah. Living Pono.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Yeah, I see three, but...okay, if there's four. I don't see the

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fourth one. I know it's still in the works. But I'm interested in them.

CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Member Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes. Is it five that are in trouble? Those five.

CHAIR KAMA: Which five? The Living Pono five?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, no, the ones that are zero to --

CHAIR KAMA: Zero to six?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- 17 .

CHAIR KAMA: Zero to 17. Oh, okay. All the zeroes to 17s.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. I think...I think the Director mentioned there were about five or six of them, yeah.

CHAIR KAMA: So, all of those, Lori, that ranked 6 to 17 because I think 6 is the lowest ranking, right? And then you went to 17.5. All of those.

MS. TSUHAKE: So, Madam Chair, if I would...if I could please ask Committee Staff to send a request in writing to --

CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

MS. TSUHAKE: -- the Department, we can transmit that --

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you.

MS. TSUHAKE: -- information over to the Committee. Thank you.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. So, Staff, do you...do you need to review all of those or do you have that?

MR. PAREDES: Yes, Chair, we have the necessary information to send that request.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Jerry. Okay, Members, this is about time for our mid-afternoon break. But if you feel like you've asked all the questions that you've wanted from Lori and from Curtis, we can just go ahead and continue on if you have no other questions. And I would like to be able to defer this item.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

ACTION: DEFER.

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CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Well, thank you. So the Chair is going to defer this item, and thank everyone for being here, for answering all of our questions, for being able to transmit to the community the information that was requested by the Members regarding their particular interests in their particular organizations or grantees. So, seeing no more questions, the time is now 3:02, and today's Human Concerns and Parks Committee is now adjourned. Thank you very much, everyone. Thank you, Lori. Thank you, Jamison [sic].

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you, Curtis.

CHAIR KAMA: Aloha everyone. . . .(gavel). . .

ADJOURN: 3:02 p.m.

APPROVED:



TASHA KAMA, Chair
Human Concerns and Parks Committee

hcp:min:220912-d:slv:mt

Transcribed by: Marie Tesoro

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CERTIFICATION

I, Marie Tesoro, hereby certify that pages 1 through 28 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 12th day of October 2022, in Wailuku, Hawai'i

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

Marie Tesoro