

COUNCIL CHAIR'S MEETING

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

September 21, 2022

Online Only via BlueJeans

CONVENE: 10:02 a.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Chair
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Vice-Chair, and Chair,
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (in 10:05 a.m., out
12:04 p.m.)
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Presiding Officer Pro Tempore, and Chair,
Human Concerns and Parks Committee
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Chair, Affordable Housing Committee
(out 12:04 p.m.)
Councilmember Kelly Takaya King, Chair, Climate Action, Resilience, and
Environment Committee
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Chair, Planning and Sustainable Land Use
Committee (out 10:59 a.m., in 11:37 a.m.)
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Chair, Agriculture and Public Trust
Committee
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair, Infrastructure and
Transportation Committee

EXCUSED: Councilmember Michael J. Molina, Chair, Government Relations, Ethics, and
Transparency Committee

STAFF: Traci N. T. Fujita, Director, Office of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Deputy Director, Office of Council Services
Yvette Bouthillier, Committee Secretary
Lei Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk

Additional Staff:

Office of Council Services:
Shelly Espeleta, Supervising Legislative Analyst
Marlene Rebugio, Support Supervisor
Clarita Balala, Committee Secretary
Maria Leon, Committee Secretary
Jocelyn Moniz, Committee Secretary
Pauline Martins, Committee Secretary
Laksmi M. Abraham, Legislative Analyst
Paige Greco, Legislative Analyst
Kasie Apo Takayama, Legislative Analyst
Lesley Milner, Legislative Analyst
Gerardo (Jerry) Paredes, Legislative Analyst

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Nalani Fujihara, Hawaiian Language Communications Specialist
Bruce Hashimoto, Council Services Technician
Eric Abe, Council Services Technician
James Forrest, Legislative Attorney
Richard Mitchell, Legislative Attorney

Office of the County Clerk:

Kathy Kaohu, County Clerk (item 3)
James Krueger, Deputy County Clerk
Joyce Murashige, Clerk to the County Council
Lauren Saldana, Assistant Clerk to the County Council
Dell-Fin Yoshida, Council Information and Reference Technician
Dana Ann Nakooka, Senior Election Clerk
Marielle Ramos, Election Clerk
Mei Mailou-Santos, Temporary Election Clerk

Executive Assistants for Presiding Officer Pro Tempore Tasha Kama:

Evan Dust
Davideane Lei Sickels

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Gabe Johnson:

Kate Griffiths
Roxanne Morita

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Kelly Takaya King:

Axel Beers (item 4)
Ellen McKinley
Sarah Sexton

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Michael J. Molina:

Laura McDowell

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Tamara Paltin:

Christi Keliikoa
Angela Lucero

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci:

Dawn Lono

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura:

Miki Yokouchi

District Office Staff:

Christian Balagso, West Maui District Office
Denise Fernandez, Lānaʻi District Office
Daniel Kanahale, South Maui District Office
Jade Rojas-Letisi, Makawao-Haʻikū-Pāʻia District Office

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Zhantell Lindo, Moloka'i District Office
Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, East Maui District Office

ADMIN.: John Pelletier, Chief, Department of Police (Item 3)

OTHERS: Dick Mayer (Item 2)
Albert Perez (Item 2)
Lance Taguchi, County Auditor
Moana Lutey, Corporation Counsel
Others (8)

CHAIR LEE: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Will the Chair's Meeting please come to order? I would like all of you to silence your cell phones. We have almost everybody here today. So, Members, in accordance with the Sunshine Law, please identify by name who, if anyone, is in the room, vehicle, or workspace with you today. So, you just say...when I recognize you, just say who you are, and where you are, and if anybody's with you, okay. So, starting with myself, I am Alice Lee, your Chair. I am home alone in my workspace, and I'm looking forward to this meeting, as I say all the time. And the next person on the list--I'll skip over because I don't see her--so, the next person on the list, Member Tasha Kama, Pro Tem.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Good morning, Chair. I'm looking forward to a very wonderful Chair's Meeting with wonderful dialogue and lots of discussion. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Are you home alone in your...in the neighborhood?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I am in my workspace and I am alone.

CHAIR LEE: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Do you hear a loud noise? Do you hear loud noise? They're power washing the walls outside of my building, so...

CHAIR LEE: Oh, we can't hear it.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay, good.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. No problem.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: All right. Member Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. What's wrong with my thing? There we go. Okay. Hi, everybody. Gabe Johnson in the office, eighth floor, by myself in my workspace, and there's no testifiers at the Lāna'i District Office.

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CHAIR LEE: All right. Great. Thank you. We'll skip over this one. And then Member Michael J. Molina is excused. Member Tamara Paltin, good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha mai kākou. My name is Tamara Paltin. I'm a...at the Lāhainā District Office, and I have Christian Balagso with me. Angela Lucero stepped out, but she might be back later. And we have no testifiers at this time. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. And then Member Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha kakahiaka kākou. I'm Shane Sinenci, and today I am at my home office, and Dawn Lono has chatted that there are no testifiers at the Hāna District Office. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Great. Member Yuki Lei Sugimura, good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Good morning, everybody. I am working from my Kula home, enjoying the peace and quiet here. And I'm reading your article about quiet quitting. Talk to you soon about this. It's very interesting.

CHAIR LEE: All right. And we have Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka. I'm at the Moloka'i District Office, alone on my side of the office, and on the other side of the office we have our Community Outreach Specialist Zhantell Lindo. And my mom is visiting right now, Liko Wallace (*phonetic*). And there are no testifiers here. Oh.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, very good. Then I...does anybody see Member King on the line? I thought I saw her jump on, but then I don't see her name anymore. Okay, I see Kelly King joined the call. Where? Which box are you in? I don't see you. Well, we'll come back to Kelly later. For now, I have...I will have to put her down as excused. And Staff today...Staff today is Traci Fujita, Director of Council Services. Oh, there. I see. Member King, good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Good morning. Do we have a morning greeting?

CHAIR LEE: No, it's just good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: All right. Ohayo gozaimasu.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I'm at my home office, and we have no testifiers at the District Office.

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CHAIR LEE: Okay, great. Thank you. So Traci Fujita's our Director of Council Services. Other Staff include David Raatz, Deputy Director of Council Services; Yvette...oh, I'm sorry. Sorry, I don't know how to pronounce your last name, Bouthillier or something like that.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Bouthillier.

MS. LUTEY: Secretary and first Deputy Corporation Counsel Richelle Thomson and Officer Paul Huins (*phonetic*).

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Corporation Counsel Lutey, you're not muted.

MS. LUTEY: . . .(*inaudible*). . .

CHAIR LEE: All right. Then we also have Lei Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk. All right. That takes care of our Staff. Please see the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity. All right, Members. We're just about ready for testimony...yeah. Yvette Bouthillier, something like that. Yvette, could you call our first testifier?

MS. FUJITA: Chair, this is Traci. I can...I can do the...handle the testimony this morning.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Well, let me give the intro on the testimony. Let's begin with public testimony. Our...oral testimony via phone or video conference will be accepted, in addition to in-person testimony. Please note that if you are signed...if you are signed in, you are on the list to testify, even if you did not request to testify. Please let Staff know in chat if you are signed on and do not intend to testify. All right. 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...the Chair will receive oral testimony on agenda items at the beginning of the meeting, and as the item is called upon...up on 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 an agenda item. So, we're treating this one like a Committee meeting. Otherwise, Staff will assume that the testifier will testify at the beginning of the meeting. Testifiers wanting to provide video or audio testimony should have joined the online meeting via BlueJeans link or phone number noted on today's agenda. Written testimony is encouraged using the eComment link listed for today's agenda on mauicounty.us/agendas. Okay, moving on to oral testimony. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes per item. If you are still testifying beyond that time, I will kindly ask you to complete your testimony. When testifying, please state your first and last name. If you are testifying on behalf of an organization or are a paid lobbyist, please inform the Committee. Please clearly identify your name, organization, and items you'd like to testify on in the chat. You may indicate in the chat if you do not wish to testify. However, chat 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. Staff has posted a link to the testifiers log in chat so that testifiers will be able to see where they are on the list. Mahalo to Councilmembers and the public for being patient if we run into any challenges during the meeting. I will now proceed with oral testimony. Staff has been monitoring

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individuals joining today's meeting by phone and by video, and we will do our best to take each person up in an orderly fashion. At this time, we will call on testifiers wishing to testify at the beginning of the meeting. Staff, please call the testifier...the first testifier. Committee Members are [sic] clarifying questions for the testifier. Okay. Traci, could you please call up the first testifier?

. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

MS. FUJITA: The first testifier has the initials JJ, and that person will be followed by Dick Mayer. JJ, it's your turn to testify.

CHAIR LEE: One more call, and then we're going to move on. JJ, are you there? If not, let's call on Mr. Mayer.

MS. FUJITA: The next testifier is Dick Mayer.

CHAIR LEE: Good morning.

MR. MAYER: Good morning, everybody, and aloha. This talks...the second item on your agenda about County operations. First, I would like to highly compliment your Chair Alice Lee for establishing a new process of reporting what's happened at each meeting of the Council, both the overall Council as well as the Committees. At the end of each meeting, a list has now been prepared that indicates what actions were taken or not taken on each item on the agenda, and I've been getting copies of those. I don't know if Councilmembers have gotten copies as well, but those are extremely useful so people do not have to listen to a whole, long meeting just to find out what's happened on one item that they may have been interested in. They can go back at the end and get it. Two suggestions on that. Number one, when the...those reports come out, they should have a different title. Right now, they just have the date on there, rather than what Committee. So the name of the...rather than issuing those by a date, it should say GREAT Committee March 3rd, or whatever it might be. That would make it much easier for anybody--Councilmembers, your Staff, Council Services--to find what happened at various meetings. And I think this will give an excellent long-term record for the County. So I would urge you to make that change. And I think the second item on that is, please post those so...so somewhere in the future, your Staff will be able to have a website. And give it a title that will make it very clear, like Council Committee actions, or something like that at the...on the website so the public and newspaper people and others who want to find out what happened will be able to locate those items. My second suggestion...and this is a fully different . . .(inaudible). . . When the election takes place in November, one of the items on the ballot will need, I think, rather quick action by the Council, and that is the one...the action that sets up a nominating committee for boards and commissions. That's something that has to be done...the Mayor has to give his or her recommendations to the Council sort of by the end of January. So, it will be very important for you, between November...election date, and mid-December, to establish that nominating committee so that it can begin operating right at the very beginning of January, recruiting and getting people nominated so they can give their recommendations to the Mayor to do that. So, I'm just urging you to treat that with

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great urgency as something to set up. I don't think the Charter amendment has a date on that one, and yet I think it would be...would be remiss if we wait another whole year or two to implement that, what I think will be a very important quality improvement in the way we select our boards and commissions. So that's just a recommendation to you to do that. And I thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you, Dick. You always have good ideas. Questions for the testifier, Members? Just for your information, Members, Dick and I have talked about posting the information he talked about, and I am working with Staff already on that. And now, we'll try and clarify the headings so that it'll be clearer for the public to understand. So Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Thanks for being here, Dick, and thanks for your testimony. I actually didn't know that those summaries were happening, so that's really good to know. And I would also like to commend our Chair for doing that. I think that's a great idea. My question is on the idea of putting out, you know, in November, a call for the nominating committee because...and I just wanted to clarify that you're okay...that would happen with this current Council, and not the next Council, so...

MR. MAYER: It's not specified which Council would do it. It just...it just says that nine members will be appointed by the Council and two by the Mayor. And I think that if you wait until January, until you guys get organized...new Council gets organized, and the Mayor gets...and that's assuming we have a new Mayor, possibly gets going, that Committee would be delayed a whole year, and that would be unfortunate. There's no reason to...you can appoint that Committee, I think, in November, end of November, and get them going. And I would...since I did that, as you may remember, about 12 years ago under Arakawa's first administration, I'd be glad to inform them what we did, and let them go from there, and develop their own rules and regs. But I do think it would be urgent to get that going right away, and there's no reason...like other Department...Department of Agriculture, you set up to...you know, a couple years. Housing, if it splits, will take a while to get going, but this one could go right away.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Yeah, no, I agree with you, and I think it's even more urgent because this one, for some reason, has also the Prosecuting Attorney and the Corp. Counsel in it. So, those are things that are going to be need to...need to be addressed right away as well.

MR. MAYER: That's correct.

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

MR. MAYER: And just a last comment.

CHAIR LEE: We have another question from Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Go ahead. I was just going to ask Mr. Mayer to continue his...he was going to say something.

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MR. MAYER: No, I was just going to say I really was incredibly impressed by your Chair Alice Lee. I gave a suggestion to her, wanted her to do this, and within three or four days, it was done. Never have I seen County action on anything happen quite so rapidly, and effectively, and efficiently. So, thank you again, Chair, and I think you find...in the long run, I think you all will find those very helpful if you're find...trying to find out what happened on an item that was on a...on an agenda.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Chair, no questions for Mr. Mayer, just appreciation for his years of service to our community. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Yeah. By the way, Members, you also get that report. It's called status agendas, not the master agenda, but the status agenda. And on it you will see the outcome of votes that we didn't have before. So, you'll know exactly what happened at the end of the meeting. And that's due to Mr. Mayer's suggestion to me, which I worked with Staff to work it out. So, thank you again. Are there any questions...additional questions for Mr. Mayer? If not, thank you so much again. Thanks, Dick. Thanks for joining us.

MR. MAYER: Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: So, Traci, do we have any other testifiers?

MS. FUJITA: Chair, there is no one else listed to testify today.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. So are there any objections to the closing...well, I guess we can't. We're allowing both.

. . .END PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

CHAIR LEE: I will now proceed with the first item on the agenda. And Traci, let me know if people do call in to testify as we go forward.

ITEM 1. ARTICLE ON QUIET QUITTING (RETENTION OF STAFF) (Director of Council Services)

CHAIR LEE: The first item is Article on Quiet Quitting (Retention of Staff), and I will defer to the Director of Council Services on this matter. Traci. Traci, you're muted.

MS. FUJITA: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Oh, okay.

MS. FUJITA: Oh, okay. So this item I asked to be placed on the agenda. I try to keep up with workplace trends, and this concept of quiet quitting has been coming up quite a bit recently with personnel type of matters. And I thought it was interesting because it's basically like a...I guess an offshoot of what happened with the pandemic with so many

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people working remotely. And just...I think everyone's lives just kind of shifted during the pandemic. And so, as people are coming back to work now, what we're finding--and this is nationwide--that it's different. People, I think, have had a chance to kind of regroup, and a kind of chance to evaluate what's important to them. And before, you know, maybe the goal...or the primary goal for a career was to get ahead, and to earn more money, and to get a better position. That doesn't seem to be the case as much anymore. I'm sure that there is still some of that out there, but a lot of people have kind of shifted downward. And so, I thought it was important to kind of bring this up because, like I said, it is a nationwide trend. I do see it here too, for OCS, which is why I'm bringing it up. And it's particularly challenging for us because of our two-year appointment status. Nowhere else in the County does an employee's employment end every two years, it's only in OCS. So, you know, it's sometimes...

CHAIR LEE: The County Council too, Traci. The County Council too.

MS. FUJITA: Oh, yes. County Council, yes. County Council, yes. Council Staff, you know, the EAs...well, actually...but ours is an appointment with a specific end date and time. There's no other Staff that have an employment...an appointment done that way. So, there is more uncertainty for OCS Staff. In fact, we just had...I just made an offer for the...to fill the Procurement Specialist position, and it was declined. I even offered more money. The person still declined, in large part due to this uncertainty of a two-year appointment. So, for OCS, it's challenging. You know, you have this situation where Staff, I think, you know, is very concerned. I hear from them work-life balance is very important. Boundaries are important. I hear that the challenges of last-minute rushes and short turnaround times are difficult. A lot of times it means missing out on family things because it needs to be done after...work needs to be done after hours. Sometimes too, lack of direction. So, sometimes Staff, you know, is asked like to figure something out. Like, you know, it's just kind of thrown to them, and like you come up with it, and you know, that's difficult for Staff because that's really not their role. They really need clear direction from the Member on how to proceed. So, you know, if something is submitted--so we have these internal deadlines, and I do send reminders out about that--but if something is submitted to OCS by the deadline, but there's no real clear direction with it, that's not really meeting the deadline because Staff can't work on it right away. They're still trying to, you know, work with the Councilmember or, you know, the EAs or whoever, on how to go about the assignment. So, we've had some issues with that. And also, I've had this comment that Staff sometimes feel like they're machines, or they're expected to be like machines, just spitting out work, you know, like just get it done and, you know, do it now, and no mistakes, and...you know, that sort of thing. And so, it's just a reminder that we are all human beings. I make mistakes myself. David reviews my work, and he catches my errors. So, you know, I...while I don't expect Staff to make the same mistakes over and over again, I do know that I can't expect perfection because I'm not perfect myself. And then staffing, you know, we are down now two Analysts, or we will be down two Analysts shortly. And then still the Procurement Specialist position. So Marlene right now is doing still double duty, her job as well as the Procurement Specialist job. So, we are experiencing a, you know, shortage of staffing right now too. So that was it. I just kind of wanted to share this information, you know, bring this concept up about quiet quitting because I found it

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interesting. And they come up with these, you know, catchy terms every now and then when some...some new workplace trend is, you know, happening, so...and I...and I do try to stay on top of that. So...anyway, I'm available for any questions that anybody might have.

CHAIR LEE: Member Sinenci, then Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And Mahalo, Ms. Fujita, for that report. I...so that being said, has there been...moving forward, what are kind of the analytics? I mean, we...we've heard from the workers. Have you come up with two or three main things that we can quickly implement or change to rectify the situation, or rectify this quiet quitting?

MS. FUJITA: Well, to address the quiet quitting, I think, is more employee engagement. So, as far as OCS goes, we do try to...I send out information regularly to the Staff to keep everyone updated. And we did start meeting...like an all-Staff quarterly meeting. You know, now especially our office is split in half, we don't always see each other. So, we try to at least get together quarterly to keep our office cohesive and working together. In the emails that I send out to Staff, I often ask for input on things, like when decisions need to be made and that sort of thing, so that helps with some engagement. I think for the Members, it's more just to keep these things that I'm saying in mind. So, when you're asking Staff like for a tight turnaround time or a rush, I guess maybe just think like does it really need to get on the...that next agenda, or can it wait until the next one. You know, just something so simple like that. I mean, I know you all work hard and you want to get your work, you know, posted and...and acted on right away, but if there's really not like a legal deadline or something, you know, then maybe wait on it, and have it go on the next agenda. Then Staff can work on it during regular business hours.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. And then my second question was --

CHAIR LEE: Okay. . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- now that we've had two or three people leave, do we need to quickly fill those positions, or that workload is now going to be kind of disseminated into whoever's left, everybody else is taking on the workload of those people that left?

MS. FUJITA: Well, for the Procurement Specialist position, that one, we've been recruiting for, for a while now, and we just haven't been able to fill it. And I was hoping to fill it before the end of this term, but it's not looking like it. I mean, we're continuing...our recruitment notice is open, so we're going to continue working on that. For the Analyst positions, we just opened recruitment for that one. That one, I'm anticipating not filling until the new term because just...by the time we go through the whole recruitment process, it's going to be the end of the term anyway. So, for now, unfortunately, Staff is going to be doubled up, you know, until the end of the term.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

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CHAIR LEE: Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Aloha, Traci. Thank you for being here. I'm just confused on the subject matter. Because when you read through that article on quiet quitting, it's really an employee problem, and I think what you're expressing to us is an employer problem. So it sounds like everyone's overworked. But quiet quitting, from the way I understand it as an employer, are people...are employees who refuse to work overtime, who don't want to drive to work, and want to include that...I mean, basically it's quitting without quitting. I don't see that as a problem with OCS employees, and I've never had a problem with them, but I do understand your point about retention and about overworking people. I think that's valid. But to me, that's not what...we're not talking about quiet quitting here unless we have a problem with employees not wanting to work past 4:30...a minute past 4:30, you know, not wanting to drive to work on their own time, which is what we all do. But anyway, that's why I just wanted to bring that up because when you read the article, quiet quitting is a problem that employers are having with employees. But what I'm hearing you say is that...is that we have to be more diligent about not overworking our employees because of this issue of retention.

MS. FUJITA: Yeah, the...towards the end of the article, you'll see a section about if you're an employer, your next moves are simple. Stop expecting more than you're willing to pay for. Stop assuming that they're interested in taking on more work, even if you do pay for it. Stop believing this will eventually go back to normal. So, it's more just...I think from...for employers to, I guess, rethink what the expectation is for...you know, for Staff. And again, like I'm saying, this is a nationwide trend. So, this isn't limited just to OCS, but I think it's more maybe pronounced for us because of the situation with the limited two-term...you know, two-year appointment. I mean, in private sector, there's no limitation like that. When I talk to people outside the County, they wonder, how do we do it? You know, I kind of...they ask me, you know, how do we...you know, how do we recruit, and how do we...how does our Staff work. And when I tell them, well, we're only appointed for every two years, and they're like, what? How does that work? You know, how do you even keep people? How do you attract people? So I think people on the outside, you know, really can tell how challenging it is.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

MS. FUJITA: So when these, you know, workplace trends happen, I think they're...for me, it just seems like it's more pronounced because of the situation that our office is in.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. I...just like from an employer point of view, I...I've always read articles on quiet quitting about being problems with employees, but I just wanted to express to you that I don't see it as an employee problem because I know you guys are working really hard. And I do understand about retention, and I think at some point we might have to consider...I mean, our Staff has the exact same thing. You know, we can only offer them a job for two years. But, you know, at some point, I think you guys are going to need to look at possibly going into civil servant positions so that those jobs can be seen as long-term. Because your work doesn't end when the Council term ends,

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you know, you're still going to...you're still...the skills that you have are not particular to this one Council. And the direction that you take is not particular to the Council term. So, anyway...yeah, I guess there's two sides to the whole quiet quitting thing, but you know, I'm reading most of the articles from the employer side, and I'm...you know, it's usually a situation where employees are refusing to do the things that they used to do before if they're not specifically spelled out. But I just wanted to let you know that I didn't...I don't see that as a problem with OCS employees because I think you guys work really hard. I have tremendous respect for all the work you do, and the quality of work. The quality of the research that's done is phenomenal.

MS. FUJITA: Thank you. Yeah, I know for Honolulu, the way that they do it...it's a little bit different. Their Director appoints the Staff, so the Staff doesn't change every...I mean, the Staff doesn't have a two-year appointment. It's based...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: But they also have four-year terms . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MS. FUJITA: I'm sorry?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: The...they have four-year terms, don't they, on O'ahu?

MS. FUJITA: Yeah, but the terms aren't linked just to the Members. So, I think it's just the Director. The Director's term may be linked to the Council, but the Staff under the Director doesn't have that limitation.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: But isn't the Staff only there as long as the Director's there?

MS. FUJITA: Theoretically, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So, they still have limitations like we do with our Staff...our Council Staff. They're here as long as we're a Councilmember.

MS. FUJITA: Well, like...if you look at like, for example, Corporation Counsel and Prosecuting Attorney's Office, right, those Staff are appointed by their Department heads, and their Staff, there's people that have been there for decades.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Even though the Department heads change?

MS. FUJITA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Because they're civil servants generally?

MS. FUJITA: No.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No?

MS. FUJITA: No, they're not. They're appointed.

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, they are? Okay, but how do you stay appointed if your Director leaves?

MS. FUJITA: They...the Director will reappoint. So, like if there's a new Director that comes in, they can retain Staff, and they can let go of Staff. Most times, they retain.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. So...and that's kind of what happens here too. Most times we retain OCS Staff, right? We don't...we don't really...I mean, there was a lot of turmoil in my first term, as you know, but we haven't really done that since then. I mean, most...I don't...I don't think we've let people go, or shortened their terms, or anything since then.

MS. FUJITA: Well, but the difference is that for the Deputies Corp. Counsel and the Deputies Prosecuting Attorney, there's no resolution that says your job ends on January 2nd at noon.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay.

MS. FUJITA: You know what I mean? That makes a difference.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, that...you're right. Yeah, that's what you guys have to deal with. Okay. I...I agree with you. That's pretty harsh. All right. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Traci. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Other questions or comments? I do want to add to what Traci said. As the Chair, I do get phone calls from Staff. And I can't mention any names, but there have...there have been a couple of occasions where our Staff at OCS, you know, has been yelled at by others, and so that's kind of inappropriate. And so, when Traci talks about the new generation, I suppose, of workers, they look...what's really important to them are boundaries, their quality of life, and so forth. It...they're not all driven by money anymore. You know, it's a lot more than money. And so, you may want to...in the...in the heat of a moment, when there are deadlines and so forth, there may be a tendency for people to be rude or discourteous, and I...I'd like all of us to look at our own situations, our own Staff, and make sure that that doesn't happen. At the same time, I'm hoping that all of you treat your Staff with the same kind of courtesy and professionalism that we expect from everybody else. That is very important because, you know, our work is...the work we do is significant and essential, and so, it is much better for all of us to be working together as a group, as a team, than in a less cooperative and collaborative manner. So, please...please keep track of that. Yes, Vice-Chair.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. And Mahalo for those comments. Before we move to the next agenda item, I just wanted to express my appreciation for all of our Staff. I know how hard they work. I keep trying to make the work environment so good and easy that my Committee Staff don't retire on me, and that they'll stay as long as possible. That's all. But mahalo to all of our Staff for working so hard for us. Mahalo, Traci. Mahalo, Chair.

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CHAIR LEE: Because what Traci failed to mention, I think...I didn't hear her say that, but when people leave, she does have like an exit, you know, evaluation, or conversation with Staff, and several have talked about burnout. The...apparently we push them too hard. So, we have to be careful about that. Oh, I saw another hand. Member...Pro Tem Kama. You're muted, Pro Tem Kama. Did you have your hand up? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah. Yeah, I did. So, you know, Traci, you know, I know sometimes, you know, when we have our budget meetings, we...that's an exhaustive time, I think, for all of us, for our Staff as well as your Staff sometimes. And...and I know sometimes we just, you know, like . . . *(inaudible)*. . . just want to hurry and go, go, go, and then sometimes we forget we have Staff in the back, you know, just hustling and doing this and that. Do you ever hear any comments about how we, as Councilmembers, how...when we work, and how we work, that it might drive them crazy or insane or, you know, that it's like, give us a break? Don't these guys sleep? Don't they eat? Don't they go shishi? You know what I mean, and that kind of stuff. So, I mean...because I think it's hard for us to judge because our...your Staff, OCS Staff, are such nice people, right. And they're not going to...unless they know you really well, they're not going to come and tell you, oh, my God, you guys, that meeting the other day was too much. They're not going to tell us. They might tell you. So...and when you hear things like that, do...how do we get that feedback? Or is this the feedback that we're getting right now?

CHAIR LEE: Yeah. Yes, it is.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: You guys are slave drivers, all of you.

MS. FUJITA: Well, you know, it's...the Staff is in a difficult position because they're right there with you in Committees, right, and they see the passion, and the importance of these events. So, they want to...they want to get these items passed out just as much as you do because they've put a lot of work into it. So, that's one thing. But on the other hand, you know, they do have families that they need to go home to, you know, and make dinner for, and help with homework, and all of those things. So...and then on top of that, they're appointed, right? So, you know, they're not going to complain. Even to me, they're reluctant to say, you know, anything because they...they're all appointed. So, I feel bad, you know, for them. And so, whenever I do get a chance...like in this case, you know, Chair Lee gave me this opportunity to speak on their behalf. You know, I'm just asking for a little bit of an awareness, I guess, more...I know it's difficult in the heat of the moment, you know, when you're really rushing to get something done, or you...you know, you're...you're under pressure for something. I...I know it's...I know it's hard to keep these things in mind. But yeah, just...if you could just keep the Staff in mind, that...that's all we can ask for. You know, there...sometimes cannot be helped, right, but maybe sometimes can. Can hold off on something, or can postpone something, you know, wait...post something on another agenda, or something like that. So, it's...I think it's just a matter of being aware of the impact that, you know, Staff has. But thank you. I appreciate all of the feedback.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you.

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CHAIR LEE: Any more...yes, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I wanted to express my appreciation for the Staff as well. I haven't had any negative issues. I'm not sure...you know, I feel bad about my HSAC stuff because I thought it was like not until next year, and then David told me, oh, it's going to be tomorrow or something. So I definitely did do that. But I was wondering if...if it's appropriate, or like without the names, if you can share with us the exit interviews, or is that not appropriate? Like just the comments.

MS. FUJITA: They...people are very reluctant to talk to me. Some won't say anything. Others, it's more I know the issues that they've had, you know, and so...and when they leave, and then they kind of allude to, you know, it's too much, you know, I know what they're talking about because I knew of the issues. But on...when I do speak with people when they leave, I do try to get that feedback, and they'll...if they do speak to me at all, it's very general. But the common thread is the...sometimes I think that they feel that the expectations are maybe sometimes a little too unreasonable, and that it leads to burnout because they...they try. You know, the Staff...I can tell you, every Staff person in our office will bend over backwards to...to get something done for the Member, you know, and I...and I see it all the time. And I thank them for it, you know, and I...I'm appreciative of it, but it does take a toll, especially over time, when it's constant, you know, event after event after event...it builds. And then eventually, they leave because right now, the job market is super competitive. Hard to find good employees, you know. And so, they can find better jobs, less stressful jobs, jobs that will allow them to balance their work and their family life, you know, which is...one of the big things I hear from Staff is ability to balance work and family.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Would it...would it be possible to get communication if we're not sure? Like I think in the beginning, when I didn't know what I was doing, I was doing that stuff about like stop international flights or something like that, and like that's not in our role or anything. And I put it out, but I just never got the PAF back, and I was like, oh, that's not possible, okay. But like...like some...I...I don't mind feedback, like oh, that's not possible. I don't have enough direction. Like I don't mind that, and it would be a lesson learned...like oh, our Staff can't stop international flights, you know. Like I mean, now it seems obvious, but when I started, like who knew, you know. And then I was wondering if we could cut some stuff out. Like are there things that we're doing that we can prioritize at the bottom level? Like I know that we're limited to four ceremonial resolutions per year, and it's supposed to be two per Council meeting. Are there things like that, like in terms of, you know, resolutions which don't have the force and effect of law, limit ourselves to so many, and then like, you know, we can make deals if people aren't using their resolutions? Or things like that, that aren't...if we put them on a priority scale of all the things that people are supposed to be doing, like what is more important? Obviously, I think you said Committee work takes precedence most times, but what are like the...the stuff that are like nice to have versus need to have? And then identify that for us, and we're like well, yeah, that is nice to have, yeah, I don't need it. You know, like I mean, I'm not real sure...I know the stuff that I'm engaged in with Staff, but I'm also sure that they have a lot of stuff to do that I don't see. And

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maybe that would also help to raise our awareness of not overloading them. Because I only see the part that I'm engaged with them in, and I'm aware that they're doing a lot of other behind the scenes stuff, but I'm not sure as to the time commitment and like that. So, I guess that's just what I would request is more feedback to help the awareness. Because I know they got other stuff, but I don't know what that is, or how long it's expected to take. And I'm doing some PAFs like this, and I'm trying to limit my own self, but then like, you know, sometimes they're like oh, no, we don't want you to feel like you're limited. And I'm like...well, I don't want to be like...you know. So, if a limit was placed on me on PAFs, I'd abide by it, but you know, to my...my constituents, it...

MS. FUJITA: Yeah. So, we...I have asked. David and I have talked about, you know, how to address this too. And one thing that he realized, or you know, wants to do more of is exactly what you're talking about, is more of the screening of PAFs when they come in, you know, because he's kind of the intake person, right. So, I think in order to do that, though, that takes a little bit more time and effort on his part, and that is one of the reasons why we are going to be proposing for a new position in our office for PAF Coordinator. I think that if we can have somebody that can just kind of manage more of the paperwork, and then kind of like keep on top of like due dates, you know, things like that, and then, you know, making...managing the outgoing and incoming of PAFs. That would take that off of David, as well as support and secretaries as well. Because they all...everybody kind of works on PAFs in our office. So, that is one thing that we've been trying. We do realize that having better screening upfront, and a discussion with the Member upfront, may be helpful because we can say, hey, you know, this is really not within our jurisdiction, or it's not really legislative work, or you know, that sort of thing, and we can just stop it at the beginning would probably be the most efficient way to handle it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then the behind the scenes work, it's...is it important for us to know how much their load is that we don't see?

MS. FUJITA: Yeah. The Supervisors manage the workload. So, I guess if you wanted to know about specific people...like a specific Analyst, for example, you can talk to Shelly. She's the one that's most familiar with each person's workload. For PAFs, it's David. You know, we did separate that. So, we're...we've been trying to make these little minor improvements in our organization to try to make things better. So, one of the things we did before was we...you know, when Shelly became the Supervising Leg. Analyst, she now only handles only Committee work. And David only handles the PAF work because the PAFs have just kind of grown, you know, substantially. So, you know, recognizing that, we feel...we feel like we needed to have a separate person to handle just PAFs. So that's...right now, it's David. So yeah, they would be the most familiar. David, you know, is familiar with people's workload as far as PAFs go, and Shelly is familiar with Committee work. And then they work very closely together. They're cc'd on emails like me, so we can kind of see the overall picture of what's going on. We do have a PAF log that I believe you...everybody has access to, and you can see, you know, what the Staff...you can sort...you know, it's in Excel, right, so you can sort by name, that sort of thing, to see.

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CHAIR LEE: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Any more questions, Members? Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I don't...thank you, Chair. I just wanted to tell Traci, you know, I...we talked about...you and I talked about this before, a while ago, and I would support having a limit on Councilmembers for PAFs, how many PAFs you have open at one time because I think that would help OCS a lot. I think it would also help Councilmembers focus on the top priorities. And I kind of wanted to draw the analogy of, you know, the State Legislature. They're only allowed to submit so many bills at the beginning of the session, and then they have to work off those bills. And some of them die off very quickly, so you know, hopefully a few of them...you know, the Legislators' priorities will live on through the end of the session. But, you know, I understand, you know, that we're piling work up every week because we don't have that limitation. So, you know, when I think about...and I talk to my colleagues on the other Councils, you know, most of the Councilmembers might have one or two bills a year, at the most, that they'll be...that they'll put forward and...and end up passing. And we're doing a tremendous amount of...you know, this Council has been passing a tremendous number of bills. I think it's...I would go so far as to say it's probably unprecedented, what we're doing. And I hear from you guys too, that...you know, wow, you guys are doing so much. And I...so I really want to recognize that, and the fact that there...because there are no limitations on what we can do, we end up doing a lot of stuff, and throwing out a lot of stuff that comes from the public too. So, it might be a good discussion to have, to figure out how many PAFs each of us should be having open at any one given time. And that might help your Staff from being overloaded. That's all. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Yes, Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. You know, I'm going to...Councilmember King mentioned something about the amount of bills that we've been passing as a body, and I'm...I have been pushing the envelope as much as I can, so I know, out of my Committee, there's a lot of work. But, you know, if I'm...you know, and I want to lead by example. I work my tail off, you know, and I try my best to...you know, trying to change the system here. And that's not a easy task for me, so I would hope that, you know, people would jump on board with that kind...and work...you know, I'm leading by example. I'm not asking everybody to just carry my load. I'm...I can't tell you how busy it is in my life, but you know, that is...I think when it comes to the hiring practices, Traci, it's like...is it...do you ask them if there's a...are they passionate about this job? I mean, I know you got to ask them, can you do a spreadsheet, or you...can you do the job itself, but aren't you excited to work for County...you know, aren't you...come on, let's...don't you want to get people excited about the job? And I think that's what...I know where you're saying like the idea is, you know, you don't want to work overtime, and of course, you know, I'm for that. But I also want...I want people

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passionate about this job, and I want...and that's...you got to be excited about this thing, right? I mean, isn't that part of the hiring process?

MS. FUJITA: Yes. Yes. When we interview, we definitely are looking for people...and we're honest. It's hard work. You know, we tell them that it's hard work, and the challenges, but they are all, you know, eager. They all start with, you know, being excited, being part of the legislative process, you know, all of these things. And so, yes, that's true. That is...and we want to keep them, right? So, part of our problem is when people leave, then we have to train, and then...and then, you know, it just backs everybody up, right. So we want to retain people. And so, yes, they are passionate about working here, but they are also passionate about their families, you know, their personal life too. I mean, it's a...it's a balance. That's why they call it work-life balance, right. So sometimes, yes, you know, we have to give 110 percent to work, and 90 percent to family, but sometimes it's the other way around, you know.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MS. FUJITA: Your kid has something special coming up, you need to be there for that...for that special event. You know, that's why we have backups. You know, in our office, we try to have people that can back each other up, so like when somebody does have to leave, then somebody else can step in and take their place. So, we are trying, on our end, to try to make that balance happen.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Um-hum.

MS. FUJITA: But it's...you know, it's...anytime you're trying to balance something, it's not so simple.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right. I had many bosses in my life, right, janitor boss, pizza shop boss, hotel boss, whatever...the list goes on. I've never had a boss...people, right, that--they remind me all the time I work for them--that are so strict and want us to produce results, right. So, that's kind of what I'm trying to do, satisfy the masses, the people who voted us in, to do the seat, to make...make change. So, change is a lot of work when we're talking about a bureaucratic system right now. So, that's just the fire that I run the engine on, and I hope I'm not burning people out, but that's really what I'm trying to do. Thanks.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. We have two people, Pro Tem Kama and Vice-Chair Fernandez...Rawlins-Fernandez. Okay, Kama first.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. You know, as we've been having this discussion, Traci, what I hear...at least I think I hear, what's being repeated is that our Staff is burning out. And all they're saying is that we...we work hard. Gabe just said that, right, he does. His Committee works hard. So, every time he has a Committee meeting, he has to recess and have another recess or any other Committee that has such a huge load, right, that just goes on and on, and it's almost like nonstop. I mean, if he gets tired, you got to know his Committee gets tired too. So, I know that the Staff

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that's working behind the scenes, and the issue of timing...I think the issue is of timing. If our meetings end on time, then people can go home to their families, they can have, you know, the after daycare, or the evening PTA meetings, or afterschool events, or baseball, soccer, whatever. And I think sometimes, that's what I'm hearing is that all of our Staff have all of these things outside of their 9 to 5 job, and it's our job to . . .*(inaudible)*. . . that takes us beyond the 9 to 5, but we're here until 6, 7, 8, depending on how the body feels. And so, I kind of appreciate, you know, Member Molina when he says, well, you know...he always thinks about the Staff, right...because we got to think about the Staff. So, that's what I'm thinking about too, right now, is that maybe it's a timing issue, that we need to...you know, if people say you have to go to work, and we say this is your hours, from 9 to 4:30 or something, whatever, then we should be able to do that. And remember, we started out like that, and then we kind of like got away from that. And so, now we have these meetings that end at 5, 5:30, 6:00. Now we're going to recess to another day. And those days sometimes we have to shift because we're already committed to doing other stuff with our families, and now we can't because now we got to go do this. I mean, I think that's some of the frustration I think I can hear which our Staff is expressing. Is that kind of like it?

CHAIR LEE: Traci.

MS. FUJITA: Thank you. I...you know, I'm...I didn't realize this item was going to take up so much time, but I really appreciate everybody's input. And OCS will continue, you know, to do our best, and we'll work with our Staff, you know, to try to, you know, achieve this balance that sometimes seems unachievable. The one...last one thing that I wanted to mention is that, you know, I do advocate strongly for OCS, but I don't want anybody to ever feel that it means that I don't care about any other Staff. You know, I...this is my kuleana, right, this OCS Staff, but I want the same thing for everybody in the County. Everybody in the County works hard, and I just never want it to come across...or for people to think that oh, you know, I'm only looking out for me, and everybody else, you know, too bad or something. It's not like that. I'm not that way. But I do...I do advocate...you know, OCS is my priority. So thank you very much.

CHAIR LEE: Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. In listening to everyone's comments--I was...I was trying to keep it quick earlier, but since this discussion ended up being far more robust than I think any of us had anticipated, I just wanted to share a few things. So, as Member Johnson and Member King have accurately pointed out, there's a lot of...a lot of work to do. You know, part of it is the backlog. And there's, you know, a lot of our own individual legislative priorities. And then we have the legislative priorities of eight other people that we have to keep up with. And very quickly, it...it can become very overwhelming. I have burned myself and my own Staff out, and am, you know, paying the price. And it can kind of sneak up on you, especially when you're a workaholic. And, you know, like...and this work brings you joy, but it also is work, and it also takes you away from your family. And sometimes, taking that time to fill your cup, and doing the things that you enjoy, like going to, you know, the ocean, or the

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mountain, and spending that time in nature to recharge so that we can continue to accomplish all that we are setting ourselves out to do. And so, when we have a limited amount of, you know, Staff or people...so, we're...there's two sides to it. There's one, that we start to kind of control and restrict the amount of work that we're putting through, or we can beef up what we need to accomplish the amount of work that we're trying to accomplish. So, I have been blessed to have Staff that have been able to do a lot of work in-house. And so, the amount of PAFs I put out are kind of minimized because we're crazy like that, and we just kind of take it on, and we just start doing the legislative drafting ourselves. And so, you know, perhaps later we may need to look at our office budgets again, and see if we, in-house, can beef up our Staff so that we're able to take care of stuff that we can do in-house. And if we're able to build up the capacity within our office, then we won't be as heavily reliant on OCS Staff as we have been. So, that's just an idea I wanted to throw out. It's not something that's agendized, and it's something that we would need to vote on later, so we can't like have a full-on discussion on that, but I'm just planting that seed since it sounds like the appropriate time to do so. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Yeah, I think that's a good idea. Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Good discussion, Traci. Thanks for leading this forward and bringing it. My son, who is a millennial and he's working in Chicago, and I can see where this quiet quitting whole philosophy lives deeply in many big corporations, right. So, not only here, but it is prevalent. For myself, I just want to say thank you. I really enjoy working with Laks a lot, and I hope I'm not disrespectful to her family because she does a lot with her...you know, all her children graduating, and Mother's Day, and all the things, you know, that she shares. She's an awesome person. And Lesley...Jerry Paredes, he's so cute when he said goodbye to me. He says, don't worry, I'm still working on your chickens. That is my perpetual monthly problem of people contacting me about chickens and their neighbors' chickens and the...whatever, and it's a...but, you know, just good people. So, thanks for bringing them onto our Staff. And I would love to hear...are you also speaking on behalf of the Clerk's side too, or it's just only OCS?

MS. FUJITA: No.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. So that...we should talk to them too. I guess we will later in the discussion. But thanks a lot for, you know, your hard work. Like Kasie gave me a great...you know, her *Maui News*...my *Maui News* Council 3, and I hope I thanked her profusely after. And I hope I do stuff like that. Bruce always fixing stuff in my office...Eric...it's endless. But...and, and I have a soft spot for David Raatz because he helped me last term a lot. So, anyway, that's all. Mine is more personal. Thanks a lot.

CHAIR LEE: Any more discussion? Okay. This was...all of these items are only for discussion, there's no voting. Just keep in mind that our Staff...somebody asked about common thread feedback, I think Member Paltin, who had to leave. The common feedback we get is, I feel like I'm being treated as a machine. So, if we can just remember to...that we have...our Staff are human beings, just like us. And everybody has limitations. So,

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if we can be more considerate of that going forward. Now, on the next item, evaluation of primary election.

MS. FUJITA: Chair?

CHAIR LEE: Yes.

MS. FUJITA: I'm not sure. We have two...three more people signed up to testify, but I'm not sure what items. I don't know if you want to...

CHAIR LEE: Okay. You can call them.

MS. FUJITA: Okay. So we have one person with the initials of LTT signed up.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. LTT, are you ready to testify?

MS. FUJITA: Okay, the next person is Albert Perez.

CHAIR LEE: Albert Perez.

MS. FUJITA: Oh, there's LTT. Oh wait, there's LTT.

CHAIR LEE: LTT.

MS. FUJITA: Oh, maybe not.

MR. TAGUCHI: I'm not...I'm not testifying. I'm just watching the meeting.

CHAIR LEE: Oh, Lance Taguchi.

MS. FUJITA: Oh. Okay, okay.

ITEM 2. OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT
(Council Chair Lee)

CHAIR LEE: Okay. All right.

MS. FUJITA: Albert Perez, then.

CHAIR LEE: Do we have Albert Perez?

. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM 2. . .

MR. PEREZ: Good morning.

CHAIR LEE: Good morning.

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MR. PEREZ: Sorry, I'm on hold with my bank. Let me turn that down. Yeah, I just wanted to hear the discussion about improving government operations. Yesterday it was very frustrating for a number of people. I wasn't really planning to testify, but since I was called... So I wasn't planning to spend my whole day with the Council. I love you folks, but I had other things to do, and so I ended up multitasking because we're not allowed to testify at the beginning of the meeting. This is really discouraging people from participating in government, and I don't think that it's actually going to wind up saving you folks any time. Because when people saw...one testifier, he had a special...he had special permission to testify, and jump in front of everybody in line, now everybody's going to have that same idea. So, from your perspective as Councilmembers, I think that's going to be harder to keep track of than if you allow all testimony at the beginning, and then, you know, people have their choice of whether to testify in the beginning or the end. But bottom line is, it is discouraging public participation, which...you know, that's not how we want to run our government. We want people to feel like they're heard. If you have to work all day, and you don't know exactly when an agenda item is coming up, then it's very difficult. It's impossible for most people, I would say, to just hang out and wait for your folks to finish your discussion on all the previous items. And then yesterday in particular was very frustrating because we...I had a couple of bills to testify on, I waited all the way until the end, and then it was rescheduled to a time when I cannot testify. I cannot come back on Tuesday. So, it's very frustrating. And I don't think it's going to take more time by allowing people to have their choice of testifying in the beginning, or before each item, not both. Anyway, thank you for listening.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Any questions, Members? If not, just to let you know, Albert, we are working on trying to rectify this situation. And we are going to be working with our State Legislators, who created this mandate for us, and all the confusion that came with it. Because people don't realize--and I've said this over and over to the Councilmembers--this new mandate should apply to Committee meetings, not the Council meetings.

MS. LUTEY: Okay. Mike Hopper's going to be joining us too. We didn't realize we're in an exclusive meeting. Hi, Keola.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Moana...Moana, you have...Moana...Moana, you have a live mike.

MS. LUTEY: Just give us one second. I sent him the maps too. We can do either way. I mean, if it's...

CHAIR LEE: Moana.

MS. LUTEY: If it's blocked right now, we need that access.

CHAIR LEE: Traci, can you call Moana, please?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Just mute her.

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MS. LUTEY: Okay. Just need to work it out with the owners if they're willing to give us access, and then if not, then we can do...

MR. PEREZ: I'd just like to respond. When I looked at the Sunshine Law, all it says is that testimony may not be limited to the beginning of the meeting. That's all it says, so...

CHAIR LEE: No, it doesn't, okay. We've checked...

MR. PEREZ: I'm looking at the statute.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. We've checked with OIP. So, we're not relying on our opinion, okay, we're relying on the legal interpretation of the Office of Information Practices, and that is what we're abiding by. We're trying to comply with the new Sunshine Law, which requires us to allow testimony before every single item comes up. So, that's what we're faced with. And if you looked at our agenda yesterday, we had 60 items...60 items. And that makes a very...makes it a very unwieldy situation for all of us. And it breaks up the rhythm. There's no rhythm to...to our meetings anymore. It's all over the place. So that's what we have to deal with. Okay. Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah. Chair, I think what Mr. Perez is saying is that we're not...we're not precluded from allowing testimony at the beginning. So, anybody can testify at the beginning. We just have to allow them the chance to testify before each category of items as well. So, we stopped doing that, but we can do that under this current Sunshine Law. And then they have a choice of testifying on every item at the beginning, and then not coming back later on. So that can...under the current...

CHAIR LEE: Yeah, that...yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: That's why the other Councils were telling me they don't have a problem with it. But, you know, I think...you know, my personal opinion is they don't have a problem with it because their agendas are not as heavy, and they also don't meet as often, you know, especially in the Committees. But, you know, we can do that right now. We're doing that in the beginning. We can go back to taking testimony at the beginning of the meeting.

CHAIR LEE: Yeah, but it makes things more confusing. And that's the reason we got the interpretation from OIP, and the beginning...testimony at the beginning is optional. The testimony before each item is required.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Right, but...

CHAIR LEE: So, we can't have both. We just can't have both.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah. We're required to allow it, but if people want to testify in the beginning, we can let them. So that's just Mr. Perez's --

CHAIR LEE: Yeah.

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- position.

CHAIR LEE: Yeah, that's right. But that's why...because I keep telling you folks, yeah, if we lessen the amount of items on the Council's agenda, we probably wouldn't have this problem. So, those are the kinds of...there are way more issues involved than, you know, something as simple as allowing people to testify at the beginning because there's way more...to me, way more volume with the Council than any other Council in the State of Hawai'i. So in fair...we have to be fair. Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Do you have a clarifying question for Mr. Perez?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I do have a clarifying question.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, go ahead.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And I would appreciate not being interrupted or yelled at while I'm speaking. So, Mr. Perez...

CHAIR LEE: Excuse me, were you...were you interrupted or yelled at?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, I just was interrupted now, and I watched you interrupt Member King.

CHAIR LEE: Oh, you haven't been. You haven't been prior to this.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So I...

CHAIR LEE: So you may proceed. You may proceed.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm prefacing.

CHAIR LEE: Please proceed.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Don't interrupt me while I'm speaking.

CHAIR LEE: Please proceed.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And please don't yell. I think if you could --

CHAIR LEE: I'm not yelling.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- calm down a little bit, because I think...

CHAIR LEE: You, of all people, shouldn't be advising me, okay?

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VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: At this moment, I think everyone can...should just take a breath. Because we don't want...we don't want our testifiers *(inaudible)*...

CHAIR LEE: Please come on. We have a lot...a lot to do. Now, please proceed with your question. Please proceed with your question.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha, Mr. Perez. Mahalo for your testimony. And I'm sorry for the abuse that you just experienced by our Council Chair. My question to clarify is, were you asking if we can go back to how we were doing it before, which was allowing everyone to testify in the beginning on all the items if that's what they choose, and then, because we're required by the State, to then enable testimony before an item comes up, that we would do it that way, how we had it before, for people who do have full-time jobs, or babies that they're caring for, and cannot stay for the entire day, that it's putting it...making it more convenient for the Council at the expense of the public...the public being able to participate is not good governance. Is that what you were saying?

MR. PEREZ: Yes. Yes, and I...I did appreciate the change to where...now, somebody like myself, who...I do often have the chance to stay a little longer, right. I do often have that chance. I can do that, especially if I can hear a presentation. When what's on the agenda, and what's in Granicus, is not actually what's being proposed for that day, we get an update in the presentation, then I can modify...adjust my testimony, right. So I can choose to do that. But yesterday, I didn't have time, so I was like most people, who don't have the time. They come, they give their mana'o, and then they have to go to work. So, I appreciated when the Council started giving us the option. I thought, wow, this is really helping improve public participation. And so, to have that reversed is just...I think it's really, really bad. So, I'll just leave it at that.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you.

MR. PEREZ: I don't support any changes to the State Legislation either, and I'm going to be testifying to the State Legislature in opposition to the...that part of the legislative package that was sent yesterday.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Perez. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Well, Members, any more questions? If not, thank you, Mr. Perez.

MR. PEREZ: Okay. Mahalo.

CHAIR LEE: Do we have another testifier?

MS. FUJITA: The next testifier is Kate.

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CHAIR LEE: Kate...Kate, are you here to testify? Member Johnson, is Kate going to testify?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That is a different Kate, Chair Lee.

CHAIR LEE: Oh, a different Kate. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I'm sure there's a lot of Kate's out there, but not her.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. I thought maybe she was just monitoring the meeting. Is there a Kate wanting to testify? I guess not. Shall we go to the next testifier?

MS. FUJITA: There are no other testifiers at this time.

. . .END PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM 2. . .

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Let's move on to the next item, which is an update...oh, I'm sorry, evaluation of the primary election. Okay, Member Sugimura, you asked for a update on the evaluation of the primary election?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Chair, just point of order.

CHAIR LEE: Yes, Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: We...I thought what the second item...is that...isn't that the one that we were...we got a memo on from Member Kama? I thought she was going to discuss her ideas for improvement. I don't know. Member Kama, I'm just looking at it just now. Was that...was that what the intent was under that item?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Well, yeah, it was under that item. I'm not sure when that item was going to get called up, but I know it was on the agenda for today.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Which item...which item are you talking about?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Improvements in County Government.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I don't...improvements in Government.

CHAIR LEE: Oh, Improvements in County Government. Okay. If we're not done with that...

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Is that what you mean?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: That's what we're talking about now.

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CHAIR LEE: I asked for further questions, but I guess maybe you didn't hear. I thought we were done with that discussion, but if you have more recommendations or questions on item number 2, can you please share with us?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. So, this is in continuation of yesterday's discussion that we had about the Zoom and...

CHAIR LEE: The connectivity of the meeting yesterday.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So...right. So, my suggestions were in terms of trying to make us more efficient, was taking a look at what we're doing at Council, and what we're doing at Committee. And it seemed like we do a lot of Committee work in Council. That's what takes up a lot of time, right. So, maybe we should not do...I mean, we got to do what...I know at the State Leg., what they do is, when you come to give your testimony, most people just say, I stand on my written testimony, right. So, you don't have to go and do the same testimony that you've probably done over and over and over. But we have to be able to help our people to be able to come to our Council meetings, and if they need to give testimony, give testimony, but not have our Council do so much work that people get discouraged, again, because they didn't realize that some of the issues that we're going to take up on the floor should have gone to Committee, and they didn't go to Committee, and now we're taking it up on the floor...doesn't give them an opportunity to respond. So, that's one of the things I wanted to bring up about maybe we should take a look at how much work we're doing that belongs in Committee, and that when we end up doing Committee work on the Council floor, it takes up too much time. And that was what I wanted to say about that.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Thank you. All right. Who had...Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Mahalo for your ideas. I'm sorry, I didn't see your memo, Pro Tem Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Oh, I'm sorry.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No, no, it's my fault. I'll look for it. But just based off of what you were verbally sharing, I was thinking...and I've been thinking...you know, we tried the consent calendar to try to communicate --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- don't...you know, like these items are just going to be filed, you know, you don't...you know, that's the... you know, the proposed action. So we've been trying to figure out ways on items --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- that are just going to be referred to try...right, to limit testimony. So, one of the things I've been thinking about after the new Sunshine Law

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amendment was if items can just go directly to Committee, the items that are intended to go to Committee.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Oh, yeah.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then that way the testimony will just be at Committee, you know. But if you plan to take action on, you know, like resolutions on the floor and not send it to Committee, then it'll go to Council. But for, you know, the items that we would need to...you know, further discussion in Committee, that it just goes straight to Committee instead of at the Council...on the Council agenda. Anyway, that was a suggestion.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes, yeah.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Well, we can talk about that with Staff. That would be a direct referral again, which we tried to get away from, but anyway, that can be discussed. I think, Member Kama, you're actually...now you reminded me that you wanted to talk about...and that's something that I can work with Staff on --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay.

CHAIR LEE: -- is that we're having trouble...at every Council meeting, the Members are having trouble connecting.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes, connectivity.

CHAIR LEE: Yeah, connectivity. So we'll work on that, you know --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay.

CHAIR LEE: -- and see if we can upgrade our --

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

CHAIR LEE: -- our systems, yeah, within the Chamber --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

CHAIR LEE: -- and see how we can work on that. Because this is becoming a pattern --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

CHAIR LEE: -- almost every single Council meeting. So, we will look at that. So, I know Traci and David, we briefly talked about it. So, we're going to continue to see what we can do with that.

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

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CHAIR LEE: So then any more...anything else on number 2?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah, but another thing too, is that...I don't think it's just what happens in Chambers, but I also think it's about the connectivity that we have out in Hāna, out in Lānaʻi, you know, out in Molokaʻi, and making sure that their connectivity and our connectivity is all on the same wavelength. Because it doesn't help if we're going to beef up our connectivity, and they're still out there in the wilderness, you know, and they still can't connect.

CHAIR LEE: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So we need to make sure their connectivity is just as...so that's what I wanted to say too. Okay. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Yeah, we'll work on that. Anybody else on number 2, so we can move on to number 3?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair.

MS. FUJITA: Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Then we have...we're going to need...before we move on to 3, we're going to need to open the --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Testimony.

CHAIR LEE: -- testimony again. So, Traci.

MS. FUJITA: You asked me to give you an update about the status agendas. Did you still want me to do that?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Oh, not really, because we're still working on that. And what we...we've already established was status agendas--which by the way, all of you get...all Members get that. But we are now have...having to look at how do we post it.

MS. FUJITA: Right.

CHAIR LEE: And we had issues because there was a question on who does it for Council. Would it be OCC or OCS? So, those kinds of issues can be worked out internally. But did you have something else to say?

MS. FUJITA: Well, we had for...yeah, for OCS, we did...thanks to the help of the Secretarial Section, they did figure out a way to post the Committee status agendas on Granicus. So, if you want...if the Members wanted us to do that, I just wanted to get some

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direction. It would be under the meeting details for each meeting date. They could...after the meeting, they could post --

CHAIR LEE: Okay.

MS. FUJITA: -- the status.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. All right. But can you ask the Staff to continue sending the Councilmembers copies? Because sometimes...it's just easier, when the public asks for a status, that we just forward it to them...you know, to the person in the public, because...

MS. FUJITA: Yes. Yeah, yeah. We'll forward it to you.

CHAIR LEE: Rather than referring them to the website or something, you know.

MS. FUJITA: Yeah. But did you want...did you want the status agendas posted there, though?

CHAIR LEE: Oh, yeah. Yeah, we want it posted.

MS. FUJITA: Okay.

CHAIR LEE: So...

MS. FUJITA: Okay.

CHAIR LEE: So those who are more savvy can go straight there.

MS. FUJITA: Yeah.

CHAIR LEE: Others want a copy forwarded, so...you know.

MS. FUJITA: Uh-huh. Okay. Yeah, we'll continue with the copies being sent to the Members, and then we'll start posting the Committee meeting status agendas on Granicus. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: So, Members, take a look at that when you receive it in your email because it's very helpful, you know. If you forgot how you voted on something, just...it gives you the end result of what happened in the Committee. Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. So, because the Opportunities for Improvement in County Government wasn't...didn't have any exact specificities to it, and we had, you know, testimony, I'll bring up testimony procedures that...before we leave this item to perhaps take a poll--an informal, not voting poll--to see if we would want to go back to enabling testifiers to testify at the beginning of the agenda on all the items if they...if they want to.

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CHAIR LEE: Yeah. I don't think we should be voting, whether it's taking a poll or not taking a poll. This item, if you like, you can refer to the GREAT Committee. That's where...

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Well, in order to establish procedure, that's where...we've discussed it in a Chair's Meeting, and we decided in a Chair's Meeting how that was going to work. So I don't...I don't understand...

CHAIR LEE: We shouldn't have been deciding. We shouldn't have been deciding anything in a Chair's Meeting.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Well, it's also Chair's discretion. So, are you telling me that you don't want to, and therefore, you're not going to?

CHAIR LEE: No, I'm...I don't want to take a vote. So, this can be handled in a Committee setting.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Then you don't have to take a vote. People can just say what it is that they would like to do.

CHAIR LEE: Well, I really would prefer to move on because...since we're not voting, it doesn't matter what taking a poll or getting consensus in this meeting. I'm trying to not take a vote of any kind, whether it's an informal vote, or a poll, or anything like that which resembles a vote. That can be...this issue can be handled in a different...in a different format, in a different arena, where people can actually vote.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, in the meantime, as testifiers have expressed, we are discouraging testifiers from testifying, and making participation in government much more challenging for people, as we've heard. And you have the discretion to enable testifiers to testify in the beginning. But I see what you're doing, and you're stifling that so that we don't do that. And it's...it hasn't made timing shorter. The meetings have still been long.

CHAIR LEE: No. And please don't assume or presume what I am doing, okay. The...if you really look at this issue objectively, it's way bigger than just testimony. It's way bigger.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I am looking at it objectively.

CHAIR LEE: No. Because if I...if I had only four or five items on the agenda, like you folks do for the most part, then this is not a problem. It's really not.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Well, I don't see a lot of testimony as a problem. I see that as a great thing. I see that as great participation in government, and we should be making participation in government as easy...

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

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CHAIR LEE: Okay. So anyway, let's finish this up. Why don't you conclude, and then we can move on to the next item?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Well, I would like to allow testifiers to testify on all their items at the beginning of the meeting if they would prefer to.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. So noted. Okay.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And you are our Chair, that we voted to have as our Chair, and not the boss. So, you are supposed to take guidance from all of us. So if you prefer to individually talk to each Councilmember to see what they would like instead of taking a poll here and now, which you've done in the past...but now that I'm asking for this on the opposite end...

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Okay, wait one second. *(audio interference)*

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Well, thank you.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Staff, can you please mute...

CHAIR LEE: I'll go...I'll have a conversation with Members individually if it's not in violation of the Sunshine Law. ...*(audio interference)*... Okay?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's not violation. It's procedure. It's how we operate.

CHAIR LEE: Yeah, I know. But we're under a microscope, and expected to, you know, adhere to the strictest of laws. So, anyway, thank you for your input. We need to move on. Anybody else want to say something on number 2?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Can we ask Staff if they can mute...okay, I see they...they've muted the phone caller. Okay.

CHAIR LEE: So nobody else wants to talk about this. So, thank you very much.

ITEM 3. EVALUATION OF PRIMARY ELECTION (Councilmember Sugimura)

CHAIR LEE: So, item number 3. I'm hoping to end this meeting by 12:00 noon. Evaluation of Primary Election. Do we have anybody to testify on this item?

MS. FUJITA: Chair, I just saw a phone number with the last four digits of 9255. Are you signed up to testify?

CHAIR LEE: 9255.

MS. FUJITA: And that's the only additional testifier on the list.

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CHAIR LEE: Okay. All right, so we'll move on to number 3. The testimony's not closed. Evaluation of primary election. Now, Member Sugimura, you proposed to discuss this?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, so...and I also spoke to Kathy and Staff from the Clerk's Office. I wanted to bring this up and to see if there's anything we need to do to help with getting ready for the general election. So, since the last Chair's Meeting to now, I did speak with some Staff members in the Clerk's Office and Elections, and did talk to Kathy, and I guess you might want to call Kathy to speak on it. But what the Chair has done...and yesterday, I think, Keani, we took the item up and passed it, which was to basically move funds from the B Account to A Account so that we can hire five temporary hires for general election. I think we need to do that as soon as possible for training, as well as, when I spoke to Chair and Kathy, there was a concern of people who came to the voting center when it was open on Election Day, as well as people who were trying to file for papers to run for different offices that were pretty belligerent in the Clerk's...in the...yeah, in the Clerk's Office, as well as in Wailuku Community Center, where they were pretty irate...and the ability to hire security. So, I think we need to have...when the Wailuku Community Center or the voting center opens, that we need to have X amount. And I really stress, by doing all my events, the difference between security officer versus a off-duty police officer, that we hire off-duty police to be there in uniform when the center opens and closes, and have security in the Clerk's Office, so that if there are belligerent people that come in, that our employees, which is my concern, have security and safety. So, those are some of the things.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah.

CHAIR LEE: So let me just address those things. Because I actually met with the Staff right after the election, and I was monitoring everything during the election. One thing that was brought up by the Staff was the long hours...yeah, the long hours. And that's...that led to what happened yesterday, when all of you approved the additional funds for the A Account to hire temporary workers. So, that is being covered. That is done. Due to the additional amount of help with the election, there...it reduces the need for the 12-hour shifts, which we expect to eliminate. So, we have additional Staff coming. With regard to the security that you mentioned, Kathy has already been in conversation with the police to hire off-duty police. So, that is also in the works. She is actually having another conversation with the Police Chief today. After his conference in Kalana Pakui, he's coming over to her office to discuss security with her in depth.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay.

CHAIR LEE: So those are the...so those are the three main issues that Staff discussed with me, was security, which it's being handled; the long hours, what's being addressed; and additional help that was needed, which is also being addressed. So, a lot of the things that you talk about, legitimate concerns, are being addressed as we speak. And so, a lot of things that happened at the primary can be, and will be, avoided. But nobody could have anticipated the outright obnoxious behavior of some of the voters, you know,

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that was inexcusable. But we've, we actually haven't had that type of behavior before...in my recent memory. And so...but now, we're prepared for it. We're going to be overly prepared for it. And I see a hand up. Pro Tem Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, just hearing all what you have said, and looking at all of the additional Staff they will be hiring, including security for the General Election, is the funding that we moved from, I think B to A...or was it A to B? Well, wherever we moved it.

CHAIR LEE: B to A.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: B to A. Is that sufficient?

CHAIR LEE: Well, we are leaving that up to Kathy. Because I asked her to let us know if they needed any additional funds, and she believes at this time, that the...you know, she has enough fund...funding.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay.

CHAIR LEE: So, you know...

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. But, you know, one of the things regarding our Clerk's Office is that there was a lot of discussion at the NACo Conference about the Clerk's Offices across the countries, that were undergoing a lot of negative discourses that was happening in the Clerks across the country, in their offices, and getting threats because of people's belief, and what they thought. So, I'm happy that we're taking care of our Clerk's Office here. I never thought that we'd have to do something like this, but you know, we are the state of aloha. We all should be practicing aloha, but even some people who come here from away don't understand that. So, it's up to us to help them to know that. So, thank you, Chair, for allowing that.

CHAIR LEE: Yeah. I think that the Staff...the OCC Staff has really stepped up to the new challenges and...you know, we're getting there. As soon as I hear of a problem, we try to react right away. I believe even the Vice-Chair has given her some suggestions on signage, and we're going to follow up on that because that is also helpful to the public, and to everyone. Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez, and then Member King.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. And mahalo, Member Sugimura, for getting this item on the agenda. So, yesterday's action was A to B. It was salaries to contracts, but that wasn't why I wanted to speak.

CHAIR LEE: Oh, that's right. Yeah, that's contract, right.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, mahalo, Chair, for bringing up the signage. So, I was just going to go over some of the things, like Member Sugimura brought up. She covered a lot of the items that I had taken note of. And having more Staff will definitely help solve a lot of the issues that I've heard from members in our community. And so,

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signage was one of them, that there were people that were looking for the voter service center. They weren't sure if the...if, you know, the community center was the voter service center. So, just having...you know, just signage like on the building, or on the fence, or something that's neutral and not, you know, anyone's campaign colors, I think would be really helpful. People had trouble immediately locating the drop box. So, if it...if it is going to be in the Wailuku Community Center again, if there could be a larger sign saying drop box here. And I understand like the number of voters that show up on the last two days, it just like...double or triple. And I'm sure Kathy can correct me on that, but it...that's when most of the people vote. It's the day of, Election Day, and the day before. And so, perhaps even having the drop box curbside, like we did at the 2020 election, so that way people can just drive through and drop off their ballot instead of walking in and walking through the line. And then there were elderly folks, and people with children, and so, you know, the line had snaked around the sun because of the way that the roof line is designed at the community center. So, one of the things I was thinking about is having like a pull number. Or if we can't have a pull number so that people can, you know, just grab a number, and like wait their turn to go vote, that perhaps there could be chairs in the line so that, you know, those that cannot stand for long periods of time can have, you know, a place to sit. And then, you know, having tents because of the way that the community center is designed. It's...it doesn't have a roof in the middle, and so, the sun was really hot for a lot of people. I understand that a couple of elderly folks did pass out because of the heat, and that's not a good thing. The other thing was when there's such a large crowd, that having election official...like a uniform, like a...like a shirt, like a visible shirt. So, like the high visibility shirts that, you know, construction workers wear that says Staff or, you know, election worker...election official, would be helpful for our community members to be able to easily and quickly identify who Staff is, that they...if they have questions and stuff. So, those are some of the things that...in addition to what Member Sugimura had brought up, that I shared with our Clerk and Deputy Clerk. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, I just wanted to share some of the feedback I had. The lack of public outreach ahead of the election, and there were people that were getting their ballots on different days, like a week apart. There were people who never got their ballots. I got a call from...and I did refer...refer an email to Kathy on some folks at Hale Mahaolu who never got their ballots. But there was...the thing that was really disturbing is people didn't...there were people that...who didn't even really know what the ballot was. They got a postcard ahead of time. Some of them thought that was the ballot, but there was no way to send it back in, so they just threw it away. And then I asked, well, what did...what happened when you got your envelope with your ballot? And they said, I didn't know that was the ballot, so I threw it away. So, there was just a lot of pre-confusion before the primary on what was coming, when it was coming, who it was coming to, what...you know, what the procedure was, where the...and a lot of people didn't know where the drop boxes were, or they were so sparse that they didn't want to...I mean, people were telling me, I didn't want to drive across town to the one drop box in town. So, you know, maybe if they know all of this ahead of time, where it's going to be, they can plan their trips out. But I just got...most of the

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feedback I got was on the lack of information on how the election was going to be held, you know, ahead of time. And there was...there was just confusion about what the ballot looked like. Some people said, oh, I didn't know I was supposed to sign it. So, if we could really make an effort to educate people ahead of time on even the basics of what it...how you fill out the ballot, where you sign it, and how do you send it back in, and what the ballot looks like, I think that would really be helpful. But I think we missed a lot of votes because of the lack of information ahead of time.

CHAIR LEE: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: But that's just my input about the...what happened in the primary. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I'm not sure if...how we could find this out, but I'm curious if...to know how many ballots came in late, if there is a number on how many came in late. Because...I don't know, that maybe they need...we got to do something better if they were thinking they can just...can put it in the mailbox on the day of the election. You know, it's not going to get counted. So, I wonder how many people thought they voted and then they didn't. So, that's something I'd like to find out.

CHAIR LEE: Well, the newspaper said 500...little over 500 on Maui. Okay. Anybody else didn't have a chance to speak? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Sorry, I had to step away for a little bit, and hopefully I'm not repeating stuff. I did reach out to one reporter about messaging because, you know, for however many hundred years, people are used to...to going to the polling place, and then the one year that we switch over to vote by mail is during a pandemic. So, I'm not sure, for the public, they thought that we were able to pivot that quickly because of the pandemic, and realize that that was the trend that we were following, and we were planning and gearing up to that for like years...couple years, and meant to do that, that way, going forward. So, I think, you know, maybe the voters need to be reminded that the way that we're doing it is by mail, based on the trend, it wasn't just a fluke of the pandemic. And I think the important message, if we can all echo or amplify, is that you want to vote by mail because there's like a book of Charter amendments. And if you think you're just going to walk up the day before, or the day of, the election, you are going to be standing in line deciding on your 12, 13, 15 Charter amendments, or however many there are. I'm going to be at the beach or something. It's a holiday. I'm going to be spending time with my family. If you want to walk up that day and try and vote in person, there is going to be a line because this was what the trend was following. And, you know, you're welcome to do it, or you're welcome to have a holiday with your family. It's...the choice is yours. We're not going to be able to accommodate the entire County, or the entire island, at one voter service center, but that's the thing that's been put in motion. And I don't mind like, you know, being on some commercial, or whoever being on some commercial like with a huge line in the hot sun, whatever, because the setup is vote by mail. And however long it takes people to

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decide on 20 candidates...imagine 20 candidates plus 12 Charter amendments with college degree type words on top. Like, you know, it's not going to be written in Pidgin, the Charter amendments. Or...I mean, I guess maybe Ilocano, I don't know. But it's not going to be easy to fill out your whole ballot in like five, ten minutes if you've never seen the Charter amendments before. I did reach out to one reporter I know, and she was down to, you know, do...try do a weekly segment on the Charter amendments, and the messaging that, you know...the transition has been...it wasn't just a fluke. It's vote by mail. I think people need to be reminded of...that was the direction that we're heading. And if they want to go back to the voter service centers, then it needs to be a change at the State level. But that wasn't a pandemic fluke, that was...that was the way that it's meant to be until a law gets changed at the State level. And maybe people didn't realize that it's not a pandemic thing, it's the way that we were going. Because so many people were voting by mail, it didn't make sense to open up polling places all over the island with volunteers. And it was a lucky stroke of chance because most of our polling center workers are elderly, and we were in the middle of a pandemic. So, that was very lucky. And that's the way it's supposed to be, vote by mail. If you guys don't like it, then talk to the State Legislature to change it back, but good luck finding volunteers because nobody seems to want to volunteer anymore. Nobody even wants to do paid work, so good luck finding volunteers, you know. That's my two cents. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Thank you. Anybody else?

MS. FUJITA: Chair. Chair, this is Traci.

CHAIR LEE: Yes.

MS. FUJITA: I just wanted to let you and the Members know that the Police Chief and Kathy are in Chamber. And the Police Chief has signed up to testify.

CHAIR LEE: Oh, okay. Chief Pelletier. Chief, are you there?

MR. PELLETIER: I'm here. I'm here.

CHAIR LEE: Good morning.

MR. PELLETIER: Good afternoon. I...I'm in between a Police Commission meeting, so it's kind of interesting juggling the various aspects of Maui County Government politics and such. Councilmember Paltin, I could not agree more with everything you just said, as far...I agree with everything you said. I was asked to speak about some of the issues and concerns that we had in the primary, specifically some of the security concerns, which is why I'm here speaking on that today. I understand that there was a adjustment made on the application/affidavit. We changed it from an affidavit, made it an application. That one word caused a group to have some issues and concerns, and that created a bigger issue of the process not being informed on the front end, which...Councilmember King, I agree with everything you said on that. And so, I'm probably going to agree with everything you all say on this particular one, so just bear

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that one in mind. One of the things I kind of have to stress is, of course, we have to have a voting process that everybody has their right to select the government, such as that we've all sworn to uphold and to do. And what's incredible about our government, and what's really incredible about Maui County is, of all the places that I've seen or been, this is probably some of the most true government I've ever witnessed, and it really is a pretty incredible thing. We've got to have a balance when law enforcement, which is a part of the government, is standing in front of voting. We can look oppressive. And I would say whatever the footprint is, we've got to be as minimal as possible from a uniformed presence there. You'll have my full support. We'll get you what you need, but I'm going to do everything that I can to balance that. Because the last narrative we need is, Maui County Police Department is suppressing the vote, and I did it at the behest of the Council. And that's...they'll say that, you know, whoever they are, so we want to just balance that. You'll have what you need from us. I would really encourage that if you're looking for a security component, security is not a government official. So, if you hired a security company, or you needed that, even though you're paying for them, they are not a representative of the government. So, that really might be a very good balance for you, might give you what you're looking for. If we feel that because of whatever threats may happen between now and then, we can make some adjustments. If we had to put a plainclothes person...plainclothes officer close by, we could. But what is it we're trying to get from them? Because if we needed a response because of public safety, a uniformed officer is a much better component for that because they're able to deal...they have their tools, they're able to deescalate, they're able to minimize whatever the threat is. And usually, if it's one side versus the other, and we've got almost a riot situation, we want uniformed at that point. So, I would really encourage that, if we're going to use something, we perhaps augment the security component. We have a good plan that is on the front end of this, then this, we message it, and maybe we over communicate it, and then we have, hey, you can vote by mail, but realize your ballot's got to be in by this to be counted. And absent that, here's your other option. And we lead everybody as close to water, so to speak, as we possibly can. And we do know that people just don't follow the rules, and...but we don't want to make the rules overly complicated so that they're now silenced, and they're now not able to exercise it. So, chance favors the prepared mind, and as prepared as we can be and over communicate. So, I hope that helps. I hope that's what you were looking for.

CHAIR LEE: Chief. Chief.

MR. PELLETIER: So...yes, ma'am.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. I thought we had already...in speaking with the Clerk and her Deputy, we were planning...or they were planning to hire off-duty police officers because they are better trained than the ordinary security person, even though it would cost a little bit more. And one of the reasons for that is not only are they trained, but they have the ability to arrest. We weren't talking about plain...police officers that are in uniform because...yeah, you know, it would probably, you know, just antagonize people. So, that's why they were talking about hiring plainclothes police officers, and...and this stems from our Staff not being protected...not only the public, but our Staff. So, I think we want to have the best possible security measures that we can provide our Staff, as

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well as the public. So, that's the direction they were planning to go in. And hopefully, you can support us on that.

MR. PELLETIER: Oh, you have my full support. There's nothing that we all do that is more important than one, public safety; but two, making sure that people have the right to exercise their vote. And so, we've got to have the ability to have those that are working the polling places safe and secure, or else they're just not going to be working in those. And that causes another issue. So, we will do a combination thereof. I have not been fully given the complete plan yet.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. I think Members may have some questions. Members, do you have questions? Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Chief, I just want to appreciate you taking your time to speak to us. And I kind of hear, with your wisdom, that you're saying maybe a hybrid...plainclothes, you know, or off-duty police officer in uniform is...makes a statement, but it also feels secure in my experience...and maybe using security or something. But I look forward to you working with the Clerk's Office to come up with the best plan. Appreciate you being here. Thank you.

MR. PELLETIER: Mahalo.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you very much, Chief.

MR. PELLETIER: Much mahalo. Absolutely. Take care now.

CHAIR LEE: All right. Any questions for Kathy, Members? Oh, no questions. Okay. Yes, Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I don't have a question. I don't have a question, but I...one of the things that she mentioned to me is that she has got the Staff hired to come in, I think, beginning of October, to do training on using the machine that's there so that you can verify signatures...I don't know what it's called, but verify signatures and count at the appropriate time. So, she's put that in motion, whereas for the primary, the Staff for the machine training was not available. So, I think that's going to be an important component to do the work more efficiently. I just wanted to mention that.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Thank you. Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Kathy, if you're here, I wanted to ask you if you can...if that you can somehow...I don't know if through a Chair's Meeting, or maybe a Committee meeting, give us a presentation on your plans for how you're going to do the public education and outreach for the general election. And then we would know what materials to expect, and we can start helping you by posting some of those procedures.

CHAIR LEE: Kathy.

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MS. KAOHU: Thank you, Councilmember King and Chair Lee. Sorry. I came up here with security on my mind, and I would request...if I can put that in writing. So far, I do have one outreach event over at the State Building planned for hands-on training for the public on the Verity and the electronic voting equipment, but I don't...right now, it's slipping my mind. And so, I can get that to you when I get back to my office, and either email you an advance notice so you can mark your calendars, and then put together the whole plan that I can transmit to the Councilmembers.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. That'd be great, and then we can help you as much as possible. I know you've got nine Members who all have social media...or most of us do, some of us maybe don't. But, we know...we can help you by spreading that information because, you know, I would like to get more information out this time than we had before the primary.

MS. KAOHU: Okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just was going to add, probably every single candidate would love to help you get the information out on how to vote, if not vote for them or whatever, but I mean, think you have beyond nine. Every candidate would love to help you get that information out, and maybe the media too. But I just wanted to clarify what Member Sugimura was saying. Did we get the Acellus contract?

MS. KAOHU: Yes. That's all finalized, and we're moving forward with arrangements for the training and the technical support pre-election.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. That sounds great. And then did you...did you...were you going to reach out to some media, or should we throw some media your way? Or wait until you get the message first, and then contact the media?

MS. KAOHU: Probably simultaneously all of the above. The Office of Elections has a really comprehensive website, and over here we don't really have a big presence on the Council website, but we do on the .gov location. So...yeah, I just want an opportunity to make sure the voter knows that we're all part of one...one goal, and that's to inform the public of the information regarding elections this October...or this November, sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And I think my last question is...does South Maui have a drop box? I thought I heard some huhū that they were...like they didn't have.

MS. KAOHU: South Maui has a drop box at the Wailea Fire Station. There's a...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, so some guys are grumbling that they got to go to Wailea or something?

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MS. KAOHU: I don't know if there was grumbling about that, but there was a good turnout for that box.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. I guess I heard grumbling like why doesn't Kihei have one, but they just got to drive to Wailea, right. I mean, is that bad, or...I guess Member King knows? I'll yield.

MS. KAOHU: No, the...we had two locations last election, and one of them was like steps from the post office...so...and...and a bus stop. So, those were the things that we measured when we located these boxes, how close are they to a post office, and how close to a bus stop they were. And Wailea...Kihei just seemed redundant, so we dropped that one from the...from the siting, and just stayed with Wailea.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I guess...

CHAIR LEE: Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, sorry.

CHAIR LEE: Oh, sorry. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just based on what she said last, maybe...I don't know. Because at some point, you don't want folks to put it in the post office anymore. So, I guess, at that point, maybe...would it be feasible to put the drop box out at that point when you don't want them to put it in the mail because it would be too late, or is that not a possibility?

MS. KAOHU: That's a good suggestion. By that time, things are rolling really fast, and we would encourage the voters to vote early rather than wait for a drop box to be sited, or to use the Wailea drop box, if possible.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Good luck with that encouragement. I encourage my kids to brush their teeth, but we all know how that goes.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Member King, then Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you. Yeah, I did want to follow up. It was troubling because the drop box was in a different place than what people were expecting it. But I don't think it's a bad thing to put it near the post office because there's a point where we don't want people to put...to drop their ballot in the post office. And if the drop box is right there, it makes it easier. But yeah, certainly there's...I mean, Wailea's at one end of South Maui, and you know, the bulk of the people, especially the way the traffic is now...traffic is so backed up because of all the construction, and what's happening with the new high school, and the roundabout. It's really...you know, I mean, I talk to people who didn't want to drive across town to put their ballot in the drop box. So, you know...and were wondering why it wasn't in the...you know, the same location as last time. So, I think that's what people were looking for. And I would just encourage you

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not to, you know...if it's close to the post office, that might actually be an advantage because I'd rather have people mess up and put it in the drop box instead of the post office box than vice versa. You know, and so...and there were people I talked to that put it in a...in a post office too late. So, they...I think...was there...did you do any kind of messaging on what the last day to put it in the post office would be in order for it to get to the...you know, to you?

MS. KAOHU: Usually it's a five-day period, advance period --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

MS. KAOHU: -- to not use the post office.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: But did you put that date out there in the materials?

MS. KAOHU: In probably...in small print, it may have been. There was a lot of information in the different advertising that we used, and everything tended to be really small print because of the amount of information that we were trying to include.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Well, maybe we can...

MS. KAOHU: So I'll take that --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah. If you can...

MS. KAOHU: -- into consideration.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Because, you know, these are points that we're all hearing from constituents about. And some of it, for me, were people that just didn't vote because they didn't get that information. So, I appreciate your...appreciate you being here, and I appreciate you taking our input, Kathy. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Moving right along, Member Kama, then Member Sinenci, then...I really want to get to the update on the Youth Council, and then defer the rest of the items.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Member...Pro Tem Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you. So, Kathy...so, in terms of how far in advance people need to put their ballots into the post office box, you said five days prior to? So, if you look at the General Election, which is on a Tuesday...so five days prior to that, the latest would be...would that be the Thursday before the weekend?

MS. KAOHU: Yes, that would be good.

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COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. That's my question. And then the second question is, you know the drop boxes? Do you put them in every community, or is there one in every community, or is it just in certain communities?

MS. KAOHU: We try to get a presence in every community, and we also...well, I had a couple of conversations with Common Cause Hawai'i, and one of the colleges on the mainland did siting locations for drop boxes, and some of the considerations that they used was proximity to post office and proximity to bus stops. And when they did an assessment of our inventory and our sitings, they said we were right on with the overlap, and all those other factors.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Oh, that's wonderful. Wonderful, thank you.

MS. KAOHU: And we try to also stay with County facilities as much as possible because then we could deal with in-house --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

MS. KAOHU: -- matters internally.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

MS. KAOHU: So, you'll see that a lot of the locations are at either fire stations or community centers.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Cool, very good. Thank you. Thank you, Kathy. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Mahalo, Kathy. You know, for the primaries, we did have a drop box at the Hāna Fire Station, and then the Saturday prior, we did have voting in person in Hāna, where we did have a large number of...register on the day of voting. Do you still plan to do that for the general?

MS. KAOHU: Yes, that'll be November 5th, the Saturday. And I know everyone is probably hoping for a...more of a presence with the voter service center, but the...the location and the manpower required to go beyond the Saturday just wasn't there in time to secure. And yes, you did have 13 new registered voters last...for the primary when we were there. And that was more than Moloka'i for that day.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you. Appreciate that. November 5th. Thank you.

MS. KAOHU: 10 to 4.

CHAIR LEE: Anything else?

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MS. KAOHU: And I have to add that--real quick, sorry--that Hāna was on everybody's radar during the 2020 elections, and because the State legislation didn't allow for flexibility for us to schedule different time frames, or take into consideration the driving, the commute, to Hāna, our thing was to go to...we went to the Legislature and requested a little flexibility, and they gave it to us, so that's why we were able to do this one Saturday with limited hours. So they changed the law for Hāna.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Well, thank you very much, Kathy.

MS. KAOHU: Thank you for all your support.

ITEM 4. UPDATE ON YOUTH COUNCIL (Councilmember King)

CHAIR LEE: Let's move on. Any more testimony? Any more testifiers, Traci? We're going to take up number 4, and then defer the rest.

MS. FUJITA: There's somebody that's identified as Guest to testify.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Guest, do you want to testify? Please come forward now. Okay. I don't see or hear anybody. So, let's take up Update on the Youth Council. Councilmember King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. I think we have Axel here. Axel, do you want to step forward? Got some pretty exciting updates, and what we're looking for now is a date that we could actually seat the Youth Council in the Chambers. And I...we're having a little bit of conflict with potential County Clerk activities. I had offered my date...my Committee date of October 19th to actually do the Youth Council because I didn't want...I didn't dare ask you, Chair, because I know how busy you are trying to...you know, to set aside a whole Council agenda for this, I think, would be really tough. But I'm going to let Axel go ahead and give you an update on where we're at. Thanks, Axel.

MR. BEERS: Thanks, Councilmember King. Aloha, Chair Lee and Councilmembers. So, again, right, the goal of our Youth Council that we established was this pilot program to enable and try to create a system where young people could produce resolutions, you know, advising the Council on the youth priorities. And the idea was they were going to draft and deliberate these high...and these would be high school students. And we hope to use the Council Chambers to make the experience real, like Councilmember King was saying, so they could feel the weight of, you know, these kinds of decisions that you folks are making in Committees and in Council meetings. So, just going to do...try to do a quick rundown of where we're at, and like where we've been over the summer. We had 20 applicants, and we accepted them all. Their first meeting was on June 20th, and we invited Chair Lee to speak at that meeting to kind of, you know, talk a little bit about what the Council is about. And one of the things Chair Lee mentioned was, you know, having specific priorities, you know, to focus on...that when you're a

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new Councilmember, you have a million ideas that you might care about, but how do you focus on those things that you really want to work on? And from there, started to work with those Youth Council members on what are your priorities, what do you really care about, and then encouraging them to start to do the process of researching, and like looking into, you know, what is being done on these topics, and how they might be able to form their resolutions. I called them research projects, but they're really more like tasks, just kind of like how you folks do, where you have to, you know, find your own information, and try to come up with backing. Anyway, that was our first meeting. We wanted to give the students a foundation in policy and the island plan. So, from there, for our second session, we talked about, you know, the Maui Island Plan and the Countywide Policy Plan, and we invited Councilmember Paltin there to talk also about planning to give them that sense about, you know, the long-term vision of our County that's...before they were around, and like that they're going to help establish going into the future. That was session two. Because there was a lot of...and again, I kind of tried to organize it based on what I was hearing from the Councilmembers as far as their interest. There's a lot of interest in things like, you know, mental health, youth services, access to services that are maybe not necessarily like legislation, but a lot...you support a lot during budget. So for the third session, we invited Council...or Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez to talk about the budget process, how the Council, you know, supports activities in the community through funding. We invited Maui Economic Development Board to also give their perspective of, you know, what's going...what they're looking at in the future, and to provide an avenue where the Youth Council members are actually able to participate in the CEDS process, and provide their input for that long-term plan. We went into session four...as you know, you know, the environment's super important to young people. It's documented in study after study that young people are really concerned about issues of climate change. So for session four, we had a super jam-packed session. We had Councilmember King there to speak about CARE activities. Councilmember Sinenci spoke about, you know, the public trust, and what he's working on with water. We had Maui Nui Marine Resource Council, and the Office of Climate Change, Resiliency, and Sustainability up in the Mayor's Office...Hannah Shipman came and gave a presentation on the action plan that they're working on there. That was session four. And then for session five, you guys might've seen that there were a couple Youth Council members that submitted testimony on Bill 107, when Bill 107 was going to the Council for the first time. So we really wanted to try to bring in Councilmember Gabe Johnson to talk about affordable housing, and to talk about the issues of economic well-being that some of the members were concerned about. Councilmember Kama...Pro Tem Kama was also there, and gave a rundown about what she has been working on, as well as MEO to talk about their projects. So that took us to session five. And what I noticed when we got to session five was that during the summer, our attendance was pretty solid. Of the 20 that came...that signed up, we had 18 that confirmed, and we pretty much kept to that number, you know, minus a couple members if they were going on a summer trip, medical appointments, you know, stuff like that. We kept at that number of 15 to 18. But when school started, things really went upside down. You know, it's kind of like your boards and commissions, where the people who are involved in boards and commissions are...want to do, you know, everything else for the community. So, what I learned is, our students are involved in like multiple AP classes, multiple clubs, multiple sports, sometimes

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working after-school jobs. So, when summer ended, our attendance really took a pretty hard hit. So, at that point, we hit pause for the last few months, and have been polling the members to try to figure out the best way to move forward with our remaining meetings. We only...the amount of meetings that, you know, I see that really need to happen...there are really three. And, you know, like I mentioned, we talked to seven Councilmembers. And so, of course, I want Councilmember Sugimura...to invite Councilmember Sugimura to come to speak to the students, and Councilmember Molina, like...of course, to invite them for the two sessions, and then the last session where we can pass out the Youth Legislative Package. And then in between there, trying to schedule like workshops and one-on-ones, small groups, to really fine tune these councilmembers' proposals and their resolutions. So, those are kind of the dates, and the timeline that we're trying to put together going forward to wrap this pilot project up. Like Councilmember King was mentioning, there is this issue with the Chambers, and ballot counting, and the election. So, I was able to speak to County Clerk Kaohu, and she was able to find a date of October 26th. But the issue with that date is that it's at the Planning Conference Room because the Chambers are being occupied. And it's from 10 to 12 a.m. [sic] only, which I think would be a sufficient time. I don't think we're going to run into the same issues you guys are running into with length of meetings, but...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Are you going to take testimony?

MR. BEERS: That's right. That's right. That's a good question. Because I was thinking about taking testimony, but only for...you know, within the same age range. So like, you know, maybe 13 to 18 year olds providing testimony.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: But the other thing too, is that we really want to seat these students in the Chambers because, you know, we don't want this just to be another classroom session. We want them to full the feel...feel the full weight of, you know, what it's like to be in County Government. Because that's what we're...we're trying to encourage, that kind of engagement. So, I...you know, I don't know when...did they...did Kathy say when she's starting?

MR. BEERS: You know, I had it in my notes.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I don't understand why they can't use...

MR. BEERS: I caught that note. If we wanted to use Chambers, I caught that she said November 14th or later. So, that was kind of the window there, like...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Hoping to...and this is why I think it's good for this group to talk about it, because we're really hoping to do this before the election because, you know, we thought the kids would be more engaged, and feel more like their positions were going to be listened to if it was before the election. You know, it definitely needs to be before the end of this year because it was created with this Council. So, I kind of wanted to get input from you folks on...I mean, if we...if we go too far into December, is that...is that...are a lot of you going to be gone? I mean, a lot of times, what happens...well, my

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first term, the last meeting in December was always cancelled, and the Committees started winding down. So, you know, I'm happy to give...I can try to give the first meeting...either the last meeting in November to this...I'd much rather do it, you know, in October, but if we can't do it before the election, then maybe right after...maybe the...I don't want to do it in the Planning Room. I don't know how you folks feel about that, but I think it's much more impactful for the students if we do it in the Chambers, if they get to sit in the Chambers, and sit where we sit, and you know, deliberate in our spot. Yeah. Thank you, Shane. So...so, that's kind of where we're at. We're looking for a date. And it doesn't have to be...you know, if we can find another date, it doesn't have to be a CARE Committee date. So, Chair, maybe I could work with you on that. And we might even be able to use an off-week meeting date, you know, a Tuesday --

CHAIR LEE: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- or something. I don't want to limit it to two hours though, because I would like to have them...I would like to have them have the experience of testimony of...you know, how they would address the opinions of their peers, and possibly differences of opinions. Because that's a big part of being a public official, is that outreach and listening to people.

CHAIR LEE: So, Axel, what did the Clerk --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: . . .*(Inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR LEE: -- County Clerk...the Clerk...what did she say? November 14th, you said?

MR. BEERS: Yes, that was when the Chambers would be available again. But not...I don't think she gave me a specific date, it was just like from November 14th on --

CHAIR LEE: Oh, okay.

MR. BEERS: -- then we could start scheduling in the Chambers again.

CHAIR LEE: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So, maybe Chair and I can work on a date. I'll be...I think I'll be back the following week after that from COP 27, from Egypt. So, maybe we can...and you know, it...I do think that we're going to need at least four hours. I'd like to give the students that, at least. And I would like to encourage them to, you know, encourage their peers to look at their issues and testify.

CHAIR LEE: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I hope they're getting some class credit for this. Did we work that out? I know we were trying...

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MR. BEERS: We do have students who are doing their senior project on sort of the reso that they're putting together. And we...with this pilot project, if we can put together like a proof of concept, the...one of the chancellors at UHMC said she was willing to work together as far as how to make this, you know, a credit course at the college...if this concept can prove out.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. So we're in a pilot. We're in pilot mode...pilot project mode.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, very good. Members, do you have any questions for Axel? If not, well...Pro Tem Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Axel, do you...do...in the young peoples' discussions or comments, did they ever talk about chain suicide?

MR. BEERS: We do have a couple members who are interested in the topics of mental health, including youth suicides. And the other things like, you know, vaping, and those kinds of issues did come up.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: And are you...are you connected to Dane Ka'ae at MEO, who has their youth...he's in charge of their youth leadership on that Committee?

MR. BEERS: Yeah, Dane is awesome. He came and spoke on that day with MEO, and he was talking about...you know, they have their youth group. And yeah, they just had that news story that was in *The Maui News* yesterday, I think it was. So, that was...I definitely want to link up more with them, especially, you know, with this idea of testimony, since they already have a group that's coming together, and connecting our councilmembers with that group, just kind of...just how Councilmembers do, right, like you have partners in the community and --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

MR. BEERS: -- how do you learn from the people who are on the ground doing the work to create legislation and policy that, you know, meets your needs. So, we had councilmembers interested in that. I was encouraging them to reach out, but then further, for testimony, I think that's a great idea. Because these new people are already engaged, you know, in Dane's program, and so, how to bring them in to drive further input.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay, cool.

MR. BEERS: Thanks.

CHAIR LEE: That's good.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Look forward to having greater things coming up for next year too. You know, it doesn't have to end at the 31st of this year, you know. You could continue on...that is if, you know, you're encouraged, or urged to. But thank you. Thank you.

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: So, Member Kama, we're trying to...because this is a pilot project, we're trying to create something that could be an annual event, that the...that could be part...and that's why we've been talking to the high school...to the Department of Education and UH Maui College, so that, you know, this...if...if we could link this project in with the schools, and the students can get credit for...you know, a class credit for doing something like this, that would be...encourage them even more in, you know, participating.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Oh, I...I think that's excellent. But I also think, too, that...you know, sometimes when you put a whole bunch of kids...100 kids together in a room...and, you know, similar to the conferences we all attend, and how much wealth we get out of that, just by networking with other people from other parts of our island, or our country, or our state, and how that helps to benefit our learning and our personal growth, I'd like to see that happen for these young people too, that you get them in a conference, and you...you know, you get speakers, and you get them to be their own, you know, speakers too, you know, and they share information, and all that kind of stuff. I'd like to see that happen...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: We'd like to get to the 100 applicants for this project...you know, for the project, and...because a lot of it's training. You know, they...

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: We'll be selecting nine of them to actually sit as councilmembers, but a lot of the training that they're getting and --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- learning how to identify priorities, learning how to deliberate, do the research that we do, and...and then advocate for their position.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: That's what I think. I like the number...I like the number 100 because where do you get the nine from, right, to show true representation, right, of these 100 young people, whoever they might be. And so, you only get nine. Well, that's the magic number, just like us, right. 160,000 people in this County, we only get nine, you know...so, you got to live with that, but that's some of the stuff we...we get to live with. And they will learn that, and they will become great statesmen and stateswomen. Looking forward to that. Thank you, Axel.

CHAIR LEE: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: All right. Well, thank you very much, Axel and Member King, for even having this...creating this Youth Council. And so happy to see you've come this far.

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, I...

CHAIR LEE: Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I just really wanted to give a lot of kudos to Axel. You know, he...when he...when I hired him, he was a teacher, and he's working on his master's degree. So, you know, in my mind, this would be the perfect project. But I think he's immediately, you know, gained the trust and respect of all those students. So...and took a lot of extra time in, you know, working directly with them. So...and I appreciate all of the Councilmembers who have come to the meetings to share your mana'o. I really look forward to being able to have that session in Chambers, and have all of us sitting in the Chambers up in the...where the audience sits, you know, observing what's going on. Because this is our next generation of leaders. It's very exciting.

CHAIR LEE: Yes, very exciting.

ITEM 5. 3-MONTH PLANNING CALENDAR

ITEM 6. HAWAII STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (HSAC)/NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACo)/WESTERN INTERSTATE REGION (WIR) MATTERS

ITEM 7. COVID-19 MANDATE AND PROTOCOLS

CHAIR LEE: So Members, it's a little...almost...it's 12:27. Any objections to deferring items 5, 6, and 7?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR LEE: Oh, okay, very good. So we had a very lively discussion today, and hopefully a positive one in the end. And at this point in time, I assume, Traci, we don't have any more testifiers?

MS. FUJITA: Nope, there's no more testifiers.

CHAIR LEE: Nope? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I do have one announcement regarding HSAC for those who are attending the HSAC Conference. So, I just want to make this announcement because I just talked to Chair Mason Chock, our President of HSAC. We're not going to be having...the original intent was to have a general membership meeting at the Conference. We're not going to be doing that. He's decided there aren't enough issues

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for, you know, an agenda. We are going to have the EC meeting, the Executive Committee meeting, and that will be open to all Members. So, this is...and we will be having a discussion on the legislative agenda. So, if you have legislation that hasn't...that didn't go through the Council, that's...that would be an opportunity to bring it up too, directly to the HSAC Executive Committee.

CHAIR LEE: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So just hoping Members can, you know, look for that on the agenda, and join us.

CHAIR LEE: Very good. Thank you for that announcement. All right, Members. This meeting of...the Chair's Meeting, September 21st, 2022, is now adjourned. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

ADJOURN: 12:29 p.m.

APPROVED:



ALICE L. LEE
Council Chair

chr:min:220921:bc

Transcribed by: Brenda Clark

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CERTIFICATION

I, Brenda Clark, hereby certify that pages 1 through 52 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 2nd day of November 2022, in Wailuku, Hawai'i



Brenda Clark