

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
Council of the County of Maui

**MINUTES**

**March 23, 2009**

**Paia Community Center**

**CONVENE:** 6:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councilmember Joseph Pontanilla, Chair  
Councilmember Danny A. Mateo, Vice-Chair  
Councilmember Gladys C. Baisa, Member  
Councilmember Sol P. Kaho'ohalahala, Member  
Councilmember Bill Kauakea Medeiros, Member  
Councilmember Michael J. Molina, Member  
Councilmember Wayne K. Nishiki, Member  
Councilmember Michael P. Victorino, Member

**EXCUSED:** Councilmember Jo Anne Johnson, Member

**STAFF:** Kirstin Hamman, Substitute Legislative Analyst  
Camille Sakamoto, Substitute Committee Secretary  
Michele Yoshimura, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Joseph Pontanilla  
Arthur Suyama, Executive Assistant to Council Chair Danny A. Mateo  
Ken Fukuoka, Director, Office of Council Services

**ADMIN.:** *Seated in the audience:*  
Tamara Horcajo, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation

**OTHERS:** Dustin and Christina Carillo  
Briana Lagrimas-Melendez  
Kaulana Ryan  
Kiana Atkinson  
Gracie Hurd-Gomez  
Sadie Cardenas  
Alima Rhodes  
Charles Dewhurst  
Gay McDonald  
Lee Lee Rhodes  
Chad Franco  
Jonnette Kimbrel  
Johnna Uwekoolani  
Finau Ongoloka  
Terran Sobel-Smith  
Elena Abe  
Stacey Baker

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Susun White, Paia Youth Council, Inc.  
Philip Lowenthal  
Robert Munoz  
Jennifer Stites  
Sandy Ryan  
Cara Bohne  
Colin Hanlon, Chief Professional Officer, Boys & Girls Club of Maui  
Jani Sheppard, CEO, Maui Family Support Services  
Dave Deleon, Chair, Built Environmental task Force of the Maui Nutrition and  
Physical Activity Coalition  
Alda St. James, Executive Director, Keiki Kokua  
Jim St. James, Keiki Kokua  
Karl Bossert, President, Keiki Kokua  
John Kealohapauole  
Pam Farnsworth, Member, Board of Director, Cameron Center  
Charmaine Kekona-Ahuna  
Raymond Ahuna  
Rusty Maranda  
Ryan Bartolome  
Robert Karpovich  
Paula Ambre, The Maui Farm, Inc.  
Emily Haines-Swatek  
Barbara Kline  
Charlie Schlather  
Henry Spencer  
Sione M. Langi  
Sulieti Langi  
Nancy Johnson, Chair, Allied Health Department, Maui Community College  
Jane Eldridge, Manager, Keiki Kokua Thrift Store  
Claire M. Sheehan, Maui Humane Society  
Saroon Von Schultze  
Elena Jones  
Jan Dapitan, Keep the Hawaiian Islands Beautiful  
Catharine Holyoak  
Lynn Curtis, Member, Board of Directors, Boys and Girls Club of Maui

Charlene Doi, Director, Kansha Preschool  
Sherman Baisa  
Suzie Thieman, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.  
Lee Nakanelua  
Kyle Nakanelua  
Bill Ryker  
Victor \_\_\_\_\_  
Approximately 20+ additional unidentified attendees

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . .(*gavel*). . . Good evening, everyone. I'd like to call to order the Council's Budget and Finance Committee meeting for March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 at the Paia Community Center. Good evening. . .thank you for having us here tonight reviewing the 2010 proposed Budget as proposed by the Mayor of our County. At this time, I'd like to yield the floor to Councilmember Michael Molina who is your representative. . .who will be providing us the introduction or providing you the introduction of the rest of the Members that are here tonight. Mr. Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you, Mr. Pontanilla. First of all, aloha and welcome everyone. We have a full house here tonight. You're part of, the first in a series of evening public hearings related to the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget. And this year, Paia gets the honor of being the first community to have the hearing held. Let me start with the introductions. Over to my left, representing the island of Lanai, Councilmember Sol Kaho'ohalahala.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: Aloha.

AUDIENCE: . . .(*applause*). . .

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: All right, and . . .

AUDIENCE: . . .(*applause*). . .

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: . . . next is a lady who's no stranger to Upcountry Maui. As a matter of fact, all throughout Maui County--representing Upcountry Maui, Gladys Baisa.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: . . .(*inaudible*). . . everybody.

AUDIENCE: . . .(*applause*). . .

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: And way over to my far right, the tallest member of the County Council, representing the Wailuku area, Mike Victorino.

AUDIENCE: . . .(*applause*). . .

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: And all the way from East Maui, we have Councilmember William Kauakea Medeiros, otherwise known as Bill Medeiros.

AUDIENCE: . . .(*applause*). . .

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: . . . And from South Maui, Mr. Wayne Nishiki.

AUDIENCE: . . .(*applause*). . .

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COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: . . . And we have our Council Chairman, all the way from Molokai, Danny Mateo.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: And last but not least, representing the Kahului area, our Budget Chairman and facilitator of tonight's meeting, Mr. Joe "Show Me the Money" Pontanilla.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause and cheers)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Member Molina. Also, I'd like to introduce the . . .two people that's taking in the . . .signup for public testimony. We do have. . .Michele. . .Yoshimura. . .on the far left, and Arthur--

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --Suyama. Thank you for being here tonight, also.

VICE-CHAIR MATEO: Committee Staff . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . Oh, yeah. And my. . .the staff that's supporting this Committee tonight--sorry, is Kirstin Hammel [*sic*], she's a Legislative Analyst; and Camille Sakamoto, who is the Committee Secretary.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . Again, tonight, you're here to provide public testimony on the . . .proposed 2010 Budget as proposed by our Mayor, Charmaine Tavares.

**ITEM NO. 1: PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010 FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (C.C. No. 09-59)**

CHAIR PONTANILLA: But before we take in public testimony this evening, if everyone could turn off your cell phone or put it on silent mode?

**NOTE:** *Pause.*

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . Thank you. The Chair will allow each public. . .testimony. . .you the time of three minutes. So you have three minutes to provide public testimony this evening. And if could speak in, into the mic. . .state your name and the organization that you represent. Tonight, we do have quite a few public testimony, so. . .let's go right into public testimony.

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. . . The first person to sign up for public testimony this evening is Dustin and Christina Carillo.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause and miscellaneous chatter)*. . .

**NOTE:** *Pause while Mr. and Mrs. Carillo approached the mic.*

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . Before you start, once you completed your public . . .testimony, please stay there for, you know, a moment, some of the Members may have questions for you after you provide your testimony. So, go ahead.

**. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .**

MR. CARILLO: Okay. 'Eh, how you guys doing? This is Dustin. This is--

MRS. CARILLO: Christina.

MR. CARILLO: --Christina. And we're on behalf of the MEO. I just hope you guys continue funding programs like that, you know, help me out through, you know, hard times of you know having one you know, having a baby and you know like being laid off of a job. And it really did help me. You know, in one week all this stuff happened to me in one week, you know, and I really appreciate, you know, you guys fund programs like that, especially like the youth centers and you know stuff like that. Help 'em out as much as you can. I mean. . .I mean, especially the times we going through now you know about like the economy and stuff like that, you know everybody no more money, you know, me I no more money either . . .*(laughter)*. . .

MRS. CARILLO: . . .*(laughter)*. . .

MR. CARILLO: So, yeah? Thank you guys for your time, you going to listen to everybody over here. Anything else you wanna say, Babe?

MRS. CARILLO: Yeah, I just wanna say thank you on, you know, behalf of our family and us and MEO and please continue to fund such programs as rental assistance, for the youth, and for the rest of the community. We need these at a time in these matters and everything. So we really appreciate your time and hope that you continue to fund this portion of the program and for the MEO programs.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members--

MR. CARILLO: Thank you, guys.

MRS. CARILLO: Thank you.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Yeah, thank you. Members, do you have any questions for the testifier? Uh. . .we have questions from--

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Yes.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --Member Victorino.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Carillo, for coming tonight.

MRS. CARILLO: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: What specific programs are you referring to that MEO is helping you out with?

MRS. CARILLO: With rental and--

MR. CARILLO: Rental, yeah.

MRS. CARILLO: --elect, electric. Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Rental and electric--

MRS. CARILLO: Electricity.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: --assistance?

MRS. CARILLO: Uh-huh.

MR. CARILLO: Yeah.

MRS. CARILLO: Yes, exactly.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Anything with Head Start or anything like that? Just, just those two?

MRS. CARILLO: Not at this current time.

MR. CARILLO: Not at this time, no.

MRS. CARILLO: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Not at this time? Okay.

MRS. CARILLO: I mean, it's. . .in the future, yes, we will go through that. . .*(inaudible)*. . .

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COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: All right.

MRS. CARILLO: All right?

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Thank you very much.

MRS. CARILLO: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Member Victorino.

MRS. CARILLO: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MR. CARILLO: Anything else?

MRS. CARILLO: Thank you . . .*(laughter)*. . .

MR. CARILLO: No?

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Any more questions?

. . . Seeing none, thank you again.

MRS. CARILLO: . . .*(laughter)*. . .

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: The next testifier--

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . The next testifier is Briana Lagrimas-Melendez.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(miscellaneous chatter)*. . .

**NOTE:** *Pause while Miss Lagrimas-Melendez approached the mic.*

MISS LAGRIMAS-MELENDEZ: . . .*(sigh)*. . . Good evening, Council. My name is Briana Lagrimas-Melendez. And I'm currently a Junior at King Kekaulike High School. I am here to speak to the importance of Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance.

. . . Um . . .*(laughter)*. . . I'm a proud member of this program for two years. And as a member, I've been exposed to a broad range of occupations and opportunities offered in our very own community. I see how science and technology plays a major role in each occupation and opportunity. Being a member of this group allows you to network with others with the same interest. One session that really stood out to me was a visit to the

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culinary art program at Maui Community College. Until that day, I never knew how science had. . .had to deal with food. The experience. . .an experiment was conducted at the session that really interested. . .was interesting to me. The experiment was to see how color affects the taste perception. And this experiment later on became my science project, which my partner and I very much pleased my teacher. I ask you to continue funding this program so that teenagers like me will continue to create more friendships, see more occupations and opportunities in our community, and most of all continue spreading this experiences with other future Youth Alliance member. . .generations. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier this evening?

. . . Seeing none, thank you very much. The--

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: The next testifier is Kaulana Ryan, followed by Kia. . .Kiana. . .Atkinson.

*NOTE: Pause while Miss Ryan approached the mic. Miss Ryan started and ended her testimony in Hawaiian.*

MISS RYAN: . . . Aloha ahiahi . . .(Hawaiian). . . Kaulana Ryan . . .(Hawaiian). . . o Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance. Good evening, Council Members, my name is Kaulana Ryan. And I am a member of the Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance program. I have been a part of the Youth Alliance for four years and wanted to share a few special experiences I wouldn't have had if it weren't for the Youth Alliance program. Being a part of this wonderful program, I was able to go behind the scenes and see how Maui County is operated. Although I wasn't able to attend all of the sessions because of paddling, I have visited many interesting places throughout the past four years--which is Akaku, the Sugar Mill, and the island of Lanai where we were. . .where we able to see how they operated and benefit our residents.

. . . The Youth Alliance has reinforced my decision to attend college and has inspired me to return to Maui County after college and give back to the community.

. . . (Hawaiian) . . .

. . . So I humbly. . .I humbly ask you to continue funding this program for the Fiscal Year 2010. Mahalo.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Kaulana. Members, any questions for the testifier?

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Question.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Member Medeiros?

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COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: . . . Aloha.

MS. RYAN: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: You're a student at what school?

MS. RYAN: King Kekaulike High School. I'm--

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: I see.

MS. RYAN: --a senior.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Aha. Are you in Hawaiian emersion?

MS. RYAN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Oh, maikai. And when you come back, you wanna give back to your community in what way?

MS. RYAN: Um. . .well, when I go to college, I plan to major in Social Science and Native Hawaiian Studies.

. . . So. . .yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay. Imua.

MS. RYAN: . . .*(laughter)*. . . Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Mahalo.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

MISS RYAN: Mahalo.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Any more questions, Members? Seeing none. . .Kiana. . .Atkinson--

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --followed by Gracie Hurd-Gomes *[sic]*.

MISS ATKINSON: Aloha mai ka kou . . .*(Hawaiian)*. . . Kiana Atkinson. And I have been a member of the Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance for four years, also. I attend King Kekaulike High School as a Senior and. . .I wanted to share experiences that I had with the Youth Alliance. Since I have been in this program, it has been, it has broadened my

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view on different career opportunities in Maui Nui. We visit many places, such as Alii Kula Lavendar, and Maui Land and Pine in Kapalua and Molokai. . .and learn how they function in their community. My fondest memory of the Youth Alliance is our trip to Molokai in my Sophomore year. I, it helped me gain percept, perspective on what people on Molokai face in their small community and it also helped me understand their situation once their Ranch closed. So please continue to sport, support Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance so youth in the future have the same opportunities I had exploring the community to become leaders one day. . .that we desperately need. Mahalo.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Kiana. Members, any questions for the testifier?

. . . Seeing none, thank you again.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Gracie Hurd-Gomez. . .followed by Sadie Cardenas.

*NOTE: Pause while Miss Hurd-Gomez approached the mic and Staff completed adjustments to the mic.*

MISS HURD-GOMEZ: Thanks. Hi, my name is Gracie Hurd-Gomez. I'm 11 years old and I've going to the Haiku Boys and Girls Club for 3½ years. I love the Haiku Boys and Girls Club and everyone in it because the staff is caring and supporting. The Haiku Boys and Girls Club is like. . .my home. We get opportunities to do all kinds of things there--such as playing sports, games, and having a place to hang out with your friends. Not to mention the educational programs like Smart Moves and . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Club, plus art. The Haiku Boys and Girls Club is so much fun--that is why I am so thankful and love the Haiku Boys and Girls Club. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(laughter)*. . .

MISS HURD-GOMEZ: . . .*(laughter)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . Thank you.

ALL: . . .*(laughter)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Members, any questions for the testifier?

. . . Seeing none, thank you again.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

MISS HURD-GOMEZ: Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . Sadie Cardenas, followed by Alina *[sic]* Rhodes.

*NOTE: Pause while Miss Cardenas approached the mic.*

MISS CARDENAS: . . . Hi, my name is Sadie. I'm 15 years and I've been attending the Boys and Girls Club for about 4½ years now. And from those years, I came to realize that it's more than just a place to be at, but also a safe environment where I feel independent. The Club provides programs where I've learned to be more confident in myself and helpful toward the community and others while having fun doing it. They taught me right from wrong, and because of the Boys and Girls Club, I feel that I've become a better person. I love the Boys and Girls Club. And without it, who knows what kind of trouble I would have gotten in now . . .*(laughter)*. . . The staff and kids are like my family. And that is why I feel that it's important to me. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions--

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --for the testifier?

. . . Seeing none, thank you very much. Alina *[sic]* Rhodes, followed by Charles Dewhurst.

*NOTE: Pause while Ms. Rhodes approached the mic.*

MS. PHODES: . . . Hi, my name is Alima Rhodes. I'm Lee Lee's mom, a little blond girl here.

. . . As a parent, it's a comfort to know that my daughter has a safe, fun place to go after school every day. All her friends are there. They love the staff. They love the activities, and they especially love the field trips. Thank you for your continued support. I know they really appreciate it. . .and so do I.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you very much again.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Charles Dewhurst. . .followed by. . .Guy McDonald. Oh, *Gay* McDonald.

MR. DEWHURST: Aloha. My name is Charles Dewhurst. My son, Trevor, has been going to Boys and Girls Club for a little over 3 months now, and it's something he looks forward to every day. The main reason that I am grateful there is a program like this is that my son is home-schooled and this gives him an opportunity to interact with other children in

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a safe and structured environment. The care at--the staff is caring and wonderful. Gay, Amy, Jo, Nancy, and Zach are there and they care about all of the kids that walk through those doors. It also seems to me that parents whom have to go to work and need a place where their child can go afterschool. . .they don't have to worry that their child is getting into trouble or being unsafe. I asked Trevor this morning why he likes going to Boys and Girls Club, and he said it, because it's fun and I get lots of exercise. It is important to me that Boys and Girls Club continue to receive their funding to keep this program going. In closing, I would like to thank Gay for asking me to speak here tonight and thank the Council for listening. Mahalo.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you again.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Gay McDonald, followed by Lee Lee Rhodes.

MS. McDONALD: Good evening, my name is Gay McDonald. I'm the unit Director for the Haiku Boys and Girls Club. And it's an honor to be here in front of the Council just to . . .to speak about the pride that I have for this program. It has been a short time that I've been at the, at the Haiku Boys and Girls Club--a little over. . .about six weeks now. But my pride and joy and my heart is there as I come from a background of working with children. I see the assets of. . .the. . .what we can offer our youth by giving them a structured program. I know all of you have heard about all the programs, you know, that Boys and Girls Club offers. And what I'm here, to just continue to say and ask for is your continued support and funding through these programs. It, as, as the kids have talked about and as parents continue to see what we're seeing is, you know, a community raises a child--and that's what we're building there, is community. We recently participated in the Hoolaulea Festival, which I know all of you are very familiar with. And it was a great success and not. . .just from the monies that that, that raises for the community, but what it does to show the kids about building character, community service, and those kinds of things that, that are the backbone of not only our community, our County, our State, and our, and our. . .our Country. So those are the things that are very, very important to me--to have the continued support every one around the community, the County, to build those kinds of things that. . .what we're working with is our youth of today but our leaders of tomorrow.

. . . Thank you . . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank--

MS. McDONALD: . . . for this opportunity.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? We do have Member Baisa.

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COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you for being here very much, Gay.

MS. McDONALD: You're welcome.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: I think it would be very helpful if you could kind of give us an idea of what is a typical afternoon like at--

MS. McDONALD: . . .*(laughter)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: --Boys and Girls Club.

MS. McDONALD: We call it controlled chaos.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: . . .*(laughter)*. . . Besides that?

MS. McDONALD: Besides that? Um, Gladys, that's a good question. I appreciate that. It is an opportunity for kids to come in to a safe environment after school and such as now--we're open during spring break, 8 to 6. But it's an opportunity for kids to come into that kind of structured environment where we have different programs that address education. . .that address character and leadership, that address health and fitness, that address sports and recreation, and that address our arts. Those five things are our core programs. And then what we get the pleasure of doing is breaking those down into all kinds of different programs. . .like working snack shop, we work with manners, we work with money matters. You know, those kinds of things. So those are what our programs offer to the youth. And we have that kind of structured environment with our staff or, you know, with my staff that are there every day so we have a consistent face that the kids come into.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: So, the average child is there how many hours on an average afternoon, not during the summer when you have the day or during the breaks?

MS. McDONALD: Average time would be anywhere from three to four hours.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: I see.

MS. McDONALD: So--

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you--

MS. McDONALD: So what we're seeing is kids getting there and then parents getting off work at a, you know, an average time.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: And there's homework assistance.

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MS. McDONALD: Yes, ma'am . . .*(laughter)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you very much.

MS. McDONALD: You're welcome.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any more questions for the testifier?  
Member Medeiros?

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: . . . Mahalo, Chair. I just wanted to ask--are there any fees  
that the students or the parents pay in order to participate in the program?

MS. McDONALD: Our membership fee is 5 dollars a year.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: I see.

MS. McDONALD: And I just wanna add the 5 dollars is paid monetarily or through community  
service. So if a child or family is not able to pay the 5 dollars, we would have the child  
serve community service.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: And so the 5 dollars is per family or per . . . person?

MS. McDONALD: Per person.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay.

MS. McDONALD: And then we have a breakdown. If you have more than . . . then it's 10  
dollars a family.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: I see. Thank you.

MS. McDONALD: You're welcome.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Any more questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank  
you very much.

MS. McDONALD: Mahalo.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)* . . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Lee. . . Lee Lee Rhodes, followed by Chad Franco.

**NOTE:** *Pause while Miss Rhodes approached the mic.*

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MISS RHODES: . . . Hi, my name is Lee Lee. I'm 12 years old and I've been going to Haiku Boys and Girls Club for four years now. And I love it. The staff are like family. You love them in a second. We do so much fun stuff. We play sports, go on field trips, and you get to cook. You do educational programs, too--like Smart Moves, Torch Club, and Power Hour.

. . . Wow, this is short. That's why I love . . . *(laughter)*. . . Boys and Girls Club. It's like my second home.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you for your testimony.

MISS RHODES: You're welcome . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

AUDIENCE: . . . *(applause)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Chad Franco, followed by . . . Johnny *[sic]* Kimbrel.

**NOTE:** *Pause while Mr. Franco approached the mic.*

MR. FRANCO: . . . 'Eh, howzit? My name Chad Franco. I'm a . . .

. . . I'm a client of MEO, doing the BEST program. And I just wanted to say. . . they help us out a lot, you know, being that we was incarcerated and stuff, coming back out into the community.

. . . They help us out with all kind stuffs, like help us get our license, take us for go look for jobs.

. . . You know, help the braddahs with clothes, rent.

. . . And, brah, this. . . program is awesome. They get good classes. . . the parenting and all that kind help you get back with your family. You know, and. . . I was really thankful that I got to be in part of this program. And I hope you guys keep funding 'em. Get plenty other guys in there that need the help. And appreciate what you guys doing for all of us. Thank you. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier at this time? Member Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: . . . Howzit, Chad?

MR. FRANCO: You're welcome.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Good, good to see you . . .

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MR. FRANCO: You, too.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: . . . uh, not since 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Kalama School.

MR. FRANCO: Yeah . . .*(laughter)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: . . .*(laughter)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Just wanted to thank you for coming up and sharing your story--

MR. FRANCO: Right on.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: --appreciate your . . .your thoughts on this.

MR. FRANCO: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you.

MR. FRANCO: Okay.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Any more questions, Members? Seeing none, thank you very much.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . Uh. . .now, I got it straight--Jonnette Kimbrel.

MS. KIMBREL: Yeah . . .*(laughter)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Sorry.

MS. KIMBREL: Sorry, I have messy handwriting . . .*(laughter)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Followed by. . .Jo-Ann, Johnna Uwekoolani.

MS. KIMBREL: Hi, my name is Jonnette Kimbrel. I'm actually here on behalf of Maui Family Support Services Early Head Start, MEO Head Start, and Spanish . . .*(inaudible)*. . . I started out six years ago with Maui Family Support Services when my daughter was born. And they helped to make sure that she was doing the things she needed to do when she was. . .like her milestones and they helped her to get into MEO Head Start. And when my son was born, she went into the program. And he had speech problems. So they helped us get in touch with. . .Imua Family Services. They did their assessment on him and found out well, he really didn't need it afterall . . .*(laughter)*. . . But without

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them, I don't think we would have gotten the help at all 'cause the waiting list are very long. So thanks to them, they got into the MEO Head Start program. And . . .their father, actually, was in need. . .with some papers to do with his immigration papers. And he is Spanish . . .*(inaudible)*. . . So the MEO programs that we have been in helped our family a lot. So we hope that you fund all three of them . . .*(laughter)*. . . Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier?

. . . Seeing none, thank you again for testifying.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Johnna Uwekoolani, followed by Finau. . .Ongoloka.

MS. UWEKOOLANI: . . . Aloha, my name is Johnna Uwekoolani. And I am here on behalf of the MEO Enlace Hispano program. I've worked for the Maui WIC program for 14 years, and we've used their services a lot. Because of them, our clientele in Lahaina have grown tremendously. We've also reached clients out in Kihei, as well as Pukalani. Um. . .they also do outreach for our program, and we've attended their Mexican consulate, their Somos Amigos, and we've been able to build up more clientele through these services. I'm also a client of their WAP program. They helped us save a lot of money on electricity and the light bulbs and the solar heaters as well. So I'm asking for you guys to support their program and keep their funding going. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Member Baisa?

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you very much, Chair. Thank you very much for coming.

MS. UWEKOOLANI: You're welcome.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Just for the benefit of others who may not understand, you know, we use a lot of acronyms in the grant business and we just use them without realizing that people may not know what they mean. What does WIC do?

MS. UWEKOOLANI: WIC stands for Women Infant and Children. We are State-run, but we're Federally funded. So for now, our program is safe. But who knows when they're gonna start cutting services. But as far as the. . .WIC, we travel all over the island and we use the Spanish interpreters from MEO to come in and help translate with our clients.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: What are you doing for those clients?

MS. UWEKOOLANI: Um. . .we offer nutritional programs to the Spanish population, as well as the general public. And we offer food assistance. And without any understanding of speaking Spanish, if it weren't for these guys, our clients would have gone down, the

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numbers would have gone down. So because of them, we've been able to build up from a hundred Spanish clients to 400. And it's still climbing.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you very much.

MS. UWEKOOLANI: You're welcome.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Any more questions?

AUDIENCE: . . . *(applause)* . . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Seeing none, thank you again.

AUDIENCE: . . . *(applause)* . . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Finau Ongoloka, followed by Terran Sobel-Smith.

**NOTE:** *Pause while Ms. Ongoloka approached the mic.*

MS. ONGOLOKA: . . . Hi, I'm here on behalf of the Maui Farm. My name is Finau Ongoloka, and I'm a mother of six beautiful children. . .seven. . .7-year-old twin boys, 6-year-old boy, and 4-year-old son. . .3-year-old girl, and a 20-month-old boy.

. . . Before the Maui Farm, my children and I were seeking refuge at the Women Helping Women shelter for domestic violence. We were there for about three months and were referred by them to the Maui Farm. I had applied and before being accepted, I had an interview with Donna Vida, the Program Director and two of the family advocates. They had explained the program, what the program provides. And I can honestly say that I was then hoping and praying that my family would be accepted because I as a person wasn't so. . .so sure where to begin building mine and my children's lives from scratch.

. . . As soon as I got the news that we would be moving to the Maui Farm, I was so overjoyed to know that this is a new beginning, a positive beginning, that is, for the seven lives that still have a lot to grow and learn. Having six kids and going through domestic violence, I started to lose myself. The Maui Farm is a guidance. . .to the structure to mine and my children's lives. I have only been at the Farm for about a month, but within that time, I have already experienced and felt the changes within my family.

. . . The life skills class is helping me to. . .how to obtain my education and to be better equipped so when I leave the Maui Farm I have the motivation and the skills to succeed in whatever it is I set my mind to. The Akamai Parenting Class is my favorite. That has helped me on so many levels in a short amount of time. It has. . .it has opened the door to all the great opportunities of what life, this lifetime can give but I knew, I never knew of. . .and how to deal with that. And that note. . .on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February is the day that I had moved into the Maui Farm. And that was the day that I was reborn and I have just

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taken my first steps. I wanted to thank each and every one of you for all the funds that you've provided to this program. You have no idea the thank you. . .because here I can only go up. And I'm determined to do just that. I hope and I will pray that this will still continue--that you will still continue to support this program. Thank you to the Maui Farm, to Women Helping Women, and to you guys. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier?

. . . Seeing none, thank you again.

MS. ONGOLOKA: Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . Terran Sobel-Smith, followed by Elena Abe.

*NOTE: Pause while Master Sobel-Smith approached the mic.*

MASTER SOBEL-SMITH: . . . Hello. My name is Terran Sobel-Smith, and I am a student at King Kekaulike High School. I'm here because I would like to thank you for supporting, for the support that you have shown for my school's EAST program. This year, I was one of the four students to attend the 2009 EAST Conference in Arkansas. I feel that this conference has been both a wonderful learning experience, as well as the chance to teach others about our EAST on Maui. I learned many valuable tools, as well as public speaking--such as better ways to help improve my own work, help those with their projects, and ultimately how to better help my own community with projects that our EAST project can perform. I would like to ask the Committee for your support--not only for our program at King Kekaulike High School--but also for the Maui Economic Development . . .*(end of tape, start 1B)*. . . Board for allowing us to attend this conference. And thank you for your time this evening.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier?

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Question.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Member Medeiros?

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Chair. Mr. Smith, how many students are with you in that program?

MASTER SOBEL-SMITH: Seventy-three.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Seventy-three?

MASTER SOBEL-SMITH: Yes.

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COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: And they range from what grades?

MASTER SOBEL-SMITH: Some are in 9<sup>th</sup> . . .but most are 10 through 12.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay. Thank you.

MASTER SOBEL-SMITH: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Any more questions, Members? Seeing none, thank you.

MASTER SOBEL-SMITH: Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: The next testifier is Elena Abe--

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --followed by Stacy Baker.

MISS ABE: . . . Good evening, my name is Elena Abe. And I am also a student at King Kekaulike High School. And I also, I am also part of the EAST program. . .up at my school. And like Terran, I was also fortunate enough to be able to attend the National EAST Conference. . .at the beginning of March. And we were awarded with the highest rating--which is called Superior School. So we, we accomplished what we set out to do. Um. . .besides having the opportunity to learn about other school's programs and learning. . .learn more about technology. . .going to this conference, I think, was a lesson in team work--being able to improve my speaking skills, as well as being in charge of my own learning. It also gave me an opportunity to meet new people and to be exposed to new cultures that are on the mainland. And I think it's very important for Hawaii 'cause to. . .be able to experience. . .different opportunities on the mainland and just to be able to come home and share what they've learned.

. . . And also it was a good experience for me to be exposed to the possibilities in the technology world. And. . .just being able to see what I'm interested in and what I can pursue beyond high school. Besides Project EAST, I've participated in other Maui Economic Development Board sponsored programs--such as Introduce A Girl to Engineering Day, Technology Career Days, and I also attended computer aid design and geographic information systems trainings during the summer. Um. . .so the programs that the MEDB has sponsored has catered to my interests, revealed to me what I would like to pursue in the future, and. . .has helped me to become a proactive learner. So I wanna thank you for your continued assistance in supporting the MEDB, as well as Project EAST. Thank you.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any question for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you again.

MISS ABE: Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . . *(applause)* . . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . The next testifier is Stacey Baker, followed by Susun White.

*NOTE: Pause while Ms. Baker approached the mic.*

MS. BAKER: . . . Hi.

. . . Hi, my name is Stacey, and this is my daughter, Sophia. I'm speaking on behalf of the MEO BEST program. A few months ago, I sat in jail. . .not knowing what would happen to me and my unborn child. I felt scared and all alone. When I signed up for the BEST program, all of that changed. Not only did I receive classes in jail that encouraged me to return to college to get my degree, but my case manager, Marie Ordonez got me out of jail and into Malama Family Recovery. She provided me with a substance abuse assessment and treatment--something I've never gotten before.

. . . They also continue, will continue providing me with baby needs and reintegration assistance back into society. Please continue to give them the funding for all the other inmates and the clients that need help. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier this evening? Thank you very much for being here.

MS. BAKER: Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . . *(applause)* . . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . Susun White. . . followed by Philip Lowenthal.

*NOTE: Pause while Ms. White approached the mic.*

MS. WHITE: . . . Aloha, my name is Susun White, and I'm the Executive Director of the Paia Youth and Cultural Center. Um. . .wow. . .I think it's pretty obvious that 95 percent of everybody here today is representing a non-profit on Maui. And . . .

. . . I would really urge the County Council to be as creative as they *possibly* can in finding other funding needs for the non-profits other than the first thing always is cut the non-profits. And I don't really have a lot to say on how to do that. I do see some big brain power up here. I think that it can be done. You know, one simple thing was like what they do in Bali--is everybody that gets off that airplane, it's a dollar per head. If

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you did that just for Maui County and the money comes right to Maui County instead of going elsewhere in the State, that's a lot of money every year. Um. . .I don't wanna really speak for the Youth Center in particular. Uh. . .I have letters written from my board members and from the kids. I didn't bring any of the kids here tonight 'cause I knew it would be flooded. But I just really want to urge you all to take a serious look at that budget and realize that the non-profits are who serve Maui County. We serve them *cheaper* than if the County had to do it for themselves. Everybody at my youth center, I have five full-time staff and two part-time have been working there for years and years without pensions. No County or State employee would ever do that. And the services that non-profits provide are gonna have to go up because as the economy goes down, people are gonna be hurting, kids are gonna need a place to stay, adults are gonna need services. And I, once again in closing, I just really urge you to think *really* carefully about the Mayor's budget and what the cuts--even if they are just a little 3 percent when we're already operating at the base that we can operate--what's that gonna do to the County overall in the long term? Aloha. Thank you very much.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Thank you. Seeing none, thank you very much for testifying.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . Philip Lowenthal, followed by Robert Munoz.

*NOTE: Pause while Mr. Lowenthal approached the mic.*

MR. LOWENTHAL: . . . Hello, everybody. I'm Phil, and I'm gonna be 65.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .(laughter). . .

MR. LOWENTHAL: . . . And I'm here. . .as a volunteer board member of Hui Malama. And. . .as, as you know, I have been involved working in the community for many, many years with. . .people who. . .end up disadvantaged in one way or another. Hui Malama is so important because can you imagine. . .growing up and not having a high school degree? I mean, it's unimaginable. And yet. . .and I see these folks in Drug Court, and I see them in criminal court. And you. . .the. . .it's. . .let me put it to you this way--it costs a lot less for the County to invest in Hui Malama than what it's gonna cost us in services and support for people that don't have a Hui Malama and end up with no. . .no high school equivalency or what have you. So I. . .strongly support the program. I've put my own time into it and I strongly urge you to fully fund it. The second thing I wanna talk to you about--and I'm not gonna need my entire 30 minutes.

ALL: . . .(laughter). . .

MR. LOWENTHAL: The. . .the second thing. . .I just wanna. . .I wanna encourage you, when you have an opportunity, to support. . .a no-car bike trail. We really need to start seeing

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Maui as a place for people to come. . .for fitness and sports and health and activities along those lines, and not just lie on the beach like monk seals. So. . .the off-road bike trails are so important. I, I have too many case of people who have been killed thinking they were safe riding next to the cars. They're not safe. It's a. . .it's an illusion. It's misleading. People get killed. We need bike trails where people can get around and get exercise. I know for myself, that's the only way I can exercise. If you get a chance to support it. . .do it 'cause that's the future for our economy--is getting that kind of tourism. Thank you and glad to see you all.

*NOTE: Silence.*

MR. LOWENTHAL: . . . See you guys.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . Thank you. Members, any questions for Mr. Lowenthal?

MR. LOWENTHAL: Questions? I, I have--

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MR. LOWENTHAL: --questions for you.

ALL: . . .*(laughter)*. . .

MR. LOWENTHAL: All right. All right.

ALL: . . .*(laughter)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Seeing none, thank you again.

MR. LOWENTHAL: Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . .*(laughter)*. . . Robert Munoz, followed by Jennifer Stites.

MR. MUNOZ: Good evening, Council Members. My name is Robert Munoz. And on behalf, I'll be testify on behalf of the Paia Youth Cultural Center. I believe an organization like that should exist. And the reason is, is because with these hard economic times we're facing, it's gonna be tough and there's gonna be a lot of kids out on the streets. I. . .as a. . .construction superintendent, was able to employ at least eight of the members. And they did a fantastic job for me. We're just finishing up a 10 million dollar home in Kaanapali. And the owners of the home are just flabbergasted by the work that these boys, we're accomplishing. And I think by the program that was set up, it allowed them to . . .just. . .it gave 'em the pride that they needed, the confidence and, you know, I, I normally would go to an employ, employment agency and pick out these, but I gave these

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boys a chance and they did a wonderful job. I'm still employing two of 'em that, and they work for the owner personally, taking care of the landscaping. So I just think that this program is definitely a good program. And if you can allow it to exist, I'd recommend it.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier this evening?

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Member Baisa?

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: . . . Thank you, Mr. Munoz, for being here tonight.

MR. MUNOZ: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: I'm extremely interested in this idea of the youth doing some work projects.

MR. MUNOZ: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Is that a regular part of the Center program?

MR. MUNOZ: I believe it is 'cause they, they do have constructive programs that they do. And a lot of the programs I, myself, have initiated and helped out with and use, and a lot of the members that help out with. So, I, you know, I think it should be a continuing program. It's, it's, it helps quite a bit.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: I think it's a really good idea. You know, a lot of our young folks today need to learn some hands-on skills as we go more and more towards sustainability. We all better learn how to pound a nail.

MR. MUNOZ: Oh, absolutely. I mean, I--

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: . . . *(laughter)* . . .

MR. MUNOZ: I've been on Maui County for 16 years. And I grew up in San Diego. And I was fortunate enough to have the ability and the means to you know educate myself and go to classes. Here, it's a little bit more difficult for them, and I understand it's, you know, it's. . . it's, it's hard for them to even look you in the eye when you speak with them. But now I. . . I carry on with these boys and they look me in the eye and they talk to me like a man. And it's--

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Do you feel there's also been some good, positive behavior modification?

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MR. MUNOZ: Oh, absolutely. Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you. Thank you very much.

MR. MUNOZ: Yeah, you're welcome. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any more questions? Seeing none, thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . Jennifer Stites, followed by Sandy Ryan.

MS. STITES: Good evening, Chair, Council Members. My name is Jennifer Stites. I'm testifying as an individual. I'm a past-board member and chair of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Maui. And now I volunteer for the organization. Just wanted to come here tonight and thank you for your continued support of the organization and urge you to, to keep it up. Everyone's really appreciative and the agency is running extremely lean and understands how tough it is out there. So I just wanna say thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Sandy Ryan . . .

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . followed by Cara Bone? Bonè?

MS. RYAN: Aloha, Chairman Pontanilla and Council Members. My name is Sandy Ryan, and I'm a Program Director with the Maui Economic Development Board. Tonight, tonight I'm here on behalf of the Hui Malama Learning Center, speaking as a former parent and as Board Vice President. My association with Hui Malama began about a year-and-a-half ago as I was exploring educational alternatives for my son. Education is not one-size-fits-all. And our public school system was not addressing my son's learning challenges or delivering instruction in a way that fit his learning style. It was at the end of the paddling season and my son, then, 12 and I learned about Hui Malama's home school alternative for middle school, which that year happened to be located in partnership with the Hawaiian Canoe Club. The students shared numerous academic successes in life experiences over the year. The first week of school brought a lesson in endangered species management when a female monk seal made the harbor its home. Wildlife biologists came to the school and empowered the students to act as stewards on behalf of this fragile creature. The mom of another student shared that it was the first time her child had ever looked forward to going to school. As anyone who's raised a

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teenager knows, the middle school years can be fraught with emotional turbulence. So in addition to academics, the staff guided our students through life lessons with a sense of aloha, allowing them to work through personal conflicts towards pono solutions. I've been impressed with the entrepreneurial spirit in which Hui Malama operates and how quickly they're able to adapt to meet students' needs. And I'm pleased to be heading the board committee that will be guiding the organization through a strategic planning process beginning later this month. My son completed the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and is now attending King Kekaulike High School. He *may* return to Hui Malama. He knows the door is always open. Mahalo for your continued support.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier?

. . . Seeing none, thank you for being here tonight.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . Cara Bone. . .followed by Colin Hanlon.

MS. BOHNE: . . . Hi, good evening, Chair and Council. My name is Cara Bohne. I am a board member with Big Brothers/Big Sisters. I have been since August of '08. We realize that this year is a tough year for everybody and unfortunately with that comes more need for the mentoring services that we provide. I just wanna be sure that the Council and the community knows that despite these tough financial conditions, Big Brothers/Big Sisters is continuing to grow so that we can feel the need for the mentoring services that we provide. And I'd like to thank the Council for their continued support of this.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier this evening?  
Seeing none, thank you for being here.

MS. BOHNE: Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . Colin Hanlon, followed by Jani Sheppard.

MR. HANLON: . . . Committee Chair Pontanilla, Council Members, thanks for giving me the opportunity. My name is Colin Hanlon, I'm the Chief Professional Officer with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Maui.

. . . Wow, that was a mouthful. Sorry. Um. . .I, I'd like to start first and foremost by making sure you guys are well aware--'cause Sandy Baz is in the back of the room--that our kids get to the Boys and Girls Clubs through youth trans money, which is a contract through the County.

. . . Okay.

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UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .(laughter). . .

MR. HANLON: . . . He's also the President of my Rotary Club, so I'm in good standing now.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .(laughter). . .

MR. HANLON: . . . I, I definitely want to let everybody know that I am a, I am a product of the Boys Club--back, back when I went, it was a Boys' Club. That's a positive thing, Mike, just so you know. In my head, I always think of it as a *positive* thing. Um. . .I wanna make sure you guys, most of you are aware we've got a couple new faces, but not really, they're. . .they're repeat faces. And I wanna make sure I'm not gonna go through all of the core areas because you know what we do, you know where we're located. We've got six sites. Four of them are funding through the County of Maui. Two of them are not. And the Boys and Girls Clubs only receives just over 50 percent of their operational budget through the County. Uh. . .we, we. . .what we really do--as you're gonna hear as you go around to each community--that we have a club . . .(inaudible). . . is you're gonna hear about specific programs through my, through my staff and you're gonna hear about the need from the parents and how, how absolutely dire the need is to make sure that their kids have a safe place to be. And you're gonna hear from each kid why the club is important to them. But you'll need to remember what we really do at the Boys and Girls Club is we offer hope and opportunity. We did a survey going back to like 1997, I think it was, when we were just a youth center. And number one thing that impacted our kids lives here on a daily basis was not crystal meth, it was not alcohol, and it was not tobacco. It was bullying. They identified bullying as the thing that negatively impacted their life on a daily basis.

. . . That's just a simple fact that if you ask the kids what is impacting their life, they will let you know. And we at the Club make sure that our clubs are safe--not just physically, but emotionally. Kids really stretch from their comfort zone at our clubs and they do a lot of stuff. Uh. . .uh. . .I wanna make sure you're aware that the opportunity part, if there's a chance to create an opportunity for a kid--specifically one that needs us most, which is defined by me as disadvantaged--in this community, we're gonna do whatever we have to do to create it. This year's number one opportunity was a grant through the Cal Ripkin foundation. We got a character program from Cal Ripkin Sr. We got training for our staff. We got an aerobic form of baseball called quick ball. And we had nine of our local youths, some of them never been off the island, to Maryland to go to a camp. And the staff at that camp realized this was a *huge* opportunity for our Maui kids and took 'em to D.C. and they went and saw all the monuments and they saw D.C. And the number one thing they came back with was stories about squirrels and how they chased squirrels in every park in D.C. and the squirrels were not afraid. You don't know what's going to be the most impactful moment--

MS. HAMMAN: Three minutes.

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MR. HANLON: --that you have at a Club. . .so I just what, have 27 left?

. . . I'm just kidding. I, you guys know what we do. You know how important it is. This year, the Mayor's Budget has 60,000 dollars cut from our pot of money. If that's our, if that's our responsibility in these hard times, the nine youth centers to take that on, we're, we're not gonna shrink from our responsibility. We're gonna make sure we stay open, we expand our reach and we serve all the kids. And if that's our part and it doesn't get any worse, then we'll be very, very happy. So if you could help protect what is in the Mayor's Budget, we'd be very appreciative.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . Thank you, Colin. Members, any questions for the testifier?

. . . Seeing none, thank you very much.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . Jani. . .Sheppard, followed by Dave Deleon.

MS. SHEPPARD: Okay. Great. Good evening, Council Members. It's nice to see you. Thank you for being here and hearing all of us this evening. My name is Jani Sheppard, and I'm the CEO with Maui Family Support Services. And I'm here to thank you for the support that you've given for the Early Head Start program with Maui Family Support Services, and to ask for your continued support. The program--for those of you who may not be as familiar with it--provides free quality child care and child development services for families in, in, on Maui. In order to qualify for the program, you, the 2009 Federal guidelines is that a family of three--a family of three--can make 20,240 dollars. And so the program is serving individuals who really are. . .our most in need. In order to participate in the program, you have to either be employed or in school. And so the program promotes self-sufficiency. And know, the families know that their children--0 to 3--are in a safe environment. Not just safe, but they're receiving child development services and child care at no cost to the family. Never say "free", 'cause it's never free; but it's not at any cost to the family. And it's really helpful to them. We have a very, very--at Maui Family Support Services--a very strong commitment to this service. Currently, the cost per child is just over 1,100 dollars, 1,142. But the funding that we receive, it's actually 840 dollars per child. The. . .the funding that we receive in support from the County for Early Head Start is actually wonderful because it leverages over 500,000 dollars--actually 556,000 dollars in Federal funds. And I know that that's a positive thing because it's the County, the State, and the Feds, and foundations and community members coming together to provide, provide that service. We have to come up with our 20 percent match. That's a, that's a requirement, of course, from the, from ACF, Administration for Children and Families, for this grant. However, because it's, it's so much more expensive to provide the service on Maui, we actually do about 25 percent just to. . .little more than we're. . .than we're required to to make sure that the service happens. We're very, very committed to this service. As many of you know, other services that we, we, that we work with have had a hard time this year. And no

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matter what, we're still gonna. . .gonna keep doing it. We're gonna all get through this. And we know we are. So. . .we ask for your continued support in whatever way. We're on the same. . .same boat together, so whatever you can do to. . .to help it, continue the support of Early Head Start, we really appreciate it. Thanks.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Members, any question for the testifier? Member Baisa?

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you, Jani, for being here tonight.

MS. SHEPPARD: Thanks, Gladys.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Question to follow up on testimony you recently gave in Council.

MS. SHEPPARD: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Can you give us the status of Healthy Start? Is it still zero?

MS. SHEPPARD: It's still zero. We have. . .actually it's going to WAM for. . .tomorrow. There's a hearing at 2:15 tomorrow. And we're hope, they, the, the. . .SB 1769, I think. Anyway, it's, it's going to. . .going to committee tomorrow. And what happened last week was that they. . .they passed it with amendments. And the amendments was to remove the amount.

. . . They, so there's no specified amount for any of the programs, not just Early Head Start. So we don't know what's gonna happen. Um--

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: You mean a bill with a blank?

MS. SHEPPARD: There's a bill with a blank. Exactly. And then the, of course the cuts have already happened in this year. So we lost, about 17 folks were affected as of last Friday.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: You lost 17 staff?

MS. SHEPPARD: Yeah. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: . . . Thank you very much.

MS. SHEPPARD: Sure.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Just a question or comment. I remember reading in the. . .America Recovery Reinvestment Act--

MS. SHEPPARD: Ah . . .

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: --that, there were some monies that were also, you know in that stimulus package --

MS. SHEPPARD: Yeah.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --coming to Early Head Start. So--

MS. SHEPPARD: Absolutely.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --hopefully State of Hawaii will receive some of those monies.

MS. SHEPPARD: That would be great. And, and as with, as you know with the stimulus. . .the stimulus funds, we can't do deficits, right, with that. So we're really thrilled about it because it would allow for expansion. And what we're already doing right now is talking about expansion--particularly for Molokai where it's. . .kinda needed.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

MS. SHEPPARD: Yeah, you're welcome.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Any more questions, Members? Seeing none, thank you again.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Dave Deleon--

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

MR. DELEON: I'm--

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --followed by Alda St. James. Dave, go ahead.

MR. DELEON: Excuse me. Aloha, I'm Dave Deleon. I'm speaking on. . .I'm turning my. . .same story. I'm gonna give you a different angle on it. Tonight, I'm speaking as the Chairman of the Built Environment Task Force of the Maui Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition. The coalition's formed by the State, University of Hawaii School of Medicine and the. . .State Department of Health to. . .to deal with our State's growing problem with obesity and preventable diseases likes heart disease and. . .and diabetes. The simple fact is we have a public health problem. We have, we're growing fat and we're growing inactive as a people.

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. . . We all know what, that if you eat right, right amount of good food and you get enough exercise, then you. . .with God's will you'll be in good shape. Part of the equation that I'm here to talk about tonight is exercise. The government says that adults need about 30 minutes a day of exercise to stay healthy. Children need about an hour. Studies show that about 25 percent of our population actually do that. And as a result of that, about 360,000 Americans a year die prematurely of. . .of. . .unnecessary diseases. Here's where the Built Environment and Maui come, Maui County come into the equation. Excuse me. Americans have built a car culture. We've designed, our culture's designed to. . .efficiently move cars through our communities at the expense of pedestrians. . .bicyclists, old folks, and kids. Our kids have to, our kids have been *designed* out of their communities. And now they have to be chauffeured wherever they go.

. . . In this age of global warming, expensive gas, and increasing physical inactivity, we have to. . .start designing our communities so people can move around without cars. . .and to move around without the fear of being run down if they don't have two tons of metal around them.

. . . Our County has two projects, on-going projects that could start addressing this issue. One is the partially-built North Shore Greenway. And the other is the yet-to-get-started Kihei Greenway. Two-and-a-half miles on the North Shore Greenway is built, and another half-a-mile from Paia to Baldwin Park is scheduled to be started soon. All that is left is. . .is to connect those two in the middle. This is a request for funding to complete that job. . .to build the remaining mile between Baldwin Park and Spreckelsville. The concept would be to build a bike path that a 10-year-old could ride without super, adult supervision. Paia kids could ride their bikes to the movies in Kahului. Kahului kids can ride their bikes to the beach safely. That's the type of freedom we used to have when we were kids.

MS. HAMMAN: Three minutes.

MR. DELEON: And we've lost. . .and something we need to restore to our kids. Mahalo.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier this evening?

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Question.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Member Medeiros?

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: . . . Mr. Deleon, thank you for your. . .testimony. In, in previous. . .construction. . .phases of the bikeway, that was funded under what program?

MR. DELEON: Mostly County, Maui County.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Yeah. You know what part of the Maui County?

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MR. DELEON: There's Bikeway Fund, but it's never really much, so it comes mostly out of Highways.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Highways.

MR. DELEON: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay. And--

MR. DELEON: There's also--sir, there's also Federal money if the County chose to go that route. . .to get support on it.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: And so the remaining mile that you speak about, is there funding for it already?

MR. DELEON: I believe that funding leftover from the Paia to Baldwin Park project--there was a lot of money in that, a lot more money than was actually necessary. And. . .there is an ongoing annual appropriation of about 300,000 dollars for bikeways. Um. . .we've talked to, and there's a gentleman in the room tonight who's gonna talk to you later about, about construction for this thing. But you could probably build it for that. If you can, if we could move the environmental issues out of the way real easily, I mean most of the cost is gonna be getting the environmentals done.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Right.

MR. DELEON: And doing the design and actual construction isn't really that difficult.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay, thank--

MR. DELEON: Or that expensive.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Thank you, Mr. Deleon. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Member. . .uh, Member Baisa?

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you very much, Chair. Thank you, Dave, for being here. Dave, we keep talking about this greenway. Can you give all of us an idea of where it begins and where it ends?

MR. DELEON: The original concept--

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: What's the route?

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MR. DELEON: The original concept was from Keopuolani Park to Paia. And that got paired down because we couldn't get around, we couldn't get a right-of-way through the harbor. So it actually begins on bike paths on . . . on Kanaha Beach Road. Kanaha Beach Road has gotten a lot faster over the years. When we first designed it, it was a sleepy back road. Now it's, now it really moves. So it's not as safe as it used to be. So ideally it would be great to be able to move the path into the park and get it off the road in that section. Then really, the path actually really starts at the, the end of Kanaha Park where the airport property starts, goes, wraps around the airport, and catches up with Stable Road and goes past Kaunoha and, and ends up on bike paths leading up to Nonohe Place in, in Spreckelsville. And the section is gonna be built momentarily. The construction is . . . the contract's been let and just waiting for the contractor to start. It'll start at the Youth Center in Paia and go to Baldwin Park. . . about 10 to 15 feet off the, the Hana Highway, there's a separate path.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you very much. It's good to know the logistics of it. Thank you.

MR. DELEON: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you very much, Members. Any more questions for Mr. Deleon? Seeing none. . . thanks again.

AUDIENCE: . . . *(applause)* . . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Alda St. James, followed by Jim St. James.

*NOTE: Pause while Ms. St. James approached the mic.*

MS. ST. JAMES: . . . Good evening, Council Chair and Council Members. First of all, I want to thank you for your past support. We are honored, indeed, to be included in the Mayor's proposed Budget for 2010. We ask you to please keep us in the County Budget. With your support and with God's help . . . *(end of tape, start 2A)*. . . position to do much more for the Maui community than we ever thought possible. As you know, we opened a thrift store in the Haiku Marketplace in February 2009. And the thrift store has actually three goals. One is to serve the foster care community. . . and then to serve the Haiku and Maui communities. And the third goal is to move Keiki Kokua towards self-sufficiency. Here are the facts that show your funding has made a difference. First, our clients. We serve about 200 foster. . . 200 adoptive, 500 guardianships and relative placements--and this includes grandparents raising their grandchildren. Altogether, they raised about 1,400 children and youth. Second, our volunteers. The opening of the store created an outpouring of volunteerism in the community--something we really did not expect. Twenty to 30 dedicated volunteers spend time working at the store every day. This includes foster youth and a former foster youth who's now an adult. Third, our staff. We now have three store managers who each work part-time. Our customers--that's the whole community of Maui, especially Haiku. The Haiku community has been awesome

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in their support. We have about 20 to 30 customers each day who shop at the store. And we are open seven days a week. Our foster care community receives anything in the store for 30 percent discount. Fifth is our donors and our supporters. Without them, we could not have opened the store and kept it stocked. We've had an outpouring of donations, quality items for resale. And they just keep coming. So we have been really humbled by this experience of opening the store. The . . . implications, the impact is far, far greater than we ever, ever thought. So I wanna thank you for giving us this great opportunity. We're looking at expanding. We're looking at different options for community service, which are now people in the, in the County, the judiciary, are approaching us in terms of will you be a worksite for our community service folks that--

MS. HAMMAN: Three minutes.

MS. ST. JAMES: --that need that as a requirement. So I, I've handed out some support letters. You can see what the local supporters as well as our clients say about us. And again, I wanna thank you so much on behalf of Keiki Kokua for your support.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier this at this time?

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Question.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Member Medeiros?

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Chair. Ms. St. James, thank you for being here. And I'm really happy to hear about the success of your thrift store. In 2009, you had a grant for 25,000. In Fiscal Year 2010 it was, it's reduced, the proposed Budget is reduced to 20,000, so 5,000 left, less. So will your thrift store be able to make up that 5,000?

MS. ST. JAMES: We've only been opened a month, but all indications are good. We feel that, yes, the answer is yes. We are so committed to what we're doing and the community has been so supportive that, yes, I believe that's true. And we do wanna do our part in terms of the County having to cut back on certain things. And we . . . we think you're all awesome in terms of what you've provided for our community by . . . protecting the non-profits as much as you've had done and continue to do. So we are . . . thrilled at what we have received and we have made provisions for the future via the thrift store to continue becoming more sustainable.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: And thank you. And I, you know, you, wish you continued success. And . . . and I, I'm glad you'll be able to make up the . . . that difference. Thank you.

MS. ST. JAMES: Thank you very much.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

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AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Uh, Jim . . .

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . St. James, followed by Karl Bossert.

MR. ST. JAMES: . . . Good evening, Council Members. Uh. . .first, thank you so much for having faith in us last year. I'll give you some idea of what we've done--in the last year, we fielded over 600 calls from foster parents for assistance and referral. Um. . .that was our kokua line. Some of these are some of our programs. The luggage program--I don't know if you remember our luggage program . . .(laughter). . . from last year . . .(laughter). . . we delivered over 200 suitcases this year; in the last two years, over 400 to foster parents, foster kids who have been moving from home to home. Our social events are, you know, are, are best events is. . .a pizza party for all the foster parents on Maui; our foster teen party that we've done for Christmas time. We continue to do those, and they continue to get bigger and bigger every year. Our scholarship fund, we have three. . .last year we had three foster youth who aged-out of the system, got 1,000 dollars each. We have a fund now that. . .from private monies that are, are given to us to give to foster children. No strings attached. No lengthy applications because a lot of these kids can't even fill out the applications, yet they wanna continue at MCC. So we've given three kids the opportunities to do that this year. We've developed our website. We've put out four newsletters and we continue to have free service listings. Continue to have. . .stores and. . .professional services offering free or reduced services to foster parents. That's continued and has grown this year. So that's what we've done since we've been here last year talking to you with what funds we have. Next year, we're continuing to, continue all these programs and expand them. We're doubling our funds for scholarships. We're gonna have six kids this year go to college.

. . . And two will be testifying, I hope, at one of these to tell you what it's, how it's changed their lives. There's lots of stories, but we only have three minutes. Uh. . .we're at, oh. . .we're a partner with other agencies that are helping with this us now, have different social events 'cause they're understanding too, like Maui Youth and Family Services, that it's really good to get these kids together. It lessens the stigma, recruits the self-esteem, gets them, you know, out into community. And our thrift store--our thrift store has been great. Our donations have been fantastic. The, the response has been good. Our prices are great. And I'll give you an opportunity for the *Price Is Right*--everything I'm wearing is from the thrift store.

ALL: . . .(laughter). . .

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: . . .(inaudible). . .

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MR. ST. JAMES: How much do you think this would cost, how much you think I paid for it?

ALL: ...*(laughter)*...

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

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

MR. ST. JAMES: ... No, anybody else?

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

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: ...*(inaudible)*... that would definitely be at least 18.95  
...*(inaudible)*...

ALL: ...*(laughter)*...

MR. ST. JAMES: ...*(laughter)*... Twelve dollars!

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Hey!

AUDIENCE: ...*(applause)*...

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: ...*(inaudible)*...

MR. ST. JAMES: ... Okay ...*(laughter)*... And if you're a foster parent. . .30 percent off,  
8 dollars ...*(laughter)*...

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Wow ...

AUDIENCE: ...*(applause and miscellaneous chatter)*...

MR. ST. JAMES: ...*(laughter)*... But thank you very much. It's doing great. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Jim.

AUDIENCE: ...*(applause)*...

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Members, any questions for the testifier?

AUDIENCE: ...*(applause)*...

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Uh, Jim?

... Jim?

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MR. ST. JAMES: Oh . . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: We have, we do have a question.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: . . . Mr. St. James, I think this is a marvelous marketing opportunity. Uh. . .you know, all of us in this room I'm sure have items that are in great shape, usable, but somebody gave it to us and we're not crazy about it--

MR. ST. JAMES: . . .*(laughter)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: --or we've grown smaller or larger . . .

MR. ST. JAMES: . . .*(laughter)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: . . . and may have good things. Where do we take them?

MR. ST. JAMES: Okay. Haiku Marketplace. Open 9 to 4 every day, Sunday 10 to 4. Um. . .we take donations right at the store.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: And what kind of items do you have in the thrift store, for those of us inveterate shoppers--

MR. ST. JAMES: . . .*(laughter)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: --and that's every lady in the room.

MR. ST. JAMES: Uh. . .we have clothing; we have small appliances; we have lots of toys; things for children; lot of, for foster parents, we have a lot of. . .youth. . .items. We have surfboards. We have everything except big appliances.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Do you do books?

MR. ST. JAMES: Yes, we have books. We have just about everything that you can imagine in a thrift store. And we've bulging with all our donations. We need to expand, like Alda said. We hope to in this next year.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you very much. Yeah, I think it's an *excellent* idea. Thank you.

MR. ST. JAMES: Thank you. And while I'm here, we need a truck. Anybody who wants to . . .*(laughter)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Anybody wanna donate a truck?

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MR. ST. JAMES: Donate a, a pickup truck--

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: . . .*(laughter)*. . .

MR. ST. JAMES: --we would really appreciate it. Tax-deductable, non-profit. Thank you . . .*(laughter)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: All right.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(laughter)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Jim.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . Uh. . .next testifier is Karl Bossert. Members of the audience, as soon as Karl is finished with his testimony, we'll take a five-minute break, stretch our legs, use the bathroom, do what we need to do. So with that, Karl, go ahead.

MR. BOSSERT: Thank you. And thank you, Council Members, for all taking the time and, and coming out to listen to us out here. I wanted to, I wanted to come before you and speak also on behalf of Keiki Kokua. I'm the President, but more importantly, I'm a past foster parent and, and adoptive parent of two kids. My kids are gonna turn 9 and 10 this year. And we've been. . .their parents for a number of years now. And it's amazing. . .to watch how resilient kids can be when they're afforded the opportunity. And. . .I, I watched last week them perform at the flower festival and thinking about when. . .when we first adopted them. . .what they had gone through and, and how they turned around. It's really amazing. And, and it kind of speaks to the help that you're providing Keiki Kokua and how much it can mean to kids. The help line, when we went through and were foster parents, you know, there wasn't a place to just call and get the answers. And I remember my wife spending countless hours on the web page and on the phone and trying to figure out, you know, how the process worked and, and who to talk to and, and try and figure things out. The luggage drive. . .when, when our son came to us, all of his belongings came you know, in a black garbage bag. You know, he was 14 months at the time. So he didn't really notice. But you know, when you're 10. . .that means a lot to be able to show up with, with a piece of luggage instead of a garbage bag. So those are, you know, just the little kind of things that mean so much to kids. Kids are so resilient, they can really go either way. And. . .and your help is just such a great investment in, in helping to, to get these kids to kind of go the right way and helping both the foster parents and. . .in, in some cases the adoptive parents kind of weave their way through the system and, and understand how it works and, and help benefit the kids that they're working so hard to, to benefit. So I thank you for your support, your continued support, and. . .and also taking the time. And I wanted to particularly thank Gladys and Sol for all of the, the time that they've spent at the GPAC . . .*(laughter)*. . . hearings, the countless hours of, of invested time. So thank you, guys, for that. And thank you.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Karl. Members, any questions for the testifier?

... Thank you,, Karl, for testifying this evening. Members, we do have--

AUDIENCE: ...*(applause)*...

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --one more testifier before we take a break. I understand that this gentleman need to do his testify because of the time limit that he has out. So at the time, the Chair would like to call on John Kealoha. . .pauole. I hope I pronounced that right.

MR. KEALOHAPAUOLE: Yeah. Aloha. My name is John Kealohapauole. . .here representing the BEST program. Um. . .I am on parole at this time. I was released March 11<sup>th</sup>. Um. . .I'm still doing programs, but without this program right here, BEST, I don't think I would be able to. . .to reintergrate back into society, to be honest. This program has opened up a lot of doors for me, has helped me a lot. I'm more responsible now because this program. It taught me a lot, the programs taught me a lot. It taught me how to think outside the box and not be self-centered. It helped me get a great job. I drive for Maui Disposal at this time. I have a great relationship with my family. . .with my kids as well. Honestly, this program is, is helping me and other inmates like me come back out into society and become more productive in society at this time.

... Honestly this, without this program I would never make it. I think I would go back in. . .I'm serving a 20-year sentence as we speak. I don't wanna go back in. This program has helped me see other things than being self-centered. So with that said, I hope this program continues on 'cause it really does help. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, John. Members, any questions for the testifier?

... Seeing none, thank you very much for testifying tonight.

AUDIENCE: ...*(applause)*...

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay, Members, we're gonna take a five-minute recess. . .uh, well ...*(laughter)*. . . make it seven minutes. And then we--

AUDIENCE: ...*(laughter)*...

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --we'll be back. . .at 5 'til 8. And when we come back, the next testifier would be Pam Farnsworth. So at this time, the meeting is now in recess ...*(gavel)*...

**RECESS: 7:48 p.m.**

**RECONVENE: 7:59 p.m.**

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . The Budget and Finance Committee meeting is now reconvened.

. . . At this time, I'd like to call on Pam Farnsworth.

**NOTE:** *Pause while Ms. Farnsworth approached the mic.*

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . Following Pam is Charmaine Kekona-Ahuna.

MS. FARNSWORTH: . . . Aloha, Council Members. My name is Pam Farnsworth, and I'm here as a Board of Director of the Cameron Center. But I'm also here as a parent who has utilized the services of some of the agencies in the Center. Mayor Tavares has included a request for funding in her Budget for facility improvements at the Cameron Center. I ask that you honor that. The Center is now 36 years old. And although there has been a preventative maintenance program, many of the fixtures, framing, and systems have just about reached the end of their life. And the chiller at the Center was recently replaced and has already demonstrated an increase in the comfort of our clients as well as significant savings in energy, which has resulted in a reduction for energy costs in the Center's budget. The Cameron Center plans to renovate restrooms and mitigate problems with mold with the requested funds. The restroom upgrade will improve the functionality of the restrooms for the more challenged clients of Easter Seals and the Arc of Maui, as well as reduce the water and energy consumption of these areas. The mold mitigation will return the American Cancer Society space to a healthy and safe environment for their clients. There are other items on the Center's immediate to-do list, and the budget items for the Cameron Center repairs is but one facet of the Center's attempt to fund these vital improvements which will allow the 20 non-profit agencies housed in the Cameron Center to better serve the people of Maui County. We appreciate the past support that you've provided to the Center, and we also appreciate the consideration on this funding request. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier?

. . . Seeing none, thank you again.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Charmaine Kekona-Ahuna. . . followed by Raymond Ahuna.

**NOTE:** *Pause while Mrs. Ahuna approached the mic.*

MRS. KEKONA-AHUNA: . . . Aloha. First of all, I'd like to give you guys the warmest mahalos for actually being able to helping all of us here, being able to testify on so much organizations behalfs, I'd like to thank all you guys first of all. Anyways, my name is

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Charmaine Kekona-Ahuna. I am 28 years old with four children. I'm here on the behalf of the Maui Farm.

. . . Within the Maui Farm and what we went through in life, I was headed for pretty much a negative roll. They turned my negativity into so much positive within my personal emotions, my physical self. Not only that was one thing that you guys fund, but also your guys nursing. . .County nursing program. Because of the Maui Farm, I was able to get into nursing programs, to further my education when I never thought I would able to do. We are currently in a family strengthening program that. . .like your guys mission or the Mayor's mission, it's simply our mission also--to be our, for our well-being, the sustainability throughout this hard. . .economy times. Um. . .I pray and I humbly ask that you guys continue funding this Maui Farm program so that other families out there who are headed for homelessness, that they will be able to help these families. I pray that they can even widen their. . .their verge of more helping--whether being homeless or within the shelter, with classes, with anything else. And like the other gentleman that came up, I need one car also.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(laughter)*. . .

MRS. KEKONA-AHUNA: I mean, if anybody who get one van, 'cause get six of us and we squeezing into one two-door vehicle. We're making it, though. I thank God I get one vehicle for even transfer. . .to and from school, to and from work. But, yeah, much mahalos to all you guys.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any question for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Raymond Ahuna, followed by Rusty Maranda.

*NOTE: Pause while Mr. Ahuna approached the mic.*

MR. AHUNA: . . . Aloha. Aloha, good meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER \_\_\_\_: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MR. AHUNA: Good evening. I just wanted to. . .touch base what my wife had just talked about--the family strengthening program. And just thank you folks too. . .just for funding this program because without this program, not too much families will get a chance to touch this right here. And. . .I'm just surprised that we got a chance for it. You know, I thank God every day because. . .especially for one hard-head guy like me. Me, I no like humble myself to anything. But today, I humbled myself and went to this program. And

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it helped us a lot because sometimes we don't know everything . . . *(inaudible)* . . . never work before, we end up homeless. But not hopeless. But homeless. Was okay, but . . . it shows opportunities for, a chance to . . . see what God can give you. You know, even the houses that they have up the, at the Maui Farm, 5-bedroom house. It's pretty big. I no like one big house, though, because too much to clean up. But--

AUDIENCE: . . . *(laughter)* . . .

MR. AHUNA: I just thank god for, for that opportunity and just humbly ask you folks to continue to fund this program--for the family strengthening program because there's lots more families out there that's . . . will need the help. But I believe we'll make it if we want to . . . run, run to the program that, that they offer. And . . . today, I just thank God that my wife is going through that nursing program that she, she's always wanted to have the compassion, dream for it. And today, she's going through that program and it's . . . it's a blessing. So I just would like to thank, thank you folks and ask you folks to continue to keep supporting the Maui Farm. Mahalo.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you again.

AUDIENCE: . . . *(applause)* . . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . Rusty Maranda, followed by Ryan Bartolome.

*NOTE: Pause while Master Maranda approached the mic.*

MASTER MARANDA: . . . Good evening, Chair Pontanilla and Members of the Budget Committee. My name is Rusty Maranda, and I'm 12 years old. I live in Wailuku and I go to Maui Waena Intermediate School. So far I've been in the MEO Youth Bank program for one year. In that short amount of time, I have learned and experienced many things. For example, the first time I went to Hana was with MEO. On this trip, we volunteered at the Thanksgiving kupuna luncheon where we served the kupuna lunch, played bingo, and talked story with them. This experience was important to me because I got to learn about the kupunas and their life experiences. I consider myself very fortunate because I got to witness the untouched beauty of Hana. We also go to \_\_\_\_\_ where not many people get to enjoy. At \_\_\_\_\_ I got to experience the Hawaiian traditions of cultivating taro. In this experience not only did I learn about the culture, but the value of hard work. If there are budget cuts, we would no longer be able to experience such opportunities and we won't have the funds that will provide us with transportation to all the different sites and nourish . . . foods to nourish your bodies. MEO has provided a well-rounded learning experience and they help deal with issues that happen at home . . . and at school. It is safe for me to learn and grow. So please continue to fund us to help youth like myself thrive in this community. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier?

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... Seeing none, thank you very much.

AUDIENCE: ...*(applause)*...

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Ryan Bartolome, followed by Robert Karpovich.

MASTER BARTOLOME: ... Good evening, Chair Pontanilla and Council Members. My name is Ryan Bartolome and I'm a Freshman at Maui High. I've been in this program for about two years. And those past years have been a really great experience. I'm here tonight to ask you to continue to support the funding of MEO youth service and MEO transportation. MEO youth service is not just about eating and hanging out with friends. MEO youth service ...

... we actually do something for ourself [*sic*] and for the community. For example, last year we picked up about 3,000 cigarette butts and--

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: ...*(laughter)*...

MASTER BARTOLOME: --11 bags of trash.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Jeez.

MASTER BARTOLOME: ... We all realized that...our community, I mean lots of people have been trashing our community.

... Our group was recognized in the newspaper for our contribution. And every opportunity that we work impacts our community. MEO youth service has taught us many things--from being respectful to...preventing tobacco usage and...drink...and underage drinking. But also for me, learning to make and build lo'i at Waikikena and Olowalu...stood out the most.

... Everyone in our group was in harmony, and we all worked together to make a really good taro patch. Everyone in our group worked really hard and worked like we didn't need the money.

AUDIENCE: ...*(laughter)*...

MASTER BARTOLOME: ...*(laughter)*... Being in MEO really had a big impact with my life. They helped me save money and open a new banking account. And instead of staying at home, I can actually be in MEO Youth Bank working in our community. Thank you for giving me the time to testify and...thank you so much...*(laughter)*...

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you--

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AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --very much. Good job. Members, any questions . . .

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . any questions for the testifier?

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . Seeing none, maybe you can come my house--

MASTER BARTOLOME: . . .(laughter). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --and clean my yard.

ALL: . . .(laughter). . .

MASTER BARTOLOME: Okay . . .(laughter). . .

ALL: . . .(laughter). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Next testifier . . .(laughter). . . Robert. . .Karpovich--

AUDIENCE: . . .(laughter). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --followed by Paula Ambre.

AUDIENCE: . . .(laughter). . .

**NOTE:** *Pause while Mr. Karpovich approached the mic.*

MR. KARPOVICH: . . . Good evening, thank you for coming to Paia. My name is Robert Karpovich, I've lived here in Paia since 1984. I'd like to talk a little bit tonight about the revenue side of your budget, of how you raise your funds. The basis of our real property tax system is that each property is appraised or assessed annually at fair market value.

. . . If one property it not assessed fairly, then everybody else pays an undue burden. So it should be equal. . .equal and fair for everybody. In 2006, I testified before this Committee about a 40-acre parcel commonly known as the Pukalani Triangle. It had been out of pineapple production for. . .many, many years yet was still paying 600 dollars a year tax as a pineapple field. After some prompting by the, some Council Members, the Real Property Tax Division reappraised it at fair market value. Tax went from 600 to 1,200 dollars a year. I don't think they ever collected back-tax, though. This year's

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example might be 129 acres above the Haiku Community Center, all the way up to Kauhikoa. It's the heart of Haiku. Sits on the market for millions of dollars. It's assessed at 64,000 dollars. It's been out of production for years. This isn't the only example to widespread. . .problem with--the Real Property Tax Division is either unwilling or unable to look at properties that have been taken out of production and assess them at some nominal fair market value. Assessments in Paia are through the roof. Somehow they've come up with 4 million dollars on empty lots on the ocean. George Kahanu is 7 million dollars. They have plenty of time to, to get the residents here--but the large landowners that have tremendous value in their property, even though times are hard, should pay fair market value when they take their land out of production and put it up for sale. Um. . .I'm not sure what the solution is. I'd hoped after 2006 and some prompting, that the Property Tax Division would. . .would get on it a little bit more.

. . . But they haven't. Perhaps we need funding for a special assessor to come in and look at this. I know other states have had to do this when different cities are unwilling to look at their assessments fairly. So it's really. . .it's really unequitable [*sic*] for someone to pay a couple hundred bucks tax on lands that have been taken out of agriculture or put up for sale and then landowners here in Paia pay 10 or 20 thousand bucks a year on a house lot. . .in property tax. It really, really irks me. So thank you very much.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier?

. . . Seeing none, thank you very much--

MR. KARPOVICH: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --for being here tonight.

AUDIENCE: . . .(*applause*). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Paula Ambre?

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . Paula Ambre is followed by Emily Haines-Swatek.

**NOTE:** *Pause while Ms. Ambre approached the mic.*

MS. AMBRE: . . . Aloha. My name is Paula Ambre, and I'm Executive Director of the Maui Farm. I'm here tonight to ask for your support for the continued operation of our family strengthening program. We have been included in the Mayor's Budget at a rate that is 10 percent less than our FY 2009 allocation. Um. . .and we are working hard to try and fill the gap. We're very grateful to be included in the Budget, and we wanna ask for your continued support for the operation of this program. We've been operating the family strengthening program since 2006. And I believe that it's become an important part of

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our County's overall plan to address homelessness and to meet the basic needs of struggling families. You've heard tonight from two of the families that are currently being served at the Maui Farm. And they have, I think, quite eloquently expressed the positive impacts for their family. To give you a brief overview, our family strengthening program is a residential program. It provides short-term housing and support services for whole families who are referred to us through Women Helping Women and the Family Life Center. They are our partners in the establishment of a continuum of care that helps to strengthen the services that all three of the agencies provide to the families. We provide coordinated service planning that involves the family, as well as our three partner agencies. And in so doing, we're reducing. . .we're preventing the duplication of service and we're acting on the strengths of each partner agency. Families are served at the Maui Farm from between 6 and 12 months. And our program empowers families to develop the knowledge, the attitudes and the skills needed for healthy family functioning and self-sufficient living. We provide an array of life skills training with a focus on parenting training, healthy ohana living, education and employment, being a responsible tenant, and growing food for the family. We have existing facilities in place that are being used for this program. And we have the expertise to deliver quality services, including our ohana model of healthy. . .family functioning and our farm-based experiential program where families learn healthy activities while learning how to grow food for themselves. The continuum, the partnership between Women Helping Women, the Maui Farm, and Family Life Center really is an effective collaboration and we think it's one of the models for how we need to move forward as agencies are merging their services so as to maximize the investment of resources and also to produce positive and sustaining outcomes for families. In these difficult budgets--excuse me, in this difficult economy, we're also looking at how we can expand our programs at the Maui Farm. And we will be doing so without any additional funding. We are looking at how can we involve families who are not living at the Maui Farm but are being served in the emergency shelter programs operated by Family Life Center and Women Helping Women. So we'll be offering our parenting training program and farm-based experiential program. We're also increasing food production. While we've always provided fresh produce and vegetables for the families at the Maui Farm and we've donated to other agencies when we can, we're now looking to really be able to on a regular basis--

MS. HAMMAN: Three minutes.

MS. AMBRE: --donate to Women Helping Women and the Family Life Center, others too--Maui Food Bank. In closing, two other quick, three quick pitches. Transportation--a bus stop at Ike Drive. . .affordable rentals please . . .*(end of tape, start 2B)*. . . being served Upcountry. We'd like to stay there. And the certified nursing assistant program through Maui Community College has really made a big difference in providing not just jobs, but a career for families who are working their way to self-sufficiency. Thank you very much for your support. We hope we can count on you again this year.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any question for the testifier?

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COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Yes.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Member Baisa?

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you, Chair. Quick question. Paula, how many families can you handle at the Farm at once?

MS. AMBRE: We have three of the large homes at the Maui Farm devoted to this program. Each home can serve one large family or two smaller families. So at any given time, it would be three to six families.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you very much. It sounds like such a wonderful program that we wish that, you know, this could be replicated. I'm thinking of all the families that this would provide such a good start to. . . 'cause you provide not only the housing, but all of the other services and opportunities.

MS. AMBRE: And I think that by working together with the other agencies, we're extending the length of time that we can kind of hold the hands of these families and help them to really make that transition and sustain the gains that they've made for themselves. So I think that the collaboration has also been an important part of it.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: And along the lines of farming, what do you do--just vegetables, or do you have animals?

MS. AMBRE: We have. . .um. . .our hog wean out and our goat wean out projects are one of the ways that we generate revenues to offset the cost of our farm. So we do raise. . .goats and pigs and sell those to local farmers. We also do fruits and produce and herbs and plants and. . .we're kind of a little farmer's market in and of. . .in and of ourselves. So--

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Terrific.

MS. AMBRE: Yeah. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Very good. Thank you.

MS. AMBRE: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any more questions? Seeing none, thank you for being here tonight.

MS. AMBRE: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Emily Haines-Swatek--

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AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --followed by Barbara Kline.

*NOTE: Pause while Ms. Haines-Swatek approached the mic.*

MS. HAINES-SWATEK: . . . Good evening. My name is Emily Haines-Swatek, and I'm a teacher at King Kekaulike High School. I'm here to thank you for your continuous support of the EAST program, Environmental and Spatial Technology. And to express my gratitude for the Maui Economic Development Board. You previously heard from two of my students--Elena and Terran--about their experiences in EAST. And as the facilitator of the program for the past eight years, I have seen many students excel when given the opportunity to take responsibility for their own learning. This may be when they are working on a community project of their choice, learning software they never thought they could, or holding a student-led conference with their parents. Some of these students are students that would not normally succeed in the traditional classroom. Besides being involved with the EAST program, I've also had the pleasure of having the support of MEDB through educational programs such as Future Scientists of America, Robotics, and Industry Day which gives students a chance to explore science, engineering, and technology outside of the classroom. Without their tremendous support, these programs would not be possible within the school budget. So again, thank you very much for your support of both our school and of Maui Economic Development Board. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you very much. Barbara Kline, followed by Charlie Schlater *[sic]*.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

MS. KLINE: . . . Aloha and good evening. I'm Barbara Kline, and I want to again thank the Council for helping to create the new B&B Ordinance. I've received my B&B permit. And I now use my one-bedroom cottage to welcome guests. During this Budget session, the Council may set a new tax rate for B&B homeowners like me. If I understand the new B&B Ordinance correctly, the granting of my permit will mean I will lose my 300,000 dollar homeowner exemption and the 2 dollar per thousand Homeowner tax rate. The tax category that I will be assigned has yet to be determined. I am here asking that when the Council considers a new tax category and rate to remember that I live full-time in my home. No part of my home is used as a B&B. I think the fair way to tax me is on the portion of the property used as a B&B, not on my home. So far, about 40-some residents have applied for their B&B permit. Previously, statistics showed over 1,000 vacation rentals on Maui. Higher taxes and the loss of our homeowners exemptions drives many operators underground. The Planning Department has to spend valuable time and money on enforcement. I have been told by some operators: why bother getting a permit, the County will only take away my home exemption and probably raise my taxes. Doesn't make any sense. If B&Bs and home-business operators are taxed

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fairly and reasonably, more will apply for their permits instead of operating underground. Many resident use a portion of their homes for business purposes. But it is only Bed and Breakfast homeowners who are presently being asked to give up their homeowner status. I hope that we can find a fair way to address my property taxes. When considering a new tax category and rate for my property, I hope you will find a fair way to tax the portion of *my* home as a homeowner and only the portion used as a B&B for commercial-end use. It's hard, it's enough of a hardship to lose the homeowner's exemption. Please don't waste, raise the taxes where I live, just the square footage used as a B&B. Thank you very much for your consideration.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any question of the testifier? Seeing none, thank you very much.

MS. KLINE: Okay. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay, the next testifier is Charlie Schlater [*sic*], followed by Sione Laval [*sic*].

MR. SCHLATHER: . . . It's now good evening, Council Members. We're running the, burning the midnight oil here. My name is Charlie Schlather. I'm the Clinical Director of Maui Youth and Family Services. And I. . .am. . .in part. . .of the foster care and shelter care services that we run at Maui Youth Family Services. And I'm actually speaking on behalf of Keiki Kokua. And wanted to share with you some of the collaborative efforts we've been, we've been part of just in the last year. Keiki Kokua has helped us to. . .get together some of the events that we run for the foster kids. The latest one was the stand-up paddle event that happened this January. We had about seven of our own foster youth that. . .that were a part of that event. It was an excellent event. And it gave our foster youth and our foster parents a chance to come together on a Saturday event and learn something new, get them out of their shell a little bit, and expose them to something that's positive. . .positive activity. It's something that. . .they can potentially even be a part of at a later time. So that's just one example of the kind of services that Keiki Kokua has been able to help us to coordinate. They got somebody from the community, an expert in the stand-up paddle--I don't know if you guys have ever seen that before. . .it's kind of a new sport that's coming around Maui. Somebody in the community, a volunteer that spent their time to teach the kids. And they really were stoked on it. Things like that, that you know we can't deal alone, we need to collaborate with other people in the community. And Keiki Kokua has been really good about just going out there and finding volunteers in the community to be a part of that. We're also very excited about. . .their. . .their new thrift store venture. And we're hoping to get some foster youth in there to. . .volunteer their time and we're also even considering collaborating a way to, to pay the foster youth for their time. It's so hard to find jobs right now for our youth. And you know, we work with teens and. . .they're not always the perfect. . .at going and getting jobs. And right now with the tight times, I think it's a

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really good opportunity for us to partner with them. So looking forward to that collaboration. Hope you can keep them in mind when you're...when you're writing your budgets. I know it's a tough year, so appreciate it. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you again for being here tonight.

AUDIENCE: ...*(applause)*...

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Sione...Laval *[sic]*?

... Not here? Henry Spencer?

... Henry's here.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: ...*(laughter)*...

MR. SPENCER: ... Good evening, Council Members. My name is Henry Spencer. I'm here to speak about completing the bike path on the North Shore. Uh...I'm here as a result of...a meeting several weeks ago between Jonathan Starr and myself and...Dave Ward and a couple of other people. And out of that meeting we realized that it's been 20 years since the bike path was proposed and it still...has not been completed. Um...the section Dave Deleon spoke of, certain parts of the bike path that have been completed and one section that is about to be completed--and that is the, and the funds have been appropriated and...that's the section from the Youth Center to Baldwin Beach Park. Um...uh, I actually donated the land to the County for the section of the bike path that runs from the airport to the Kaunoa Senior Center. The bike path continues on through...some inland roads in Spreckelsville and then stops at the Country Club. I have spoken with the board at the Country Club and with the GM there and as they had previously committed, they are willing to step up and honor the commitment to provide the land running behind the and, and contiguous to the Country Club...um...extending the bike path, making that last connection between Paani and...Baldwin Beach Park. As I sat here this evening listening to...the...list of non-profits requesting money for...their certain...activities, I came up with the idea that perhaps myself and Jonathan and Dave Ward and, we could...create a non-profit organization and have you guys donate the money to us and we will go as, as...with a, with a, kind of a public-private cooperation will, we'll step up and we'll, we'll do the EA, we'll get the whole bike path, we'll get that section of it finished as, as cheaply as possible, save the County as much money as we can. I was just looking at the Budget and I know there's 400,000 dollars sitting in there for the Baldwin Beach...for the Baldwin Ave...bike path. That, that money isn't gonna be spent for a long time. There's another 100 that isn't even earmarked in the Budget. There's...monies in there that's appropriated for or, or earmarked for sections of the bike path that haven't been done yet. And so I, I'm just hoping. I, I'll follow this up with a written request. And--

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MS. HAMMAN: Three minutes.

MR. SPENCER: --and a real . . .

. . . Anybody wanna ask me a question?

AUDIENCE: . . .(laughter). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Finish up.

MR. SPENCER: Okay. Uh. . .and with a, with a real concrete proposal and, and flesh this idea out. What I, I really think that we can get this done, get it completed. And the whole purpose of this is that it really is a genuine benefit to *everybody* on Maui. People can ride from other parts of the island, park their car down at one end, down at Kanaha Beach Park, they can ride their bike into Paia, spend the day, they can, they can eat or do whatever they want. The exercise benefits. People from Paia can ride into Kahului without using your car. And this is the--the greatest thing about this is the benefit not only for exercise but getting people out of their cars and, and have, create a real bikeway. The idea we have is to not pave it, is to, so it's, it's not invasive into the, into where we're gonna finish that last section and do a nice crushed stone, fine crushed stone top on it. I've already spoken to some. . .some construction guys. And we can get this thing done and get it off the table and, and maybe move on to the Kihei one or where, or where else, or Baldwin Avenue. But this is the first one. And I will, I will follow up with a, with a serious written proposal.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Henry. Members, any questions for the testifier this evening?

. . . Thank you, again for being here.

MR. SPENCER: Okay. Thanks, you guys.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Uh . . .

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Sulieiti Langi?

*NOTE: Pause while Mr. and Mrs. Sione Langi approached the mic.*

MR. LANGI: . . . Good evening. . .Councilors.

. . . Councilors, good evening. My name is Sione Langi. . .and this is my wife, Sulieti. We're here to. . .represent in behalf of MEO . . .

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... business development.

... Before we...we testify, I would like to...

... to...let my teacher who teach us with this lesson to...to stand up. Suzie?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you so much.

AUDIENCE: ...*(applause)*...

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Hi, Suzie.

AUDIENCE: ...*(applause)*...

MR. LANGI: But before I say something, I would like to...my wife to...to talk about the class, it's really nice.

MRS. LANGI: Okay, um...

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Talk in the mic, please.

MRS. LANGI: Oh, sorry. Yeah, about this classes about business, how to start a business, for me, what I know, I thought it, it's good enough. But then when I walked into the class, um...I found out that I, that I need to learn more about how to start a business. And then for that's, like he said, I give all the credit to, to Suzie because she's a very, very wonderful teacher and she really, um...

**NOTE:** *Silence.*

MRS. LANGI: ...*(inaudible)*... That's, yeah, she's really helpful and also like she explain everything very clearly to us. But like I said, if...for this, for this business class, it makes you think more positive and it makes you strong and give you courage to do what, what you, what good at or your, build your, your business more. So that's what I'm here for, so to support this class. And it seems like more people going to this class 'cause they like to learn more about business, how to start a business 'cause it's good for future of their family and like us. And um...

**NOTE:** *Silence.*

MRS. LANGI: ... And I, I'm...

... And I'm here to ask you to support this class. Thank you.

MR. LANGI: Before we go sit down...I would like to...the reason why we take the class...because...

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MS. HAMMAN: . . . Three minutes.

MR. LANGI: My wife work at Maui Lu Resort. And they say they will close it down last year. And I . . .am working for. . .one of the company that. . .they lay off about 10 guys already. And I'll be the number two to laid off. So. . .what we thinking every day, we can start something so we can make a life. We finally go into MEO. And I tell you, it is very helpful. Teach us a lot--how to make a plan. And the core four. . .very understandable. And all the members, they help us, it's very, very helpful. But before we sit down, please. . .we ask for your help for this. . .MEO business to get going because a lot of people in Maui, they need help. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any question for the testifier?

. . . Member Baisa?

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for coming to share. Are you about to start a business? You wanna do a commercial . . .*(laughter)*. . .

MR. LANGI: Well. . .if I do a commercial, it will so, so. . .so expensive, so . . .*(laughter)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: No charge tonight.

MR. LANGI: . . .*(laughter)*. . . I'm just kidding.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Tonight free.

MR. LANGI: But we, right now we, we trying. . .we are in the process to, to have a business. So. . .we looking forward to do that. And. . .we can go from there.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: You're not sure what you wanna do yet, you're still thinking about it. You know, that's one of the things that the class teaches--from what I've learned is that lot of people may wanna start a business, but after they go through the class and they understand what they need to do--

MR. LANGI: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: --they think more carefully.

MR. LANGI: That's, that the main thing. We very, very . . .

MRS. LANGI: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MR.LANGI: . . . appreciate we go to the class because we thought we can do this, but after we take the class, we have to think twice.

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COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you very much for coming to share.

MR. LANGI: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: The next testifier is Nancy Johnson. . .followed by Jane Eldridge.

*NOTE: Pause while Ms. Johnson approached the mic.*

MS. JOHNSON: . . . Good evening. I'm Nancy Johnson. I'm in charge of the Allied Health Department at Maui Community College. And I'm here to speak about the Allied Health Department Nursing and Dental Program.

*NOTE: Pause.*

MS. JOHNSON: . . .(inaudible). . . Off?

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Yeah.

MS. JOHNSON: . . . And the Long-Term Care Partnership. Um. . .you know, I've given you copies of our recent December graduation where we graduated. . .uh. . .35 practical nurses and 30 registered nurses that would not have been nurses without the help of the County program. In addition to that, you've heard testimony from others. We have, in addition to the registered nurse and practical nurses, we have 50 nurse aides who have been trained through the funding of the program. Um. . .you might say well, now that we have double the nursing program, there's no more need on Maui. But also gave you, gave you a diagram that shows that the vast majority of nurses in Maui County are 40 years or older. . .at a time when Maui County's going to have a new hospital on the west side with 65 beds, estimated 45 nurses needed just to staff that hospital, plus the large percent of nurses who are going to be retiring. So I'm asking you to continue your funding of this very important program.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier at this time? Seeing none, thank you again for being here.

. . . Jane Eldridge--

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --followed by Claire Sheehan.

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MS. ELDRIDGE: . . . Good evening, Council Members. I am here representing Keiki Kokua. And I'm a licensed marriage and family therapist. I've been in the business for over 35 years in the State of California. And when I left California five months ago, I said to myself I wanna get involved with a preventative programs supporting our kids. And I had the good fortune, and I actually ran into Alda and Jim St. James and found out about the program. And I said, well, do you need some help? And they said, yes. So I got involved. I've been doing a lot of volunteer work, and now I'm one of the managers. And I have to say it is most rewarding to be standing at that cash register--by the way, we're bringing in lots of taxes that are going back to the State. But it's a real rewarding thing to be standing there. And people come in and they think, gee, I might find a nice treasure. But then they hear this is supporting our children. . .children who've been abandoned, children who've been neglected and that these, there are wonderful. . .foster parents who are raising somebody else's kids. Why we've got abused kids who need all the help they can possibly get. And they are, light up and say, oh, I'm gonna buy more things, and oh, I've got this and I've got that. And before we know it, we've got bags and bags and trucks are pulling up and people are so enthusiastic. And I just wanna say I am very impressed with both Alda and Jim and. . .Rosemary, who is our head manager who, to me, is a dedicated, heartfelt person who just, they, they work tire. . .tirelessly. And they are giving back to the community and I am so happy to be working with them. So I wanted to come and share with you personally my direct experience with this group. Keep 'em going. *Please* keep it funded. They're doing a fabulous job. I wouldn't be with them--I'm a therapist, I know healthy people.

. . . Thank you and please--for listening to me, I appreciate very much.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members . . .*(laughter)*. . . any questions for the testifier this evening? Seeing none, thank you again--

MS. ELDRIDGE: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --for being here. Claire Sheehan--

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --followed by Saroon Von Schultze.

MS. SHEEHAN: . . . Good evening, Council Members and members of the public. My name is Claire Sheehan, and it's been a continuing honor to be an employed representative of the Maui Humane Society for now over 15 years. Doing more with less is not new to the non-profit sector. In fact, it's probably why you began working with us in the first place. At the beginning of this current fiscal year, our agency was ready as always to face whatever challenges came our way. And boy do these challenges keep coming. As you well know, the current economic downturn has affected, has some type of effect on almost every island family and we see the impact on that one somewhat overlooked family member--the family pet. By the end of this fiscal year, we will see close to a

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10 percent increase on animals turned into the shelter versus last year. And many of these animals are sick or injured as their owners can no longer afford the proper care for them. Demands for our services have also increased. Our animal control officers are doing more calls per day than last year. As a team, they respond on average to 29 calls per day, 7 days a week. And remember, unlike the Police Department, the individual ACO may be following a case from initial call through the complete investigative process and concluding with court appearances. In direct response to public safety concerns, they have issued more citations this year than last. The most significant increases have been in the leash law and aggressive dog citations. Demands for our spay-neuter program have also increased. And we, along with the help of Maui veterinary community and other island animal agencies, continue to meet these requests for this vital service. So how 'bout that? I've just outlined how we're already doing more for less. So let's talk about the proposed Mayor's Budget for Fiscal Year '09 to '10. . .or 10-oh. I strongly urge you to keep the allotted figure currently proposed. Remember, we know how to do more with less. And the Mayor's Budget allotment was submitted by the Maui Humane Society, and it entails a 4.3 percent *decrease*. It is our best attempt to trim expenses without having to layoff staff or significantly impact vital programs and services. We, as an agency, and individuals working for this agency take great pride in what we do for the animals and the citizens of Maui. We will continue to do our part to keep our partnership healthy and productive.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier this evening? Seeing none, thank you very much.

MS. SHEEHAN: Thank you very much.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Saroon Von Schultze . . .

. . . followed by Elena Jones.

MS. VON SCHULTZE: I'll just make it simple. Everybody's tired. But I've been here for 48 years and I'm here to support MEO and the ohana and all our big families that's been here a long time. So I'm here to support MEO and thank God they helped us for six months to do the big move in our. . .you know, family. And. . .I'm a hard worker. I have three jobs. . .raising three teenagers and they've really helped me out. And I just thank you and hope you still support. . .us all with a little help when we need it. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Elena Jones, followed by Jan Dapitan.

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MS. JONES: I'm looking at the clock to make my three minutes fast. Aloha and thank you for having me. I, I'm an individual standing in front of you, but with me physically here are Victor. . . \_\_\_\_\_, Bill Ryker, Lee and Kyle Nakanelua. We are on behalf of the Kauhikoa Road. My letter dated November 30<sup>th</sup>, it's a request for speed tables along Kauhikoa Road in Haiku. It was regarding accidents reported in *Maui News* October 28<sup>th</sup> and followed November 9<sup>th</sup>. In recent time, the Kauhikoa Road has experienced two accidents. One fatal, another multiple head injuries to young children. The Kauhikoa Road is a well-traveled narrow road with blind sputs. . . blind spots, excuse me. Let's begin at the intersection of Haiku Road and Kauhikoa. The distance from Rice Camp to the one-lane bridge over Pico Tract and Kauhikoalani Place. . . continues uphill to another one-lane passage area. This is the area where both accidents occurred. This request for speed tables is to measure the road distance necessary for slowing down road traffic. This will allow visibility of on-coming cars to travel slower and cautiously. This main road is a popular vein to Kaupakalua, Makawao, Haiku Road; and it serves cars, bicyclists, school buses, runners, pedestrians, skateboarders, and the occasional horseback rider. The street that provides similar road traffic has speed. . . six speed tables going mauka on Olinda Road is a right turn called Hana. . . Hanamu Road. This is across the Makawao Rodeo and Seabury School. This busy road is a long hilly stretch perfect for the recreational and school athlete joggers, the horseback riders, and skateboarders. With the wide speed tables, traffic progresses less than 20 miles per hour between each bump. Other similar roads with speed tables are Pulehuiki Road in Kula, and Puumalie in Haiku. Focused on the entire length of Kauhikoa Road is important. There was another fatal accident that occurred against the road guards on the U-curve near Ami Place. This dated back 10 to 12 years. From the top of the 3-point mile Kauhikoa Road is a wonderful decent complete with curves, narrow passage, bridges, road guards with intermittent off-road area to pullover in case of car trouble or for the active outdoor pedestrians. To widen the off-road side area of the country road would also be a welcomed improvement. Signatures represent concerned citizens who travel this road frequently and those who live off Kauhikoa Road. We recognize your attention to this matter. We are asking you to. . . please make putting speed tables on the Kauhikoa Road a priority by putting a proviso. . . proviso in the upcoming Budget. I have a letter that was. . . excuse me. This letter, November, dated November 30<sup>th</sup>--

MS. HAMMAN: Three minutes.

MS. JONES: Okay--was also followed up with a letter from Milton Arakawa. And Kauhikoa Road is classified as a minor collector road. The speed tables may be considered on a minor collector road. So with you needing our help as far as where we would like to see speed tables, we would be glad to help you out with that behalf. So . . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

MS. JONES: Thank you.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: We have a question for you.

MS. JONES: Yes?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Hi.

. . . Good evening, Elena.

MS. JONES: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thanks for coming by.

MS. JONES: Yes. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: You recall, myself and Director Arakawa we came out to--

MS. JONES: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: --meet with the residents. Since that time, has, have the police been doing any spot checks, monitoring speeding? Because I can agree with you--people still speed along that road and you have a lot of kids that, you know--

MS. JONES: Yeah--

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: --traverse that road--

MS. JONES: The kids issue has. . .grown because of the accident, it was a popular high school boy. So the. . .the kids still come frequently and they spin out. So you, you'll occasionally see new. . .burn marks on the road and still crazy kids--uh, not "crazy", but just rude and you know . . .

. . . I, I would say you have to be careful with who's there. So we are more in tune with each neighbor. Um. . .I would also like to say that there are school buses there, right there on that road. And it is a narrow road, so a lot of kids really have to be told don't play in. . .over there. But there is a, a nice. . .memorial. . .that has grown. . .quite big, large, colorful as well. And that's kind of a very . . .*(end of tape, start 3A)*. . . you, you can find our location just by driving on that road. And that's what. . .entices kids to play in that area as well. So that's not a very good thing to have.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. So. . .and just, again--

MS. JONES: Yeah?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: --have you seen the police out? Because we did put in a request for the police to do some occasional spot monitoring.

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MS. JONES: We have--

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: You have?

MS. JONES: --seen police. . .regarding activity because of it, that being called in. Regarding the preliminary road work that's supposed to be having the cables laid down, we have not seen that. And that was upon your. . .coming to the site on December 4<sup>th</sup>.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Right, okay. We'll follow-up with the Department and remind 'em--

MS. JONES: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: --and find out why it's taking so long.

MS. JONES: Yes. Thank you--

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you.

MS. JONES: --very much for your time.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any more questions for the testifier? If not, thank you very much.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Jan Dapitan, followed by Catharine. . .Holyoak?

**NOTE:** *Pause while Ms. Dapitan approached the mic.*

MS. DAPITAN: . . . Good evening, Council. I'm here tonight to represent the Keep America Beautiful system in the State of Hawaii. I didn't know that I'd be here this year . . .*(laughter)*. . . Last year was a bewildering year in the. . .the history of Keep America Beautiful in Hawaii. And. . .in August, the Board of Directors of Community Work Day program, the program that I founded as a part of the system in 1992. . .decided, the Board decided that they no longer wanted to serve as a State. . .affiliate. In 1998, I brought the 501(c)(3) number from Honolulu to Maui to grow the Maui program. And in the last three years, so much happened. So many wonderful things happened for Community Work Day program. Things like the road to Hana with a little funding from the. . .Hawaii Tourism Authority and so much kokua from the State and County that the national Keep America Beautiful recognized it as the first place beautification project in the country. That was sort of like after the dengue fever prevention programs where we mobilized three teams to attack the possible. . .dengue outbreak. And we spent many, many months pulling out appliances and started to work on as we know in those days, back in the days

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when the cars were lined the roads. We've worked with beautification, solid waste initiatives, and litter control. We do this through education. . .through active programs, and primarily the goodwill of people. . .the people who care about the island and the people who have supported the program. And that has been the County Council, the Administration of Maui County--which is the reason the State affiliate since 1998 stayed in the Community Work Day program and continue to bring matching funds and projects that made it the model and, in fact, brought a grant-in-aid that helped all of the State affiliates. I agreed to bring that number here to Maui. And I agreed to be the State leader without compensation because I did want and had a belief in Maui County's ability to, to promote this program so that it would be seen statewide. And I am glad to tell you that it was, it was. I have been contacted by people at the State level that want to see it--

MS. HAMMAN: Three minutes.

MS. DAPITAN: --continue. And I want to, what you have before you is my announcement that we have formally. . .put together another 501(c)(3) with a new number and a new name. We'll be called Keep the Hawaiian Islands Beautiful. Very clear, very right with the branding of Keep America Beautiful. And we will certainly support Community Work Day on Maui. We will work very hard with Molokai and Lanai to move from a committee to an organization of their own, on their own island, focusing on their needs. And we'll be working, again. . .to do the three projects that we did. . .make national initiatives the Old Maui High School and Patsy Mink Center Development for Environmental Education. . .the Kanaha Beach shoreline protection and preservation restoration project, and Americorp. So Maui is where we are. It's our home. It's also, has been the State affiliate, and we're *back* . . .(laughter) . . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier?

. . . Seeing none, thank you again, Jan.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Catharine Holy\_\_\_\_? Holyoak?

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . Followed by Lynn Curtis.

*NOTE: Pause while Ms. Holyoak approached the mic.*

CATHARINE HOLYOAK: Good evening. Hello, everybody. Uh. . .I wish to address the Finance Committee, Chairman Joe Pontanilla, and Vice-Chairman Danny Mateo. I would like to thank the Council for all their hard work and support of Women Helping Women. I would also like to thank the entire County government who have been greatly supportive of our work. I ask for your continued support by approving our rental

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assistance program. My name is Catharine Holyoak, and I'm an advocate at Women Helping Women. I would like to speak on behalf of a survivor who went to Women Helping Women for safety and in the process lost *everything* she had--her job, her home, all of her personal possessions, and in tow several children who gave up the life they were accustomed to, all of their friends, and their school. When she left, the only thing she knew she must do is protect her children and herself. Only later did the reality set in that she and her children were homeless. Being a small and intimate island that Maui is, she did not have many options. By the grace of God, the work of Women Helping Women, and certainly not least the rental grant she was awarded, she was able to rent a place away from her abuser and his friends and family who are, in many cases, relatively widespread. Since then, she has gained employment, secured child care, and has enrolled her children in schools that they're excelling in. It is her, and my opinion as an advocate, that the rental grant alone had a major affect on their status as a family who has survived. . .as opposed to a family who is merely surviving. I believe that geometric location has a much greater impact on the status of moving forward, especially for victims of domestic violence in Hawaii than any programs, counseling, and or resource centers could provide. I'd also like to ask for your support of the Maui Farm. We find their programs an invaluable asset to our agency. And also, Paula mentioned the bus stop on Ike Drive. . .would be just unbelievable. There's so many people up there that can get to where they need to go--appointments, you know job interviews, so many different things. That would be really great, I wish I knew something about it earlier. So I beg you to consider this address and I thank you for your time.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier?

. . . Seeing none, thank you for--

MS. HOLYOAK: Okay. Aloha.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --being here so late . . .(laughter). . . Next testifier is Lynn Curtis. . .followed by Sione Laval [sic].

MS. CURTIS: . . . Good evening, Chairman Pontanilla, Council Members. My name is Lynn Curtis, and I'm speaking to you tonight as a member of the Board of Directors of the Boys and Girls Club of Maui. And I just would like to thank you for your past support and hope you'll continue to support the Boys and Girls Clubs. Uh. . .I, I have to say whenever I come to testify at these things, the. . .it amazes me the number of compelling stories and really worth-while community projects. And I don't envy you, your job. But . . .

AUDIENCE: . . .(laughter). . .

MS. CURTIS: . . . thank you very much.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any question for the testifier this evening?

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. . . Thank you--

MS. CURTIS: Thank you. Good night.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --for being here. Members, that concludes our public testimony for tonight at the Paia Community Center. Um. . . anyone out there wanna provide public testimony at this time? This is your . . .

ALL: . . . *(laughter)* . . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . final moment . . . *(laughter)* . . .

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

ALL: . . . *(laughter)* . . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Seeing none . . .

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . this meeting . . .

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . *(laughter)* . . . for the Budget and Finance Committee--

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . . *(laughter)* . . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --here in Paia Community Center is now adjourned . . . *(gavel)* . . .

**COUNCIL MEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.** (excused: JAJ)

**ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.**

**ADJOURN:** 8:57 p.m.

APPROVED:

  
JOSEPH PONTANILLA, Chair  
Budget and Finance Committee

bf:min:090323-Paia:cs

Transcribed by: Camille Sakamoto