

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

March 24, 2009

Maui Waena Intermediate School Cafeteria

CONVENE: 6:04 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 (in 6:09 p.m.)
Councilmember Michael J. Molina, Member
Councilmember Michael P. Victorino, Member

EXCUSED: Councilmember Jo Anne Johnson, Member
Councilmember Wayne K. Nishiki, Member

STAFF: Kimberley Willenbrink, Substitute Legislative Analyst
Clarita Balala, Substitute Committee Secretary

Ken Fukuoka, Director, Office of Council Services
Dianne Shimizu, Supervising Legislative Analyst
Lance Taguchi, Legislative Analyst

Michele Yoshimura, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Pontanilla
Kelly McGinnis, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Pontanilla
Arthur Suyama, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Danny A. Mateo
Stephanie Ohigashi, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Michael P. Victorino

ADMIN.: *Seated in the audience:*
Brian Hashiro, Chief of Field Operations and Maintenance, Highways Division,
Department of Public Works

OTHERS: Janis Opiana
Edward P. Lopez, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. (MEO) BEST Program
Rodney Bio, MEO BEST Program
Raeann Mukini, Boys and Girls Club of Maui

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Brentt Domingo-Balberdi, Boys and Girls Club of Maui
Faith Kekahuna-Santos, Boys and Girls Club of Maui
Derek Hight, Boys and Girls Club of Maui
Kesaia (Leka) Pauta, Boys and Girls Club of Maui
Isaac Akima, Boys and Girls Club of Maui
Paula Kahue, Boys and Girls Club of Maui
Manu Pauta, Boys and Girls Club of Maui
Eucontra Meekhof, Boys and Girls Club of Maui
Isabella Bissen, Boys and Girls Club of Maui
Kelly Pearson, Boys and Girls Club of Maui
David (Kawika) Mattos, Boys and Girls Club of Maui
Kamahiwa Kawa`a, Boys and Girls Club of Maui
Kaleihano Hosino, Boys and Girls Club of Maui
Chloe Lawrence, Boys and Girls Club of Maui
Colin Hanlon, Chief Professional Officer, Boys and Girls Club of Maui
David Enomoto, MEO Head Start Program
Kiana Siliado, Kamali`i Program, Hawaiian Canoe Club
Levi Almeida, Kamali`i Program, Hawaiian Canoe Club
Lucas McKeon, Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance
Elizabeth Cunningham, MEO Head Start Program
Roxanne Perreira, MEO Head Start Program
Christine Barroga
Keith Tamura, Jr., MEO
Rena Tamura, MEO Rental Assistance Program
Jahfref Akina, MEO Rental Assistance Program
Jayden Ferreira, MEO Rental Assistance Program
Angel Lark
Edel Baguio-Larena, Early Head Start Program Manager, Maui Family Support
Services
Sheena Evans, MEO Head Start Program
Mary C. Baga, MEO Head Start Program
Tiana Baluran, MEO Head Start Program
Kelli Rios, MEO Youth Services
Courtney Lau Hee, MEO Youth Services
Duke Kuhia, MEO Youth Services
Chaysen Chong, Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance
Abby Okazaki, Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance
Kelsie Chong, Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance
Scott Magsayo, Environmental and Spatial Technology (Project East), Maui
Economic Development Board (MEDB)
Ericka Agdinaoy, Project East, MEDB
Jay-Ar Alberto, Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance

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Cyndi Segundo, Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance
Dominic Kaina, MEO Head Start Program
Leon Custodio, MEO Enlace Hispano
Charlene Doi, Director, Kansha Preschool
Danny K. Collier, MEO Head Start Program
Pua Enos, Hui Malama Learning Center
Serena Guzman, Hui Malama Learning Center
Evelyne Dereas, MEO
Kapino Neior, MEO Rental Assistance Program
Miyoo Kim, Maui Humane Society
Lianne Yoshida, Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows Program
Manuata Vakalahi, MEO Business Development Corporation
Joey Fernandez, MEO Business Development Corporation
Chelsea Fernandez, MEO Business Development Corporation
Kevin Yoshida, Maui Humane Society
Kainoa Casco, Hui Malama Learning Center
Lisa Schattenburg-Raymond, Maui Nui Botanical Garden
Stephanie Seidman, Maui Nui Botanical Gardens
Tamara Sherrill, Maui Nui Botanical Gardens
Nohea Daliva, Maui Nui Botanical Gardens
Alda St. James, Keiki Kokua
Evanette Turalva
Ashley Honda, Keiki Kokua
Renee Leiter, Maui Nui Botanical Gardens
Dana Howeth, Executive Director, Community Clinic of Maui
Rae Chandler, Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows Program and Community Work Day
Gail Nagasako, Disaster Chair, American Red Cross
Chris Braden, Maui Adult Day Care Centers
Clyde Murashige, J. Walter Cameron Center
Dottie Aganos, Community Work Day
Nancy Johnson, Maui Community College
David Merchant, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Maui
Scott Ibara, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Maui
Gilberto Sanchez
Rhondalei Hoopii, Women Helping Women

Kaulu Luuwai, Kamali'i Program, Hawaiian Canoe Club
Lillian B. Shu
Alethea Lee, Early Head Start Program, Parent and Community Partnerships
Coordinator, Maui Family Support Services
Charldine Jo Jo Apo, MEO
Trevor N. Tokishi

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Grassleen Amumu, MEO
Elsa M. Espiritu
Denise Miya, Early Head Start Program, Maui Family Support Services
Judith Hook, Women in Technology
Connie Lang
Violeta T. Ulep
Marissa Aisek
Amelia Bonilla
(+25) additional attendees

PRESS: Ilima Loomis, *The Maui News*

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . .(*gavel*). . . Good evening, everyone. I'd like to call to order the Council Budget and Finance Committee meeting for March 24, 2009 at Maui Waena Intermediate School Cafeteria to order. Again, good evening and thank you for having us here tonight. This is your opportunity to provide comments in regards to the Mayor's 2010 Budget Proposal that was given to the Council two weeks ago. Tonight, I have here with me the Member from the Wailuku District to introduce the Members that are here tonight. Councilmember Victorino.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Thank you, Councilmember Pontanilla. Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, and thank you for your attendance this evening. I would like to start with the representative from Lanai, Sol Kaho`ohalahala. Here's around here somewhere. I promise he was here. Oh, there he is, there he is back there, ladies and gentlemen, and from all the way from the island of Lanai.

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

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Off to my left, this good looking young lady no needs no introduction. She's better known as the lady in pink, Ms. Councilmember Gladys Baisa.

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

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: And from Upcountry, Haiku, Makawao, and Paia, the good looking gentleman. We call him the singer. Mr. Councilmember Mike Molina.

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

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COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Our famous leader from the island of Molokai, the Council Chair, Mr. Danny Mateo.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: And of course the good looking gentleman next to me who's our Budget Chair and your representative from the Kahului District, Mr. Joseph Pontanilla.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, and let the, let the show begin. We got to introduce the Staff. Chair.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay. Thank you, Member Victorino. At this time, the Chair would like to recognize the Staff that is supporting the Committee tonight. We do have Kim Willenbrink, who is our Legislative Analyst, and Clarita Balala, who is the Committee Secretary. Also, supporting the Committee tonight, we do have Michele Yoshimori [*sic*]. She's an Executive Assistant supporting the Kahului District. And also, we have Arthur Suyama who supports Councilmember and Council Chairman Dennis Mateo. So . . .

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Dennis, whoa.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Hey, better than Danny. Again, people, you know, you're, you're here to testify or provide comments to the Mayor's Proposed Budget for the Year 2010. We're going to be receiving public testimony from all of you that, who had signed up. And at this time, the Chair would just like to remind everyone to turn off their cell phone or put it on the silent mode before we start.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Chair, if I may interrupt you one moment, our Member from East Maui, from Hana, and you noticed took 'em long time for come in, eh. Sorry, eh, he little bit late. Mr. Bill Kauakea Medeiros.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. For those that had signed up for public testimony this evening, the Chairman is going to have you provide. . .three

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minutes of testimony. You're going to be timed by the Legislative Analyst who will tell you that your three minutes has gone by. So, as you come up forward to testify in the mic, please speak in the mic. Give us your name, the organization that you represent. So, let's begin.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: The first person to testify is Janis Opiana. Janis Opiana, please.

...BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY...

MS. OPIANA: Hi. Hello. How you turn this on? Oh, it is on. Hello. Okay. Yeah, three minutes. Hi. My name is Janis Opiana. And I'm here representing MCC MEO programs. I'm a student at MCC. I also work as a tech in the field but today I do come to you as a single mother with two sons. I wanted to thank you for past funds for the MEO programs because they're, they're extremely important to mothers, a lot of mothers like myself, you know, who, who strive in today's society to be stable.

Here at the MCC program, they, it's a great program for my son. They go on field trips. Here's my son here. He's, he's the one that's there – Jonas. They go on field trips. They learn about child development, where children should be at. It's a, it's a better transition for, for the parents and for my, my sons as well. I have a two-year old registered for next program. This program to me is very important. I've tried to put my sons in play cares or other daycares. They were very disappointing and this has been the most successful for myself and for, for my son. And he's really happy.

I don't know what I would do without this program. I don't know where I would be. I don't think I could be. . .who I could be without this program at MCC. And the staff here, they have a phenomenal staff at each location and, you know, they try really hard. They go out of their ways to help our kids in whatever they need. And they help me with advice. And I wanted to ask you to please restore the funding that was not included in the Mayor's Budget for full days and summer preschool because in today's society, you know, it's normal that a parent just to become stable to work eight hours or more, you know, it's, it's almost impossible to pick up my

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son if his preschool ends at 2:00 or 3:00. You know we, we're trying, you know, to be responsible citizens and to work and these programs allow us to do that. So, I just couldn't stress anymore for that. So, I just wanted to thank you for taking your time for listening to me and thank you very much.

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

MS. OPIANA: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Ladies and gentlemen, as soon as you finish with your testimony could you stay for a moment, the Members may have questions for you, you know, when you conclude your testimony. So, I'd just like to ask that stay there for a few seconds. Thank you. The next testifier is Edward Lopez.

MR. LOPEZ: Yeah. Thank you very much, especially for supporting the MEO BEST Program. My name is Edward Lopez and I am currently an inmate of MCCC, but presently on electronic monitoring furlough, which I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for the BEST Program. They have helped me transition from, from inside to outside and now I've become a very productive person in society.

In the past, prior to, prior to release, the BEST Program had helped me with pre-employment programs. In fact, they offer it to a lot of inmates who cannot help themselves especially when they are released. They had get me to reunite with my family with events they had sponsored and also they gave me an opportunity to go to a culinary arts boot camp which I had graduated from and through that I've got employment two days after. So, this, this program it is very important not only to me but for a lot of people, especially those who cannot help themselves or have no direction in life which MEO, the BEST Program does give.

So, I will thank you. I hope, I hope you continue to support the BEST Program because it does work and I am one of the proofs. Thank you very much.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Mr. Lopez. Members, any questions for the testifier at this time? Seeing none, thank you very much. For those of you that haven't signed up to provide, if you want to provide public testimony,

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to my right there's a signup sheet over here. So, if you haven't signed up please do so. Next testifier is Rodney Bio.

MR. BIO: Hello, my name is Rodney Bio. First of all, I'd like to say good. . .good evening to the ladies and gentlemen of the County Council. It's off. It's on. I got to talk more close?

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Yeah. There we go.

MR. BIO: Okay. Okay. Okay. Hello, my name is Rodney Bio. First of all, I'd like to say good evening to the ladies and gentlemen of the County Council. And thank you for supporting the BEST Program, which I'm here to represent. I've been a BEST client since June 2008 and like many other BEST clients I'm a recent parolee. I was incarcerated for three years and pretty much lost everything I had while in prison. In a place where there's a constant feeling of helplessness, the BEST Program has provided me with hope and assistance to help me reach goals I would otherwise think impossible. Classes like family reunification, pre-employment training, and cultural awareness classes provided the knowledge and skills that helped felons like me reduce their chances of going back to prison.

The BEST Program also provided funding that was vital to my reintegration back into the community. They financed things like my auto insurance, bought me uniforms, paid for business classes which I took, and most recently they're paying for my CDL training. I feel it is important that the BEST Program continue to get the funding to assist our brothers, fathers, mothers, and daughters to reintegrate back into the community to give them the same hope I got, the hope of getting their lives back. Thanks again for your time.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Mr. Bio. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you being here. The next testifier is Raeann Mukini.

MS. MUKINI: Hello. Greetings, County Council. My name is Raeann Mukini and I've been a member for the Boys and Girls Club of Maui Central for two years. I'm 13 years old and as an eighth grader at Maui Waena Intermediate School, the Boys and Girls Club really means a lot to me because there's staff that cares about us and we get to meet new people. There are a lot of activities that I enjoy such as tournaments, going to the beach, mall, movies, and so much more. The best excursion that I went to was the Grand Wailea, which is for Torch Club. I am also a Torch Club as

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a treasurer. I also like to play sports outside like basketball and soccer. I also appreciate the time the staff gives us to do our homework.

Boys and Girls Club really means a lot to me because you get to relax and have fun. Thank you very much for supporting Maui Boys and Girls Club.

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

MR. DOMINGO-BALBERDI: Good evening, County Council. My name is Brentt Domingo-Balberdi. The Boys and Girls Club is important to me because when I'm at home there is nobody to watch, watch me or play with me when I finish school. I get dropped off at the club so I can be safe and my parents won't have to worry that I am going to get into trouble. Power Hour helps me to do my homework that is why I am keeping my grades up.

When I am bored I play games with my friends like pool, bumper pool, foosball. When I'm outside I can borrow a ball and play with it at, at the basketball court. When there are field trips I can join and go places to experience Maui's natural beauty and have...exciting and fun time. Thank you for your time and giving me a place to help me to keep my grades up and be safe.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Good job. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you very much. Next testifier is Faith Kekahuna-Santos.

MS. KEKAHUNA-SANTOS: Good evening, County Council. My name is Faith Kekahuna-Santos. The Boys and Girls Club is important to me because it's like a second family. It keeps kids away from drugs, gives me something to do after school, and here I know everyone cares for me. Everyday I look forward to going here after school. I love the staff and have great time with the kids and teens. I love coming in and signing up for pool, bumper pool, foosball, and ping-pong but my favorite are bumper pool tournaments.

What I think is super cool is that we can actually have these things like lockers to keep our stuff safe and we have a computer lab with 15 computers and they really help us with our homework. Without the Boys and Girls Club I wouldn't be who I am today. The Boys and Girls

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Clubs help kids and parents in their community. They're doing a wonderful job so thanks to everyone who helped.

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

MR. HIGHT: Good evening, County Council. My name is Derek Hight. The Boys and Girls Club is important to me because I need someplace to go after school. Most of my friends go to the Boys and Girls Club so I look forward to, to going there. I can't go home because my mom and dad work every day of the week. At Boys and Girls Club they do many cool events such as tournaments, outside sports, and one of the most coolest things is the Punt, Pass, and Kick competition. The Boys and Girls Club hold the competition, the local competition which is always fun. I won the competition and went to the Big Island where I also won. I earned the chance to go to San Diego and attend the NFL game. I participated in the regional championship at the stadium. It was one of the most best experiences I've ever had.

I always like to play the games and sports at the club but they also make sure I'm doing good in school and help me with my homework if I need it. My parents and I are very thankful for the Boys and Girls Club.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you. The next testifier Kesaia Leka Pauta.

MS. L. PAUTA: Hi. My name is Leka Pauta. I'm 16 years old. I attend H.P. Baldwin High School. I'm in the 10th grade. I have been a member of the Boys and Girls Club of Maui at Kahekili Terrace since 2006. The staff members brought us together to stay out of trouble and be a family. We, if we didn't have the Boys and Girls Club of Maui, we may be like those other people dealing with drugs, alcohol, getting arrested and going to jail. I am thankful for them to keep me out of trouble. I would like to thank Ms. Bella, Kawena, and Mana for help, helping me with my education and to stay in school. They have been there for me whenever I need their help. Thank you for the Maui County Members, MEO Head Start at Kahekili Terrace and Hawaii State, Hawaii State Public Housing Authority for supporting the Boys and Girls Club of Maui . . . *(inaudible)* . . . Mahalo.

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

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MR. AKIMA: Hi. My name is Isaac. Hi. My name is Isaac Akima. I am 9 years old. I go to Boys and Girls Club of Maui at Kahekili Terrace. I like going to Boys and Girls Club because they help me do my homework and we go outside play outdoor games. We do community service and go on field trips. Ms. Bella, Kawena, and Mana are cool because they allow us to watch. . . watch movies and make butter popcorn for us to eat. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Isaac. We, we know that you've been here before last year. Members, any questions for the testifier? If not, thank you again, Isaac. Paula Kahue.

MS. KAHUE: Hi, Maui County Council Members. My name is Paula Kahue. I am a member of the Boys and Girls Club of Maui. I attend the club at Kahekili Terrace. I'd just like to say that if it wasn't for the Boys and Girls Club of Maui I would be failing in school. Now that they're here I'm getting good grades in all my classes except for math but I think I'm getting better though. I am thankful for all the gifts they have given me and all the parties they have thrown for us to celebrate the holidays. I am also thankful for the help and support they've given me to try to succeed in life and my education.

Besides that the Boys and Girls Club of Maui gives me things to do instead of drugs and alcohol in a safe and appropriate environment for today's young youth. Thank you very much for supporting the Boys and Girls of Maui.

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

MR. M. PAUTA: Hi, my name is Manu Pauta. I'm a member of the Boys and Girls Club at Kahekili Terrace. If it wasn't for the Boys and Girls Club all the kids that lived here would be, would be involved in drugs and making other bad choices. There is one big thing that the Boys and Girls Club of Maui did for me and that was choosing, that was choosing me to go to Maryland and participate in the Cal Ripken clinic with one member of each of the five sites. The staff helped my family and I prepare for the trip. They checked and double-checked the packing list and my bags to make sure I had everything I needed. If I didn't they went and got it for me.

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I visited the White House, played baseball, went on a hike, did other activities, and made many new friends from around the globe. I thank the Boys and Girls Club of Maui a lot for all that they do for me, my family, and my friends.

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

MS. MEEKHOF: Hi. I'm Connie, sorry, Eucontra. I put Eucontra on there. I usually put Connie. I forgot. I'm the Unit Director for the Central Boys and Girls Club. As you can see, we have quite an assortment of kids that have done wonderful things since they've been coming to the Boys and Girls Club. They are amazing. We're there for them. We support them. We take care of them. We currently have 452 registered members at the Central Club and we service 80 to 100 kids a day. Well, this is Spring Break week, next week is Spring Break week, so we're keeping them busy. We're keeping them off the streets. We're keeping them happy. We're keeping them healthy.

We thank you for everything that you do for us. The kids thank you for everything that you do for us. We appreciate everything that you've done for us now and everything that you're going to do for us in the future. So, from the Central Boys and Girls Club of Maui, mahalo.

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

MS. BISSEN: Aloha, my name is Isabella Bissen. I am the Program Director for Boys and Girls Club at Kahekili Terrace. We are a satellite club from Central and with the cooperation of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority we have been there to support the kids and the families in the housing and in the community. The families do volunteer to assist us with various activities and also to help provide us with snacks, as well as supervising the children when need to be. We share a lot of respect amongst one another. The staff and I praise the children and correct them when needed. And when they do need to be corrected we either have them do community service which is helping to clean the community or else having them to say a verbal thank you, 'cause for many of them that's very difficult to do even at their age to say I'm sorry.

And so, I'm very proud of them. They've come a very long way and have proven themselves to be successful as young youths. And with the

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collaboration of the MEO Head Start and the Hawaii State Housing Authority, we have been able to provide a safe and positive and fun environment for the children. And although we are not currently funded by the County of Maui, we certainly would like to thank all of you because it is because of you that, and many other members and people throughout the community, that we have been able to be successful today. Mahalo.

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

MS. PEARSON: Good evening, County Council Members. My name is Kelly Pearson and I'm the Director of Operations for the Boys and Girls Club of Maui. I think you all have a card in front of you. As you can see it's just a little piece of plastic but it's from the Boys and Girls Club of Maui and it's kept thousands of young people off the streets, off drugs, and in school. It tells every kid who carries it someone cares about how they grow up and what they do with their lives. Too many young people feel that they can't make a difference, but put this card in their hands and we can change their lives.

Last night in Paia, Councilwoman Baisa asked a great question. She said what's a typical day at the Boys and Girls Club? So, to specifically address this, I would like all of you to look at your cards and pretend that you're 10 to 15 years old. So, I know you guys don't have to go too far back but pretend that you're 10 to 15 years old, okay. And you just got thru with six hours of school and you are on, on the MEO bus on your way to your Boys and Girls Club. Some of your friends are heading home to an empty house because their parents are not home. Another schoolmate of yours is going to a friend's house and getting involved in activities that may lead them to pick up a gun or a pipe. Many other schoolmates just don't know what to do after school. Guys this is your card, okay. Okay. Okay. And you on the MEO bus and you're going, going to your club.

Okay. So, you get off the club, I mean get off the bus and there to meet you at the club is a staff person. He or she is smiling. They call you by your first name. They welcome you in and they ask how your day was. You show your card, you sign in, and you get ready, rid of your heavy backpack that you're carrying on your shoulders. Okay. Right away, Bill, Danny, and Sol head for the snack shop 'cause they're hungry. Okay. There you can buy fruits, candies, water, juice, chicken bakes, pizza pocket, and chips. Okay. Gladys comes in ready to talk to her friends,

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talk stories with her friends or do one of the fun activities at the club. Joe and Wayne decides to play in the billiards and ping-pong tournament and they look forward to be the winner so that they can have their names posted on the walls and win some prizes. As for the two Mike's they already outside. Mike Molina on the basketball court shooting some hoops with his friends, and little Mikey Victorino hitting some baseballs because he wants to be a professional player like this guy named Shane.

At about 3:00 p.m. the staff informs all of the kids it's time for Power Hour, yay, that's homework. All of the members grab their school bags and head for the learning center for homework help, Power Pages, or educational board games. Members look forward to earning Power Points because they can become eligible for special awards at the end of the quarter.

MS. WILLENBRINK: Three minutes.

MS. PEARSON: Oh, shucks. Okay. So, anyway, during the last hours I've described you can hear lots of talking, cheering, lots of laughing, joking, and as the day ends parents are coming to pick up their members and all you can hear is say bye and see you tomorrow. Think about all the thousands of kids you have served, think about the positive place that you provide for them, today, tomorrow, and the next day. I just want to say thank you for all your support.

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

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you very much, Kelly. I remember I asked that question last night about what a typical afternoon is like at the club so thank you. Now, what can I do with this card?

MS. PEARSON: Well. . .

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: I'm kind of concerned it asks age.

MS. PEARSON: I love you guys and I wasn't about to go there. So, well, what you call, you can get a whole lot of stuff with this card.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Really. Like?

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MS. PEARSON: You come to the club they give you self-esteem. They give you a lot of hope, a lot of dreams, and a lot of opportunities.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Sounds good to me. It's a good card. And thank you.

MS. PEARSON: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. The next testifier is David Kawika Mattos.

MR. MATTOS: Aloha, everybody.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aloha.

MR. MATTOS: Again, my name is Kawika Mattos. I am the Unit Director, new Unit Director back on Maui running the Boys and Girls Club of Paukukalo. Today was an exciting day. Second day of Spring Break. Open all day to support the families. Forty-something kids keeping them busy with all the activities that you just heard Kelly and the other members speak of.

Personally, there was another, well, it was personal, it was exciting for me for another reason. . . .(change tape, start 1B). . . We use the Boys and Girls Club, um, thank you, well, we normally use the Boys and. . .well, we normally use the Paukukalo Community Center as a Boys and Girls Club. There we start off with the shell, we rush to set up before the kids come, we do all the activities with them, and break down. Kind of unique. . . unique in that way. Monday through Friday from 8:00 to 12:00, the kupuna with Alu Like, the Alu Like program come there and they do their programs. Well, because we open up at 8:00, we're working outside of, of the parameters, yeah, of the hall in the gym and we set up a 20x20 tent.

Today, as we were passing it was exciting because they called me to come and they said they had a question for me and they asked me to share a little bit about the Hawaiian culture because they heard us speaking a little bit in Hawaiian as well. After sharing with them it was encouraging knowing that our club also is a club where the kids come that's a part of, the kids who are immersion, Hawaiian language immersion, most of them come down to our club in the afternoons on a school day from Paia, Kalama, and King Kekaulike. They asked today if we could, the kids could start teaching them Hawaiian language. *Maikai loa*. That for me was very thrilling.

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We're excited with all the things that we're doing which we do hula with the kids, we do the Hawaiian language with them along with all the other activities. But our vision, and we are in the process of planning this and we're going to start on it actually this week, is to create about a 5,000 square foot *mala* for the kupuna to come work with our keiki along with other people from the community. Not only Paukukalo and the other Hawaiian Homes communities but also it could include kids and families from Waiehu Terrace right above us and so forth. So that is super exciting for us.

All this is truly based upon a philosophy that we have. We got banners and signs like this posted everywhere, which says 100 percent respect for each other, for our club, for our property and equipment. As we share with the kids no matter where you're from, where your ancestors or your kupuna is from, the bottomline is if we all respect each other, we can really have a great community. So, thank you for, for your time. I invite you to come and check us out at any time. Drop by. And perhaps you can share with us and work the garden with us so that you can take home some vegetables in the near future. Mahalo.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. And, Vanna, can you show the audience what you got? Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you very much. Thank you, Clarissa. Next testifier is Kamahiwa Kawa`o? Kawa`a.

MR. KAWA`A: Aloha.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Take it out. It's going to move forward, yeah.

MR. KAWA`A: . . .(*Spoke in Hawaiian*). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Go ahead.

MR. HOSINO: Good evening, everyone. I am Kaleihano Hosino and this is Kamahiwa Kawa`a and we are from Wailuku Boys and Girls Club, Paukukalo. We wrote our thoughts about Boys and Girls Club. Here is our *mana`o*. This is a place where children can play, do their homework, and learn hula and Hawaiian language. The children here must show love for each other and respect, respect is very important. This is a fun place because there are lots of things for children to do like cooking, playing sports, and all kinds of fun things. Children don't have to stay home alone

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anymore. The leaders of this club are excellent. We really enjoy attending the Boys and Girls Club. Mahalo.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifiers? Seeing none, thank you very much. Take off the mic. There you go. Go ahead, say your name.

MS. LAWRENCE: Hi, my name is Chloe and I go to the Paukukalo Boys and Girls Club. And the staff helps, helps us whenever we need their support and they help us with our homework and I made a lot of friends there. And I just really like Paukukalo Boys and Girls Club. I mean my mom is a single mom and she gets a lot of things done around the house when I'm at Boys and Girls Club and she really appreciates that. And my mom doesn't really like helping me with my homework so the staff are there to help us. And Boys and Girls Club is really extraordinary.

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

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: I didn't get her name.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Oh, okay. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. By the way, Members, her name was Chloe Lawrence. Next testifier is Colin Hanlon.

MR. HANLON: I'll spare you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: You'll spare us?

MR. HANLON: I'll spare you tonight.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Next one is David Enomoto.

MR. ENOMOTO: Aloha, County Members. My name is David Enomoto. I come before you representing Wailuku B Head Start for the MEO centers. I am a parent of MEO centers. I, my children's, I've been in the program for four years for my daughter Natasha that's attending Wailuku Elementary now to my youngest son, Davin. This program has tremendously helped our families. I lived in Kahekili Terrace going to the

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program there. But MEO Head Start gives an insight to families that need help and they've been there for us from the, from the beginning until the end. To the point where, when we leave the program we as parents want to continue on helping the program.

It would be a great support if you folks keep on supporting this program 'cause it goes a whole lot of ways to all kind different programs that they have. I've got help for a business that I'm trying to start my own business for business programs that they have. It's awesome. Hopefully, everything can be, come to pass that you guys keep funding the program. Thank you.

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

MS. SILIADO: Hi, everybody. I am Kiana Siliado.

MR. ALMEIDA: Aloha, my name is Levi Almeida.

MS. SILIADO: And we're here on behalf of the Hawaiian Kamali'i Program. And I've been going there for the past five years now. I started when I was 11 and I've been working there as a leader for two years. And it's a really, really fun program especially for the summer 'cause it gives you something to do and you're surrounded by great people like our coach, Coach Kauhane and Coach Kaimana Lee. And they're just really great people and they teach us a lot about the Hawaiian culture. And they take us out on trips like we get to go to Lanai, Kaho'olawe, and Molokai every year and we work on the island. We help restore the islands like Hawaiian culture. And it's just, it's really fun 'cause we get to meet a lot of great people and we get to work with each other and we all know each other. And we learn a lot 'cause it's a paddling program and you get something to do in the summer. So, it's just really fun.

MR. ALMEIDA: What, well, I've learned that paddling is much more than just paddling. I mean you learn like so many more, like so much more values. It's just amazing. Like without the Hawaiian Canoe Club Kamali'i Program I have no idea where I would be today. It's given me such a strong foundation and I've like been able to like be a good person and help out the community the best I can and that's all because of this program.

Okay. This is how I see the program. So, we have two cliffs, yeah, on one side is our ancestors and on the other side is us, the future and the

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present generation, and we have this gap in the middle. And now, this gap is growing bigger and bigger because us, the present and the future generations, we don't know what our ancestors did. So, what the Kamali'i Program does it makes like a bridge between the two. So, during the summertime you go across this gap and we ask for the knowledge and like all the values that our ancestors held dear, and we take that and we go across to our side and we use that knowledge and those values to make us good people of Hawaii and greater people of the world. Mahalo nui loa for all that you guys do. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Can you state your name, please?

MR. ALMEIDA: Levi Almeida.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. And that was a wonderful story that you provided us and, you know, hopefully, you know, in our community, you know, we always look at, to our kupunas for advice. And sometimes, you know, the younger generation try to fight that advice. So, by bridging this gap, you know, we, we come together as one great community. So, thank you for your story.

MR. ALMEIDA: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay. Next testifier is Kawalei [*sic*] Luuwai.

MR. LUUWAI: He had to go to volleyball practice.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Volleyball practice. All right. And he represented the Kamali'i Program. Next one is Lucas McKeon.

MR. MCKEON: Aloha, Council Members, Chairman Pontanilla. My name is Lucas McKeon and as a member of the Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance, I humbly ask that you continue funding our program in Fiscal Year 2010. I have been part of the Youth Alliance for one year and wanted to share a few special experiences I wouldn't have had if I wouldn't, if it weren't for the Youth Alliance program.

I joined Focus Maui Nui because I wanted to check it out. One of my baseball coaches recommended it to me and it sounded interesting. I also wanted to learn more about Maui and meet new people. What I got out of being in the Alliance so far was a chance to explore the agricultural festival. I was able to talk to local chefs and farmers about their produce.

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Being a soon to be Eagle Scout it was inspiring to meet other youth interested in Maui Nui's future. I ask for your continued support in providing a program like this that will help the youth of Maui grow. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you. Elizabeth Cunningham. Elizabeth Cunningham. . .followed by Roxanne Perreira.

MS. CUNNINGHAM: I'm Elizabeth Cunningham and I don't have a speech or anything but I'm here representing MEO Head Start. I have five children and four, four of my kids have went to MEO. It's such an awesome program. The teachers are great. You can tell it's not just a job to them. It's, they love what they do. They love the kids. And I just want to say thank you for funding it and please continue to do so. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Roxanne Perreira. Roxanne Perreira followed by Christine Barroga.

MS. PERREIRA: Hello. Good evening, my name is Roxanne Perreira. I'm here to express my support for the MEO Head Start Program. Ever since my daughter started school, she wakes up every morning excited, you know, to go to school, play with her friends, see her teachers, learn what she needs to learn, you know. She. . .just everything she does at school she just so excited to be there. And MEO is not actually just a wonderful educational program but they also help us out as a family, parents, you know, to give us the push we need to get out there and, you know, do what we need to do to better us as a family and everything else.

And, you know, I actually like to thank any, everyone here from MEO Head Start that have given us a chance to be a better family and be more fully involved with our children. Thank you.

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

MS. PERREIRA: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Seeing none, thank you. Christine, Christine Barroga followed by Keith Tamura, Jr.

MS. BARROGA: Good evening, my name is Christine Barroga and I am a senior at Baldwin High School. On behalf of the EAST Program at our school, I

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would like to thank you, the Maui County Council, for supporting the Women in Technology. They sponsored our Arkansas trip to the 2009 EAST Conference where a select number, a select few of our students were able to attend it to enrich our knowledge in Photoshop, video production, as well as GPS. To further excel in the 21st Century where technology is currently keeping, it keeps on evolving so we are, to keep our economy going. Hard times. Also, we'd like to thank you for supporting the Women in Technology for their, they equipped our EAST lab with new computers where our students are creating graphic designing for our, um, for collaborating with our DECA Program where we sew and create t-shirts for our school to enhance school spirit. And thank you. Thank you very much.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you very much. Keith, Keith Tamura, Jr. followed by Rena Tamura.

MR. TAMURA: Good evening, Council Members. I'm here representing the MEO rental assistance and I'm, of course, obviously, I'm very grateful for the assistance because at that time, you know, my wife got laid off and I was just the one working. And, you know, I was homeless many times before and I could just imagine my, not just me but my family being homeless and that would really suck. And with the help that, the big help, we got from MEO, you know, took off a lot of stress from myself; therefore, I could tend to my kids and myself, and my wife, and just to, you know, just to spare me that, you know, that stress.

And I didn't know you guys was affiliated with the Boys and Girls Club. That's another thing. You know my step kids they go to the Boys and Girls Club through the Spring Break and whatnot and that's another gratefulness that I have, because, you know, they, they have that kind of what do you call that. . you know that, that kind of opportunity. You know, you guys have that kind of things going on for the kids to go to. And I, you know, I'm teaching my step kids the appreciation that we should have in not only our brains but in our heart that we have a roof over our head. And, you know, not, you know, everything else, the, the vehicle we have, the food we have, and just like the feeling that we have that nobody can take away from us. You know things can be taken away from us but the good, that, that, that great, that gratitude feeling just like good, you know, like good cleanness full in our hearts, you know, nobody can take that away from me and my kids, my family, you know.

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And like, I mean, like, like the love I offer my children, you know, words cannot express. Words cannot express the gratitude I have for the help that I got from, you know, the MEO funding. And I have one more thing to say that, you know, with this economy going down, jobs being lost, people getting their, you know, their houses taken away because mortgage not met. You know and just so happen, you know, to, to think for the worse and prepare our worst, if we was to lose anything with this MEO thing at least we can keep things open for the children because the children, you know, they, they, you know, they, they weak because they just children, that's children and, you know, and they need the help that, the same help that I'm getting from, from you guys. And the same help that I gotten from being like a children myself. You know and thank you for hearing me.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you. Next testifier is Rena Tamura followed by Jahfrefx, Jahfrefx Akina.

MS. TAMURA: Hi. Good evening. My name is Rena Tamura and I was raised here on Maui. I am happily married with three children. Both my husband and I are very hard workers, very dedicated to our family. I am here just to say that I am very grateful to MEO and the rental assistance program, which allowed our family to maintain our home. And I just wanted to thank the County, too, who has made the program possible. Thank you.

I sincerely hope as families here on Maui continue to endure hardships that the funding will still be made available to families in need of assistance. Thank you once again.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you very much. Jahfrefx Akina. No more? Here he comes.

MR. AKINA: Hi. My name is Jahfrefx Akina. I'd like to thank MEO rental assistance for helping my family maintaining our house. So thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

MR. FERREIRA: I'd like to, I'd like to thank MEO rental assistance for helping us pay for food. Thank you.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: And your name?

MR. FERREIRA: Jayden Ferreira.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for this young gentleman? Seeing none, thank you very much. Angel Lark. Angel Lark.

MS. LARK: Hello. Hi. Giving honor to God and very important personnel. I thank you for allowing us to be able to come before you. I'm standing on behalf of MEO. MEO has been there for me. I've seen. . .there's a few other people that I know that MEO has come to their rescue. I believe with this great nation that we have, I kind of believe within my heart that God is going to use Hawaii to be the center of all the United States to show an example that we don't turn our backs away from people who needs help. And I believe that we all need help in some kind of shape or form. I do not believe that you guys are going to turn your backs on us.

Give us a chance, give our nation a chance, give Hawaii a chance to start off, at least start from ground level and level to level to level. But I don't believe that we need to. . .there's a lot of families that in our economy that's being affected. And even I was a little affected by it. I go to MCC College and I see a lot of the things that goes on behind closed doors. There's a lot of people that is hurting out there. And MEO, everybody on the staff at MEO, they're outstanding.

God has blessed Hawaii to be a very wonderful beautiful place to be. I've been a resident here for a couple of years now and the things that I saw on the mainland from here I noticed that the people care about each other more than the people on the mainland. That's one of the things that I do notice. And to see that and funding and things of that nature, we do need the funds to be able to continue and we need the people to be able to still be able to rise and be able to take care of the kids, be able to go to work. There's some sense of accomplishment when you know that you're able to do what you need to do rather than, oh, what I am going to do and stressed out and stuff. And that's the problem on the mainland is a lot of people don't care and they turn away funds from people then there's a lot of crime, more crime.

But I believe when people are appreciated and when people feel loved what happens is they, there's a sense of accomplishment, wow, I got to do something to accomplish something. I got to do something to help somebody. And God has put us on this planet to help one another, watch

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over the planet. And I believe that the whole, the whole world needs to look at Hawaii. I really believe that within my heart that I believe that Hawaii will be the nation that's going to say hey look at our example, we don't turn our backs from people when they need help. And I believe that you important people, I know that you had things that you had to do today but you came here to hear all of the wonderful people's voices. And I believe that you can have something done and get it done. I'm sorry to take so long. Thank you.

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

MS. BAGUIO-LARENA: Honorable Members of the County Council, good evening. My name is Edel Baguio-Larena and I work with Maui Family Support Services Early Head Start. On behalf of the children and families that we serve, I would like to thank the Mayor and Honorable Members of the Council for providing funding for our program.

The Early Head Start Program provides services to expectant mothers and children from zero to 36 months and we provide center based and home visiting services. Through the funding that you provide, we have our multi-disciplinary specialists in the areas of nutrition, mental health, registered dietician, I think I've said that, and also child development. And with your support we're able to provide services to children who are, who come from families who are below the poverty level. So, I wish to thank you tonight for your support again and thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you. Sheena Evans followed by Mary Baga.

MS. EVANS: Hi. Good evening. My son, Kala, goes to Wailuku B Head Start and I'll give you a little bit of background on Kala. When he originally started preschool he had a speech delay and he couldn't say simple words as mama or dada. And with him going to the school he's been, this is his second year in the preschool, in the Head Start program, and now he can not only speak accurately, he can read, he can write. And I firmly believe that it's the teachers and the staff and the children, you know, working together helping him to move forward. He's done so many great things and made so much strides in his life. And I'm a single mother as well. I have two children. I'm trying to get my second son registered for next year and I'm hoping that the funding is around to help the community and help the children in the future to better them as well.

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The program staying open past 12 o'clock is so very important. With my job, I can't leave as soon as the program ends. It's so important that it stays open, you know, later on past four o'clock, three o'clock, four o'clock, five o'clock, so that parents in my situation can have this available for their children. So thank you very much for your funding now and your continued funding in the future. And thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you very much. Mary Baga followed by Kealii [sic] Rios.

MS. BAGA: Good evening, everyone. I'm, thank you for funding MEO Head Start preschool. Having my two child [sic] in this program allows me to work and support my family. As a single mother of four, my child enjoyed going to school every day and learn, grow as a unique individual and socializing with other children in a positive learning environment. This program will help my child become ready for kindergarten. Please continue to fund for MEO Start Program. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Kealii [sic] Rios.

MS. BALURAN: No. Hi. My name is Tiana Baluran. My daughter also goes to MEO Head Start in Wailuku A and I just want to say thank you for funding them 'cause my daughter she's grown in ways that I couldn't even help her. And the way that her imagination is it's just outstanding and I just, I have other kids so I really want them to go to MEO Head Start also so they can grow just like her. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. You guys got any question for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you. Kelli Rios followed by Courtney Lau Hee.

MS. RIOS: Aloha. My name is Kelli Rios and I'm here to say thank you for supporting the MEO Youth Bank. And I have three children, and two children are involved in the MEO Youth Bank. One is Nicki Rios, the other one is JR Rios. Nicki has been going for about two years and JR has been going for about three years. I can tell that they love going to MEO. They, the staff there is real ohana style. They love going on their camping trips. They're learning about drugs, tobacco, sex education, which I feel I can do at . . . as well, but . . . (*change tape, start 2A*). . . you can never get enough education on those subjects so I really appreciate that.

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And the job skills that they're learning; my daughter is learning how to, and my son but he's in track so he goes only when he can, how to do job applications. She's learning how to go to college in the summer and they're helping her out with that. And I just hope you guys can continue funding the MEO Youth Services. I really appreciate it and they really help me out a lot as well. And the, the kids, not just my kids, the whole group, they really look up to Leslie and Martha. And I know my kids tell me a lot of things but they confide in them which is good 'cause they can't just always talk to me about personal things which means a lot to me as well. So, I just hope you guys can continue funding and help support them.

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

MS. RIOS: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Courtney Lau Hee. Courtney Lau Hee followed by Duke Kuhia.

MS. LAU HEE: Good evening, Chair Pontanilla, and the Members of the Budget Committee. My name is Courtney Lau Hee. I'm 11 years old. I live in Kahului and I attend Maui Waena Intermediate School as a sixth grader. I have been in MEO Youth Services for two years and I'm enjoying it so far. I learned a lot of things such as life skills, job skills, and culinary arts. We also learn how to live pono and that being respectful is very important in our lives. We do role-playing which is a lot of fun. We're also learning how to get ready to apply for jobs. I'm still too young to get a real job but when I'm, I'm 14 years old I'll be ready.

I love doing community service with my friends at MEO. I feel good about myself knowing that I can be, make a difference in my community. I think if everyone will work together instead of fighting and grumbling all the time, they can make a difference, too. I've also learned a lot about second-hand smoke in our Tobacco Prevention class. I now know that if I'm near someone that is smoking it can be very harmful to me and my friends. So, if you're a smoker please try to quit because it's not good for you and me, especially if you have asthma like me and a lot of my friends and family.

I enjoy camping in Hana and Olowalu but not only because it's fun it's because I learned a lot of things like planting native plants, going fishing,

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and picking opihis to eat. I also learned, I also enjoyed doing community work such as picking up cigarette butts and cleaning up the harbor and the parks. The Haleakala has been one of my favorite camp, favorite camping trips because we went up to the summit to see the stars at night and in the morning we went back up to the summit and sang *e ala e* which is a chant that meant to wake up the sun and pull it up. Even though Haleakala was so cold that I couldn't feel my fingers it was a whole lot of fun.

In Girls Circle, we talked about how to be in healthy relationships, abuse awareness, sex education, and the roles women play in our society. I like learning about how women play, play a role in our society, because it tells me how, how women act and, and the kind of clothing they wear in magazines and on TV. We also did culinary arts at the MEO Head Start family dinner with the help of my papa, Tommy Lau Hee, and my dad, Mark Lau Hee. I learned how, how much it takes to prepare over 1,000 plates to the Head Start families.

Thank you for your time and also thank you for your support at funding MEO's Youth, Youth Services and MEO Transportation. I hope you will be able to continue our funding in the future. Mahalo.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for Courtney? Seeing none, thank you. Duke Kuhia. Following Duke will be Chaysen Chong.

MR. KUHIA: Good evening, Members, I mean, good evening, Chair Pontanilla, and Members of the Budget Committee. My name is Duke Kuhia. I am 14 and I live in Kahului and I attend Maui High School as a freshman. I'm here to ask for your continued support of the MEO Youth Service and for the MEO Transportation Department. I would also like to thank you for funding our program in the past. Thank you so much for making MEO a dream come true for the youths and volunteers of Maui.

I've been in the program for approximately two years and a half. MEO Youth Services has been teaching us life skills, job skills, and also tobacco prevention. They have been a big help in my life. They have helped me keep busy so I would stay out of trouble and they have taught us to be pono. MEO has helped me learn things like culinary arts. They taught us how to prepare traditional Hawaiian food like lau lau, lomi salmon, chicken long rice, squid luau, and poke. We also have learned how to make fresh poi and kulolo from the kalo we harvest, harvested from our loi patches.

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There's also a 72-hour safety kit that we'll be putting together for emergencies disasters. We're also certified for CPR and First Aid and hopefully get certified for Junior Lifeguard. I was one of the boys that was chosen to attend a Statewide Youth Kicks Butt Day rally at the State Capitol. I have learned many different kinds of things from other tobacco products to products that can easily distributed to minors. Also, there, also there are products that they're making up is trying to get around the smoke free laws.

I believe that being enrolled in this program has not just helped me out but it also helped my friends out. On our community work days, we are, we are taking care of our environment by replanting native trees at Polipoli Forest after the, after the fire, and restoring Olowalu's taro patches. We have six taro patches; two wet land and four dry land. We have learned culinary arts from Uncle Mark. He's a volunteer that helps at MEO all the time. We're lucky to have him coming to MEO. We like coming to MEO because some of us can say it's like our second home.

I know that the economy is hard right now and funding is tight but if there is any funding that is cut we would lose our transportation and the best staff in the world. So, would you please keep on funding us and don't cut our budget. It will help me and my friends become better citizens of Maui County. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify tonight and for all you do for the people of Maui County. Mahalo nui loa.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, do you have any questions for the testifier? If not, you guys do catering, luau catering?

MR. KUHIA: No.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: That's one good way to make some money. Thank you.

MR. KUHIA: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Next testifier is Chaysen Chong followed by Abby Okazaki.

MR. CHONG: Aloha, Council Members, and Chairman Pontanilla. My name is Chaysen Chong and as a member of the Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance, I humbly ask that you continue funding our program in Fiscal Year 2010. I've been a part of this Alliance for four months and wanted to share a few

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special experiences I wouldn't have had if it weren't for the Maui Nui Youth Alliance.

One of my most recent experiences was at the Ag Festival. There I learned about how important farming is in Hawaii and that we are running out of farmers. Since we're so isolated we have to be self-sufficient and if a disaster were to happen we would only survive for four days with, with food. Before the Ag Festival, Focus Maui Nui Alliance took us to the First Hawaiian Bank. There we learned about how important the economy is, how it works, and how supportive the bank is toward the, towards starting businesses.

In conclusion, this program, this program gave me experiences that parents could never give a child. The Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance took the initiative to educate the youth of Maui Nui because they knew that the youth was the, was the key in Hawaii's future. Thank you very much for considering my testimony in support of continuing funding the Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance program.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you very much. Abby Okazaki followed by. . .followed by. . .go ahead, Abby.

MS. OKAZAKI: Good evening, Budget Committee Chair Pontanilla, County Council Chair Mateo, Vice-Chair Molina, Council Members. I am Abby Okazaki. I belong to the Class of 2012 at Kamehameha Schools, Maui Campus. You were so kind to me the first time I testified, I decided to come again. As a member of the Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance program my team built a robot. My team demonstrated our project to Senator Inouye's Chief of Staff. I met then Presidential Candidate Barack Obama. And there are lots of other kids on Maui who are able to do these things and more because of your faith in us.

Imagine discovering how GPS helps plant seeds in the fields for HC&S. Imagine manufacturing a product and a budget under the guidance of economist Roy Hart. Imagine learning the back office of our 100-plus years old newspaper, *The Maui News*. Imagine meeting the vice, the Senior Vice-president of First Hawaiian Bank, Mr. Nishimoto, who toured us through the bank. Did you know that the bank has an airway in the vault in case you get locked in? Why is any of this important?

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What you are, what you are doing today is so important that I asked my tennis coach to leave early. These activities are inspired by the faith that you have placed in us, the support that you've given to programs such as the Youth Alliance, Focus Maui Nui, and MEDB. We think differently. We act differently. We choose differently. I'd like all kids to have the same choices you've given me over the past four years. I know a lot of parents worry whether their kids will return after college. I know my parents do. But it is these kinds of opportunities that you have created today that will bring us back tomorrow. Thank you for your time and courtesy. Are there any questions?

CHAIR PONTANILLA: All right. Members, any questions for the testifier? You should be sitting here. Thank you. Next testifier is Kelsie Chong.

MS. CHONG: Kelsie.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Kelsie Chong followed by Lillian Ihu [*sic*]. Go ahead.

MS. CHONG: Okay. Aloha, Council Members, Chairman Pontanilla. My name is Kelsie Chong and as a member of the Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance, I humbly ask that you continue funding our program in Fiscal Year 2010. I've been a part of the Alliance for just one year. I wanted to share a few special experiences I have had if it weren't for the Youth Alliance program.

One of the most memorable experience that I have had with the Youth Alliance was a clean up at the Maalaea Harbor. This session made me more aware of the amount of garbage that was left behind at the harbor. The littering amount there was so great that I'm glad the Youth Alliance had setup a session to help clean up our aina. Just the one-hour of cleaning up made a huge difference in the way the harbor looked. Another session that I wouldn't have had without the Youth Alliance was our visit to First Hawaiian Bank. This session taught me a lot about marketing business or, or of the industry and how it works. We also had the privilege to go behind the scenes and learn more and go inside of the vault. Thanks to this session it gave me more knowledge and insight of our financial setup.

Although it's just, although it's just been my first year a part of this wonderful program, I have learned so many things during the session. Without this program many youth, youths today won't have the opportunity to learn about the challenges and programs that Maui Nui

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faces. Thank you very much for considering my testimony in support of continuing funding the Focus Maui Nui Alliance program. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? I got to say this you guys give real good testimony. Real professional. Next testifier is Lillian Ihu [*sic*] followed by Scott Magsayo. Lillian. No, Lillian. So, Scott, go ahead, Magsayo. *Alisto*.

MR. MAGSAYO: Good evening, Council Members. I am Scott Magsayo.

MS. AGDINAOAY: And I'm Ericka Agdinaoay. We are from the Maui High School EAST Program. And first of all, we'd like to say thank you for your support. What EAST is, is it's comprised into three points, community service and collaboration, student growth, and community service, oh, critical thinking and problem solving. And what we do is we utilize these three points and we, and the students they learn in a classroom using these three points. And, sorry, and we help our community using latest technology. So the students learn, they actually learn, hands on learning and. . .sorry. I got, I got to go to the EAST Conference up at Arkansas and I got the job as conference manager and it taught me leadership skills and all that. So, yeah, I'm sorry.

MR. MAGSAYO: So, to go on about how student growth affects our program. One of our, I guess, you could say projects would be are our robotics team. In our robotics team, students, students get to learn how to build robots. We can do various tasks like enter into contests. Like as of right now students are actually at Maui High working on their final preparations to go Oahu for competition of robotics. So, in robotics, students get to learn like student growth 'cause they also get to work with actual like professionals and they get to go learn about like actually how, how would it actually feel to go into the field of engineering and such.

So, and for community service-wise, robotics actually also goes down to Maui Waena for Botball and it helps them, it's like a little mini competition among like intermediate schools where we help them out and teach them how to use it and yeah.

MS. AGDINAOAY: We also help our community like one of our projects is saving coral. What we do, what the students in the EAST Program, Program does is they learn the, certain program called Maya. And what they did was they made a 3D animation about our coral and how our

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community, community is affecting our coral and how, you know, we're damaging it.

MR. MAGSAYO: And thank you.

MS. AGDINAOAY: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifiers? Seeing none, thank you for being here tonight. Jay-Ar Alberto.

MR. ALBERTO: Aloha, Councilors and Chairman Mateo. My name is Marlon Sarol Alberto Jr. and I'm a freshman at Maui High. And as part of Maui Nui Youth Alliance, I humbly ask you that you would continue funding our program. I've been a part of Maui Nui Youth Alliance for a year. This is my first year and I wanted to share a special experience I wouldn't have had because of the Youth Alliance.

First of all, because of the Youth Alliance I've learned a lot more about the economy, the agriculture, and the community. On Saturday, March 14, 2009, we went, we had one of our sessions at the Maui Tropical Plantation during the Agricultural Festival. And on that day we spent most of our times learning about the agriculture and how important it is in our every day lives. And how important, and how important it is that we should, that we should sustain our natural resources such as our food and our water. We also visited some of the programs over there like the food and science area, and we learned how we can put two ingredients and make food with it. And we also visited some of the health area and learned that fresh food is better than preserved food, 'cause they have more calcium and they have more vitamins. And we learned a lot that day. It was pretty fun.

And we also helped the community by emptying the trash that was filled. And second, if it weren't for the Youth Alliance I wouldn't have had met some of you guys today. And if I haven't have met you guys, I wouldn't have had heard your words of inspiration such as never give up no matter how many times you get pushed down, no shame, take a risk and don't ever lose hope, and to have tried and failed is better to, than not have tried at all. And I'll keep that in mind when I'm, I'm running for next year council for school.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Council for school. All right.

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MR. ALBERTO: Yeah. I'm running for secretary and then next year, for my junior I might run for Executive VP. And in conclusion, truly Youth Alliance is awesome 'cause for people to gather students, the youth, the future is important because they teach them things like what I've learned and they give them experience so that they can be a great leader for the community in the future. And it is important to hear the youth voices because we are the future and we have some good ideas and our ideas could help better our future. So, thank you very much for considering my testimony in support of continuing the Focus Maui Youth Alliance. Any questions?

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

MR. ALBERTO: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: I need to remember what you're wearing today so that was nice. Are you going to testify?

MS. SEGUNDO: Aloha, Council Members. Okay. Let me ask this question? How many of you guys heard the dolphin sing? Anyone?

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Heard what?

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Heard what?

MS. SEGUNDO: Dolphins.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Sing?

MS. SEGUNDO: I mean no. Whales?

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Whales, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Whales. Oh, yeah. Yeah.

MS. SEGUNDO: Have you guys ever heard it?

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Yeah.

MS. SEGUNDO: It's beautiful, isn't it?

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Yes.

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MS. SEGUNDO: How about the whale, I mean, how about the dolphins they racing the boats, right?

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Yes.

MS. SEGUNDO: It's beautiful, right.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Yes.

MS. SEGUNDO: Maui Youth Alliance gave me the chance to see those, gave me the chance to like actually hear them. It give the chance, the animals to say something to me that I don't know, I don't know so. . .so it's like it touches me somewhere. Also, Maui Youth Alliance gave me the chance to see like the vault in First Hawaiian Bank. I bet you guys never saw it. No? No? Nope?

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: They never let me in.

MS. SEGUNDO: Unless like if you work there. Yeah, it gave me the chance to see it and feel it and actually go there and just see it. Also, when we went to your guys office today, you gave us like inspirations, like words of inspiration. Councilmember Victorino, you told us like to, to try, it's better to try and to fail and to never try at all. I think that's true because I failed a lot. Trust me. I failed a lot. And, yeah, sometimes I don't feel like when I fail I feel like, you know, I should just give up, but then I would realize that when failing there's always a success, success after it.

So, yeah, Maui Youth Alliance gave me the chance to talk to you guys, and to, for you guys to give me an inspiration. So thank you and please support our Maui Youth Alliance.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Can you give us your name; pronounce your name in the mic?

MS. SEGUNDO: Cyndi. Cyndi Segundo.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you very much. Dominic Kaina. Ladies and gentlemen, Dominic is, as soon as Dominic is done with his testimony, we're going to take a 10-minute break and then we'll come back after the break and then we'll start off with Leon Custodio. So, go ahead, Dominic.

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MR. KAINA: Right on. Good evening, Maui County Council Members, and Mr. Pontanilla. My name is Dominic Kaina and I'm here, I'm a parent of two kids that, one that went through the MEO Wailuku B Head Start program. And I'm here to let you know that the things that they have learned in there is awesome. It's not just the knowledge but they come home and, and just about every night they mention, you know, their teacher's name. And you know, I see a lot of love when they, when they speak. And I'm here to support, you know, and, and thank you guys, you know, for your support in the past and I ask that you would continue to support this program because I believe that future families and children, children and their ohana will, will benefit also. So, I just thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you again. So, ladies and gentlemen, we're going to take a short break and we'll continue the testifying at about 7:40. I said 10-minutes but it's going to be seven minutes. So, this meeting is in recess. . . .(gavel). . . .(change tape, start 2B). . .

RECESS: 7:32 p.m.

RECONVENE: 7:43 p.m.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . .(gavel). . . The Budget and Finance Committee meeting is now reconvened. Thank you very much for letting us take that short break. We're going to start the second half with Leon Custodio. Leon.

MR. CUSTODIO: Honorable Council Members, good evening. My name is Leon Custodio. I'm originally from El Salvador in Central America. I'm here to respectfully ask you to continue your support for the MEO Enlace Hispano program. Thanks to Enlace Hispano I have been able to attend a Spanish/English language, language exchange for some time now. This group is a coordinated effort between Professor Molli Fleming of MCC and MEO's Enlace Hispano program. This group is made of native Spanish speakers who want to practice English and MCC students who want to practice Spanish. The language exchange program is just one small aspect of the Enlace Hispano.

I'm mostly standing here as a spokesperson for all the people behind me that have benefited at some point from Enlace's services. They helped our families with small children participate in the Lahaina and Kihei WIC

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program with interpreting and translations. When our children go to Head Start, Enlace helps us with the application progress [*sic*], process. If we need an interpreter at a doctor's appointment, we know we can count on them. They help us to complete application and put together our resumes when we apply for jobs and translating all the needed documents. They have supplied us with a list of Spanish speaking attorneys and social services or other non-profits in regards of immigration, workers compensation, medical issues, and whatever issues we have in our daily lives.

We know MEO Enlace Hispano has our best interest at heart and we really urge you to continue the much appreciated, appreciated support. Without Enlace Hispano, we will not know what to do. Thank you very much.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Leon, thank you very much for testifying. And, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for being here tonight. I'm glad you testified for each and every one of the people that took advantage of the Enlace Hispano program. Thank you.

MR. CUSTODIO: Thank you very much.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Next testifier is Charlene Doi followed by Danny Collier.

MS. DOI: The troops are arriving. Hi. I'm Charlene Doi. I'm with Kansha Preschool. And first of all, I want to thank the Council and the Mayor for honoring us with grants for the past two years, because it's made all the world of difference in our program and we really appreciate that. What you see behind me, this line up is what we're all about. We have the children in our program, the parents who sit on our board and also support the program, and people in our community that serve on our board to support our program. So, we all thank you for allowing us to be here.

The grants that you have provided our preschool help us maintain our commitment to our community, to our landlord the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center, and to the intergenerational program that we have with the Maui Adult Day Care Center. And that allows us to provide high quality learning in a nurturing environment. It's enriched by our intergenerational component that does not exist in any other preschool program on a regular basis. Our being with the grandmas and grandpas is the highlight of our days and theirs and it encourages children to meet the

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challenges of caring for others with understanding and appreciation for the diverse nature of our community.

We're in our third year of operation and parents continue to choose our program because of the small size but also because of the real life experiences that we offer that we feel prepare them to be better citizens of the community and the world when they get to be adults. We're at a capacity again and we have a waiting list for the next two years so that tells me that our services are valuable to the community. We're also acutely aware of the current economic situation and if we could we'd charge a lot more in tuition to make our budget balance. We tried really hard over the past three years to hold the line but, um, things being what they are we can't continue to do that as costs continue to rise and we have to bite the bullet somewhere.

So, hopefully between what we'll be able to receive from the County, from our school fundraisers, from our donor campaign, and from tuition subsidies that go directly to the parents, we will continue to be able to meet our goals. And we want to thank the Council and the Mayor for trying their best to meet the needs of every single citizen in the County. It's not an easy task and we applaud you for the hard work that you're doing. We ask that you continue to support our program, too. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Chair. Mahalo, Chair. I think the last time you testified at our other Budget meeting, I asked you if you guys were accredited yet. Are you?

MS. DOI: No, we're not.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay.

MS. DOI: It's one of those things that like I said it's really hard to balance the budget. And as much as it's very important to do that and it would tell the world basically that we do have the program that we say we do, the quality program. I think this is a toss up between me keeping my staff morale up. We haven't had any raises for two years and I think it's more important to serve my staff right now, make sure that I still have the staff in a couple years so that we can go down the road of accreditation.

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COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: So, so, it's a matter of not having enough funding in order to --

MS. DOI: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: --go through the accreditation --

MS. DOI: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: --process.

MS. DOI: For, for a small program like ours it is costly. But I'm aware that there's scholarships and things that we can apply for but. . .

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Right. Kamehameha offers scholarships if. . .

MS. DOI: If you're an accredited program. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: If you're an accredited program. Correct.

MS. DOI: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Well, thank you for the work that you're doing.

MS. DOI: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Mahalo.

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

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Yes. Thank you. One quick question, how much of the day do the children spend with our elders? What is, what is like a average day?

MS. DOI: You know it, it varies day to day.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Uh-huh.

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MS. DOI: Sometimes it's a couple hours, sometimes it's one hour of a real concentrated activity. The, the ideal thing is that it's like being in your grandmas house because if they're walking around in the yard or we happen to go over to their side, you know, it's kind of an open-ended thing. And so, they can be with each other basically any time of the day they're not taking a nap or eating.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Okay. Thank you.

MS. DOI: Thank you.

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

MS. DOI: Thank you very much.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: And thank you. Nice to see familiar faces. Danny Collier followed by Pua Enos.

MR. COLLIER: Good evening. My name is Danny Collier. I'd like to, I like talk about MEO in, in general. They get plenty good projects that need to be, you know what I mean funded, it still be funded. For one, one of 'em is the Lihikai Pre-Plus program. From what I hear they get little bit hard time. Please fund them because I get one boy over there. He doing, he's doing excellent actually. Another one is that, the housing, the housing, the Housing Department representative over there. What is her name?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Marcia.

MR. COLLIER: Marcia. Right now like I not working, eh, so unemployment is just, we just making it unemployment, but if you ask for help, MEO is there for help you just because they funded from, you know, from, you know, from whatever it is. Thank you for your, for your time and please help. Mahalo.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thanks again. Pua Enos followed by Serena Guzman.

MS. ENOS: Aloha, kakou. I come before you this evening truly grateful for what you've given Hui Malama over the past three decades and allowing us to do the work that we do. In the next ten years, we are attempting to make a transition from being a safety net, a last resort, to being a bridge to repair

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our workforce to be able to draw new industry and participate in the sustainability through renewable energy and agriculture.

We understand what tough times there are and we fully appreciate how interdependent we are, each of us, all of the non-profits. One thing that we've done is work very hard to partner with other organizations. Some organizations that will help us through our transition are MEO, MEDB, Sustainable Living Institute of Maui, QLCC, Alu Like, Hawaiian Canoe Club. So what we do is we really are working hard to partner with other non-profits so that we aren't replicating. We aren't trying to do anything more than the academic piece of what we do and to supplement.

We are also trying to reach out to vulnerable populations. This year we partnered with Big Brothers, Big Sisters so we could serve a new population and in fact we have had in the last three months 25 new registrants and provided hours of programming for those kids who previously had been not in the mentoring program or had been in the mentoring program but we're, we're trying to reach different age groups. And that has been extremely successful. Additionally, we set aside money for Lanai. We took a portion of our tutoring money because they lost some of their tutoring money to support kids who are, children of parents who are English speakers, second language speakers.

We are also partnering with Ka Honua Momona in Molokai. They are really leaders for us in sustainability but they really do need some support around tutoring. And for a population that we have touched before but who gets no services outside of a regular program are the Hawaiian immersion students. So, we're working with QLCC, as well as Boys and Girls Clubs to create a summer program so that we can provide both Hawaiian language remedial work while they would stay with the, you know, kids who are staying up to speed with homework help and then we would also provide a middle school program.

The things that we look to focus on in our students is to build those skills that are missing from most employees as they join the workforce. So there's a lot of research that shows while people may have knowledge and may be able to complete testing. Some of the things that they lack which are really key to working within our workforce are flexibility, initiative, self-direction, social and cross cultural skills, productivity, accountability, responsibility, and leadership.

MS. WILLENBRINK: Three minutes.

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MS. ENOS: What we really, what we can do that other organizations can't because we're so small and because we're an independent school is we can reach those kids who aren't successful in other systems. And I know that you folks know a lot about those who have fallen out completely of the systems but we also are able to serve those kids who are truant, whose parents aren't really getting them to go to school on a regular basis. We're able to reach out to them, share experiences with them. And it's really easy to be punitive to parents or tell kids this is how it's going to be. Rather than doing that we really try and reach them where they're at, learn from them what they're experiences has been and empower them so that they will want to learn. That they don't feel forced. We're not jamming this stuff down their throat and that we're going to expose them to things that will make it seem worthy to them so that they will want to be contributing members of our community and feel like they're capable and empowered to do so. Thank you so much for your time.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Thank you again for being here. Serena Guzman followed by Alethea Lee.

MS. GUZMAN: Hi. My name is Serena. I am 15 and I have been attending Hui Malama for about a year now. And I wanted to let you guys know that it is a very good school and the teachers I feel they give you a lot of attention and they help you a lot more than you would find at regular schools, at regular public schools. And the environment is great. You can just go to school and have fun and not worry about any problems or anything. And you can always, you always know that you can always talk to anyone. If you have a problem with anything they're always there to help you no matter what it is, when it is.

And you can't really find that. At my old school, I've been through some stuff with teachers. My teacher called me stupid and I wasn't, that I was dumb for nothing. So, I know that at Hui Malama, they treat you with respect and they keep you first in mind. And I'd like to thank you guys for supporting my school and funding us and I hope that you guys continue to do so.

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

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COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Thank you for testifying. Since Pua is up there maybe I can ask both of them a question. So, do you still have the GED program as part of your curriculum?

MS. GUZMAN: Yes, we do.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: You do. Okay. And what's the age group of students at Hui Malama?

MS. ENOS: Thirteen, thirteen to about 34 actually. So, we have day time programs for our youth and then some of our teenagers, you know, there's some 18 years old but we have some older youth meaning adults.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay. Mahalo. Thank you for your testimony.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Any more questions, Members? Seeing none, thank you again. Alethea Lee. Alethea Lee. No. Evelyne Dereas. Evelyne Dereas.

MS. DEREAS: Okay. To the respected Council Members, good evening. And all the audience, my fellow citizens, good evening, too. My name is Evelyne Dereas. I'm here to support MEO specifically the rental assistance. And the two behind me we're in the same boat and we're here for that same purpose. And I would like to ask because this is a gentleman; I would give him the pleasure to be the speaker for us tonight.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Please identify yourself, yeah.

MR. NEIOR: Thank you, Chairman, and Honorable panel. My name is Kapino Neior and like she mentioned we're representing MEO rental assistance. I think to say MEO assists us or help us is an understatement. So, it is really truly with gratefulness that we stand in front of you this evening to, to support those who speak or testify on behalf of MEO rental assistance. We hope that you will continue to support this especially in this time of economy turn down. Thank you all.

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

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COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you, Chair. And thank you very much for coming tonight. In regards to the rental assistance, are you off of the program now and are you on your own, are you able to do it on your own?

MR. NEIOR: Well, I have two more months to go and I can say that, yes, I can go on my own from now on.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: I think it's really important for everyone to understand that it is just temporary assistance that you get it for a period of time to help you get on your feet and get your job and, you know, find a place to stay. But then after that you're expected to do it by yourself. It isn't like some other programs where you have it forever and ever. This is just short-term assistance during tough times. Is that correct?

MR. NEIOR: That's correct. And I believe we all understand that and I think this program really do give us hope especially those with low income. And when we move into a new apartment it really help us, you know, have hope that we can keep going even though things are hard here.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Well, we thank you for coming to share that with us tonight. It's really important when we look at the Budget to understand there is a good place to spend money. And I think when it's a program that helps you with a hand up and then helps you to take it from there, it's a very good investment for everybody. So, thank you again for coming.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any more questions?

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Wait, I think she's. . .

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Did you want to say something?

MS. DEREAS: Yeah. I'm sorry. I would like to prove that five months ago, I was at risk of losing a house; me and my family. We both work; me and my husband, full time, 40 hours, as a case manager with a non-profit agency and a sales rep at Lowe's, and yet we still have struggle with financial situation. In fact, we have, had foreclose on us. So, with MEO I am so fortunate and glad and I continually ask, humbly ask you to look into this situation that MEO has done a lot. And that I, in fact, financially asked to close my case because I do feel that I can try to do it on my own.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you again.

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MS. DEREAS: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you very much.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. The next testifier is Miyo Kim followed by Lianne Yoshida.

MS. KIM: Good evening, Council Members. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to testify before you tonight. My name is Miyo Kim and I am the Director of Veterinary Services at the Maui Humane Society. I've been the shelter veterinarian there for over 13 years now and I have seen the shelter grow tremendously over those years with many new programs and services that we can offer to the public. I want to thank the County for recognizing and supporting the important role we play in animal management in the community. This includes animal control, education, animal rescue, animal adoptions, and spay/neuter programs. We see the importance of the human/animal bond every day as owners are reunited with their lost pets and we assist people in selecting new members of their family to adopt.

It is a well-recognized fact that pets play an important role in the physical and mental well being of people. They are often just as important as any other family member. We are the only open admission shelter on Maui. We have about 210 animals at the shelter on any given day. We also take in about 27 more animals each and every day. No animal is turned away. As you can imagine the numbers can be quickly overwhelming. But I work with a very dedicated staff of animal lovers who are committed to improving the welfare of all animals.

Recently, we have seen a significant increase in the number of pets turned in by owners because they can no longer afford to keep them. Some are sick or injured and they can't afford to treat them. Some are healthy but they cannot be kept because their owners are forced to move or simply because it's difficult to care for them in these difficult economic times. We have also seen more people needing to use our low cost spay/neuter program. In 2004, we were performing an average of 40 low cost spay/neuter surgeries a month. We currently now do an average of about 88 low cost surgeries per month, more than double four years ago. If you include our adopted animals and the cats we do for our Feral Cat Program, we do about 2,500 surgeries per year at the shelter. Spay/neuter is a critical component to solving the problem of pet over population and the feral cat situation.

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I'm humbly asking that the County Council keep the \$1.4 million that is currently allotted to us in the Mayor's proposed budget. This represents a 4.3 decrease from our current annual budget and that was submitted by us as our best efforts to trim our budget and yet maintain our ability to provide our much-needed services to this community. Again, I would like to thank the County for their continued support of our mission to build lifelong bonds between people and animals through education, community outreach, and the prevention of cruelty. Thank you very much.

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

MS. KIM: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Manuata Valani [*sic*]. Oh, Lianne Yoshida followed by Manuata Valani [*sic*].

MS. YOSHIDA: Good evening. My name is Lianne Yoshida.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Can you move closer to the mic? Thank you.

MS. YOSHIDA: Okay. Good evening. My name is Lianne Yoshida and I'm here with Cesar Gaxiola, Sunny Cabello, Rae Chandler and we are from the first graduating class of Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows, future leaders of Maui program. Also, we have Kevin Yoshida and Kainoa Casco current fellows in the graduating class of 2009. Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows is a yearlong program designed to train community identified future leaders. A Decisions Maui and Focus Maui Nui initiative, the Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows program was conceived to promote and develop future leaders through a community based program designed to address planning for Maui Nui's future.

Through the leadership of the steering committee comprised of Roselle Bailey, Sandy Baz, Buck Buchanan, Rory Frampton, Lori Teragawachi, Scott Nunokawa, Stanley Okamoto, Ken Ota, Clyde Sakamoto, and Jeanne Skog, and our guide on the side, Dr. Lori Teragawachi, this journey immerses future leaders with knowledge and diverse opinions from a wide number of subject matter experts. The Fellows are engaged on important matters such as Maui's geographical, historical, cultural, socio-economic, and historical aspects that make Maui special and unique.

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To be more succinct, the fellows learn about governance, land, water, energy, sustainability, social capital, and infrastructure.

To name a few of the experiential learning journeys a fellow treks through Haleakala, works in taro ponds, zips through the West Maui Mountains, replants native Hawaiian plants at the base of the windmills, and visits the State Capitol to learn how laws are created and changed. This program aims at giving back to Maui Nui by producing future leaders imbued with respect and understanding of Maui Nui who understands the concept of pono and who will make educated decisions; a leader that will do the right thing and also go about doing it the right way. We respectfully and humbly ask for \$25,000 to continue to fund this program for the next year of future leaders. 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, Lianne, for being here and, Fellows. I'm so proud of all of you. This \$25,000 that you mentioned, is it currently in the Mayor's budget?

MS. YOSHIDA: No.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: It's not? So, at this point, in order for you to receive an appropriation it has to be added in.

MS. YOSHIDA: Yes. Yes, please.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Okay. But that's very important for the Members to know. Thank you very much and good luck with the program. You're doing us proud.

MS. YOSHIDA: Oh, thank you very much. We're learning so much. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Manuata Valani [*sic*]. Now your turn. Followed by Joey and Chelsea Fernandez.

MS. VAKALAH: I'm here on behalf of the MEO Business Development Corp. And my name Manuata Vakalahi and my husband he just start a business of landscaping and tree trimming recently. We are residents of Maui from 1980 and we start this business in the beginning of '80s, '70s and '80s but

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we used to be living in Honolulu before the '70s and my husband used to come to Maui to start this business with the. . .was the first Tongan to move to Maui, the Hafokas. And we ran the business for almost like 20 years in Maui and it wasn't successful. We were dropped, going down. Some of the problem is like we don't really know how to run the business in Hawaii. We are from Tonga and we run it in our own ways. We didn't do the right tax and everything. And we dropped the business and we start, quit the business and we go back and work for companies like hotels.

We have 11 children. We cannot afford. My husband used to go work two jobs, 16 hours. We hardly stay home to watch the kids. I used to go work, too, 16 hours, too, to support our family. We lost our first house in Lahaina and then last year we thinking of the economy going down, and all the time we are staying in the job and nobody to raise these children in the right way so they won't do something like drugs or all those problems. Then we go take and start the business last year. And what we do we went to the MEO. Thanks for the MEO; they structure us. We both took the class. They help us to structure the business in the right way because all these years we have to pay tax. We pay general revenue and Hawaii State Tax. We have nothing. Every year we file our tax they said it's going to the bill, going to the bill.

Finally, we get out from the tax last 2006 and that's how we get out on our feet and went to the MEO to start the right way. So, thanks for the MEO for helping us to take the class. And they help us to start the business to start even though we are not successful at this time, but we starting in the right foot and I hope in the future we will help the community and our children be proud. I'm asking Council support the MEO . . .*(inaudible)*. . . 'cause they really help. . .*(change tape, start side 3A)*. . . A lot of them they don't know the right way to run the business and they not successful because of that. But I'm trying now to help them to take these classes so it will put them on their foot to do the right way. Thank you very much.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Thank you very much. Joey and Chelsea Fernandez followed by Kevin Yoshida.

MR. FERNANDEZ: Hello, Councilmen. This is my wife Chelsea. I'm Joey Fernandez. I'm supporting tonight the BDC, the MEO BDC. I am the President of FernanTECH, Incorporated, and the co-owner of Shuttle Services of Hawaii. We came to the MEO BDC a while ago and we took their courses. Before that, you know, I didn't even know what a

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corporation was, let alone how to run one. You know and, and through the knowledge that they give you in the courses and the information and the people there to help you along the way, they help take our little company and help groom it to a point to where we're expanding and we're actually going to be able to help Maui's economy by hiring people now, you know, and bringing people into our workforce. So during these tough times I think that's a very valuable asset Maui could use, you know, something a gift that keeps on giving you can say.

So, along with that and the funding, and we're able to grow this company. And we actually started another company, another, and that one is also projected to start hiring employees shortly. So, as far as this I humbly ask you that you continue to fund the MEO program because I speak for a lot of people that are probably not here tonight, they're running their business, you know, that they're, they're growing, they're helping Maui to get, you know, get people jobs to, to grow and it's a very wonderful program. I mean they take you through everything and I'm sure everybody's been there. So, I just thank you and I just ask that you continue to support the MEO BDC to help small businesses like myself to grow and help Maui. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you for sharing your story. Kevin Yoshida followed by Kainoa Casco.

MR. YOSHIDA: Good evening, Chair Pontanilla, fellow Council Members. My name is Kevin Yoshida and I'm before you as a board member of the Maui Humane Society. I first want to thank you for the opportunity to testify before you this evening and I am proud to, to say that the Maui Humane Society as an organization is proud to be a partner with the County of Maui to provide the services for animal management services. We take the responsibility very seriously and, you know, with a very small group with big hearts. They, I feel as a board member, go over and beyond what they're asked to do every single day for the animals of Maui.

I'll ask humbly that the board, the Council, support what we proposed that we need for funding. And we take, you know, the situation with the economy. We understand that there's tough times in front of us and before us and you have a tremendous responsibility to help all the needy organizations that are here tonight and out there in the community that not been able to be with us this evening. But we felt as a board and the Maui Humane Society as a whole that it is only right and fiscally responsible for

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us to try to do more with less. So, we have humbly submitted a request for funding that is less than what we are currently receiving but we are dedicated and committed to use that funding to continue our services and programs while not cutting or laying off any workers.

Now, as Dr. Kim earlier stated, you know, there's a huge challenge out there. You know over 210 animals on any given day at the shelter is something to see. And with that, the increasing amount of animals that need assistance because of the tough economy is one thing that we're seeing the rising need for support. You know what impressed me with the Humane Society from a board member's perspective is that, you know, along with caring for the animals, these officers go out on, an average 29 calls a day or 200 calls responding to the needs of animals a week. That's 9,700 calls a year. So that's a huge task on top of just caring for animals on a daily basis. And, you know, we're proud to say that we provide services and programs for more than 20,000 families on Maui.

All this is being done with just over 40 staff members who are surrounded by 75 dedicated full-time volunteers, and just over a hundred individuals on the island are committed to providing the services for all of us. We, we all on Maui, all the animals, all the deserving animals, deserve a home. Deserve to be well kept for and just this handful of people are doing a tremendous job.

MS. WILLENBRINK: Three minutes.

MR. YOSHIDA: So, in closing I want to say that your continued support and if entrusted with the funds, I can proudly say that we're, on an annual basis, we do, we do go before an audit process and our most recent audit by the accounting firm of Carbonaro and Associates gave us a, found that we comply with each and every non-profit regulation that's before us. And so, with that I'd like to say that please, Council, we ask for your support and I personally am a beneficiary along with my wife of two animals that we've adopted from the shelter, Ralphie and Starr, and we are proud of that. And we ask for your support so we can continue to do what we do for Maui. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Kevin. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you again. Kainoa Casco followed by Lisa Schattenburg-Raymond.

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MR. CASCO: Aloha, Council Members, and Chair. My name is Kainoa Casco. I'm here as a board member for Hui Malama Learning Center. First of all, I'd like to thank you guys for the continued support of Hui Malama. I am relatively new to the organization but I joined because I, for one, it's a local non-profit with all local ties, and two, I believe it targets a segment of the, the youth and community that the traditional educational system might not be the prime place for, for learning and, and growing as a person. Myself, I, I went through the traditional educational system. I went to college. I did, I did all right by myself. But I know I have friends, personally, I have family members that didn't graduate from high school and probably would have benefited from going to Hui Malama. You know and for multiple reasons, you know, whether they have a different living situation or they just come from a different culture or they just have different learning style that isn't targeted in traditional educational system.

And secondly, as Pua mentioned, Hui Malama is looking to restructure their whole organization around sustainability. And with my background in sustainability and green building, I'm hoping to come on, come on board and help them go through that. We're looking at greening the facilities at Hui Malama, changing the educational programs there, and also just trying to educate the whole culture, staff, students, everyone involved to live green and sustainable. We are partnering with, as Pua said, the Sustainable Living Institute of Maui and also MEDB for curriculum and professional development, and we're also partnering with MEO for the small business part of it.

So, once again thank you guys for the funding that you guys have contributed. And I know times are rough right now and we're hoping that in our growth towards sustainability and our restructuring that we can maintain the funds that you guys have provided. Thank you.

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

MR. CASCO: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Members, the next few testifiers will be testifying on behalf of Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. We have Lisa Schattenburg-Raymond followed by Stephanie Seidman, Tamara Sherrill, and Nohea Daliva. Thank you.

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MS. SCHATTENBURG-RAYMOND: Aloha, Chairman Pontanilla, and esteemed Council Members. My name Lisa Schattenburg-Raymond. I'm the Executive Director of the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. Since the year 2000, we have been a partner with the County of Maui to manage and improve the gardens. The garden has a 30-year history. Sadly, our founder, renowned native plant expert, Renee Silva, recently passed away at the age of 80, however, the garden continues to be an important environmental and cultural and community resource. We maintain this unique collection, operate it as if it was a County park free to the public, and the people who visit us on a daily basis are roughly half kamaaina and half tourist.

The proposed cut in Office of Economic Development budget for the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens is \$25,000 and represents a 20 percent reduction in our funding. Our current annual operating budget is \$300,000 and in the past five years, that's five years, the County has provided level funding for our operations in the amount of \$175,000. This is a little more than half of our total operating costs. All of the County funding we received supports personnel costs and currently covers about three-fourths of those costs. We have successfully raised the rest of the personnel, operating, and program costs through our membership donations, plant sales, grants, and other donations, and have been able to keep up with the annual increases in our operating costs.

I currently have funding sources in place for our volunteer program, our conservation work, and our major events but operational support isn't possible to find from grant sources. We have always managed our non-profit extremely frugally and have never exceeded our annual budget. So, I hope you can appreciate that because of the nature of our operations that we cannot cut back on our personnel. Unlike a facility like a community center or a library, we don't, we don't have the option of cutting back on hours to reduce the operating costs. We maintain a living collection with over a thousand individual plants and many are extremely rare or endangered. We're open six days a week and we only close for four major holidays. Our staff of four is extremely efficient and hard working and handles all aspects of our operation from basic maintenance to endangered species conservation. And because we have such a small staff, if someone is sick or takes vacation the rest of the staff has to pick up their workload in addition to their own.

With the present downturn in the economy we are currently experiencing at this time, \$18,000 in our donations and our sales and we can expect

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further shortfall with the, the next coming year. As I reviewed the Mayor's proposed budget, I observed that a number of the grants listed under the, the OED budget were cut by token amounts of five to \$15,000. And one of the organizations that receives the largest share was cut by only 1.3 percent. Many of these grants support their programs that exist under larger organizations. So, if, if you reduce the funding for one of their programs, the entire organization doesn't, you know, it will still continue.

MS. WILLENBRINK: Three minutes.

MS. SCHATTENBURG-RAYMOND: So, but for us because the funding that we receive from the County really covers our basic personnel costs it's going to be extremely difficult for us to carry on. So, we hope that you can restore that funding and the next three folks that you're going to be hearing from are the rest of my entire staff and then followed by one of our volunteers and representatives from them. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, next testifier and please identify yourself.

MS. SEIDMAN: Aloha, my name is Stephanie Seidman. I am the nursery manager at Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. I am responsible for all the plant propagation for the garden, restoration projects and events, which include Arbor Day where we give over 700 trees away to the public. We have two bi-annual native Hawaiian plant sales. We have an Earth Day, which is coming up very shortly. You have a flyer in your basket. We also go to Taro Festival every year and offer rare Hawaiian kalo varieties and we also supply plants to the Water Department for the County Fair and the Home Show, which is every year.

In addition, I also work with Maui Nui Botanical Garden partners on restoration projects. Our partners include the Maui Coastal Land Trust, the State Natural Area Reserve, State Forestry, the Plant Extinction Prevention Program, the Nature Conservancy, many cultural organizations, Lyon Arboretum, Amy Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden, and several other Hawaii botanical gardens. In the last month we have worked with the Plant Extinction Prevention Program Coordinator Hank Oppenheimer on two exciting restoration projects. The first involved the very rare *Kauila* or *Colubrina oppositifolia*, which only has two individuals left in the wild on West Maui. The second project was our State flower, the *Mao hau hele* or *Hibiscus brackenridgei*. Recently, there

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was a new subspecies of Hibiscus Brackenridgei discovered on Lanai that has only one individual remaining in the wild. We received material from this plant and were able to produce over 50 plants for reintroduction. Working with plants that only have a few individuals in the wild is something that I do on a daily basis.

Every Wednesday I have the pleasure of working with the Weed and Pot Club, our volunteer group without whose help we wouldn't be able to keep up. As I mentioned before, we partner with other botanical gardens such as Waimea Falls who is supported by OHA, Amy Greenwell Botanical Gardens which is supported by the Bishop Museum, and Lyon Arboretum which is supported by the University of Hawaii. As you can see all of these botanical gardens are supported by bigger organizations. The thing about Maui Nui Botanical Gardens is that we're a small independent non-profit and we are not a subsidiary of a bigger organization. Maui Nui Botanical Gardens depends on you the County of Maui. Please reconsider the 20 percent or 25,000 cut made to MNBG so that our operating costs are met and we can continue the necessary work that so many depend on.

I thank you for your time and I invite all of you to the nursery to come out and check it out and to talk story.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. I invite you to my house to make sure that this plant is growing.

MS. SEIDMAN: There's actually, there's a little card in, in with the plant that tells you all the information about its, what it needs to grow. But all the plants that you each received are specific to your area so they're, they're specific to where you live so they should do just fine and they don't require water, so, much water.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

MS. SEIDMAN: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay. Next testifier, please.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO`OHALAHALA: Chair? Chair, question? Question, please.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Member Kaho`ohalahala. The last testifier, please.

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COUNCILMEMBER KAHO`OHALAHALA: Stephanie, question.

MS. SEIDMAN: Sorry. Yes. Hello.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO`OHALAHALA: I'm back here. I'm behind the taro. . .the kalo.

MS. SEIDMAN: Hi. Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO`OHALAHALA: Thank you. No. My, my question what was the name of the plant that you're describing from Lanai?

MS. SEIDMAN: The, well, I work with a lot of plants from Lanai that are very endangered and I don't mean to go off on a tangent but the Plant Extinction Prevention Program is a new program that is under the State and also the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Plant Extinction Prevention Coordinator works with endangered species that have 50 or fewer, less individuals in the wild. And so, on Lanai there are, there is Hibiscus Brackenridgei which is our State flower and we have it in the garden but recently they found a new subspecies of Hibiscus Brackenridgei. So, it's very similar to what we currently have except it kind of looks different. The leaves aren't, they're more glabrous or thick and it's very prostrate, it grows straight and low on the ground and it's found from the other side of the island, not from the Kanepuu but the other side of the island. So, the Plant Extinction Prevention Coordinator, he brought back a little baggy with a few cuttings in it and said here you go and from that I grew out plants and, and we. . .

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO`OHALAHALA: Okay. So, it's, it's a specific Lanai species of *Mao hau hele* then?

MS. SEIDMAN: That, this new subspecies is not found anywhere else in the State but on Lanai.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO`OHALAHALA: Okay.

MS. SEIDMAN: It's not known from anywhere.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO`OHALAHALA: And you're not talking about the *eremitopetalum Abutilon*?

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MS. SEIDMAN: No. I'm not talking about *Abutilon*. I'm talking about the Hibiscus Brackenridgei.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO`OHALAHALA: Okay.

MS. SEIDMAN: And you're more than welcome to come to the nursery and to see it. I have it. It's really cool.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO`OHALAHALA: Okay. Thank you.

MS. SEIDMAN: Thanks.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay. Thank you.

MS. SHERRILL: Aloha.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aloha.

MS. SHERRILL: My name is Tamara Sherrill and I'm the Garden Manager at Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. I've been involved with the garden since 2000 except for a short break to get my Natural Resources degree. And I'm really grateful to be able to come back to Maui Nui and to also have the chance today to thank you for the operational support that you've given us over all these years. I'm responsible for the maintenance of the five-acre grounds including buildings, equipment, and the living collection. I train volunteers, service learning students and interns, and I initiate improvement projects, I maintain the records and maps that make this living collection useful to our partners and also to the County of Maui.

So, if you haven't seen the garden for a while I want to invite you to stop by and see how beautiful it has become in these last five years. It's an oasis that attracts school groups and visitors and residents every day but we're a lot more than just a park. The grounds are also a xeriscaping demonstration, which means a water conservation native plant landscape. And six days a week we give free consultations to any homeowner that comes in who, and they can see what more than 300 native species look like, how they grow, and find out how to reduce their water use. And we're much more than even just a native plant landscape, you know, because what distinguishes a botanical garden from a park or a garden is that every plant has meticulous records as to the providence and the species. And since our native forests are disappearing faster than those of

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any other State this is a well-documented native plant collection that's become extremely valuable as a seed bank and source of plants for all the islands of Maui Nui.

We also have important collections of the food plant varieties that the Hawaiians developed in these islands. And for an example we have about 20 Hawaiian banana varieties, 20 sweet potato varieties, 40 sugar cane varieties, and 80, about 80 kalo varieties. There used to be more than 300. We were the ones that initiated and continue to maintain Statewide surveys with our partners and other botanical gardens, kalo growers, to track and share these varieties to prevent further losses of these important agricultural and cultural resources.

So, we're more than willing to do our part in this economy and, and since the funds in this budget are operational and not programmatic they really are essential to us, and we're just asking to be allowed to maintain the status quo. So thank you for your time and attention.

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

MS. DALIVA: Aloha, Council. My name Nohea Daliva and I am, stand before you as a Program Manager for this wonderful organization called Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. I'm quite a newbie here. It's only my, let's see, second month as an employee and already I have experienced not only the wonderful staff and the sharing of, the free sharing of information of culture but also for myself that the mission statement for the Botanical Gardens of fostering an appreciation, understanding of the living Hawaiian islands of today, emphasizing the plants of Maui Nui, and providing a center for environmental educational, Hawaiian culture expression, conservation, biological study, and recreation. That that mission has been fulfilled with every single person that is a guest at, or at the gardens and experiences the wealth of information. Councilmember Kaho'ohalahala you were, you endowed us with that mission statement at the very beginnings when the zoo turned into the Botanical Gardens and we daily strive to fulfill that mission in everything that we do.

And the gardens lends itself as a classroom without walls to learn in the way similar to how our kupuna educated our opio in the sense where you do, you see, and you experience with your senses. And the Hawaiian cultural aspect and the Hawaiian cultural importance of this, of this really resource is very, very vital to the community, not only the Hawaiian

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community but the community at large. And we've experienced, since I've been here I've been amazed. Numerous school, school groups have come through all wanting to, to touch, to experience, to learn. I've also witnessed several workshops, Hawaiian culture workshops in cordage making and kapa making. And that is, I graduated from the University of Hawaii with a degree in Hawaiian studies and only in UH was I able to experience those things. I see kids coming in high school, younger than that and they're experiencing these things and I wish that I had that experience growing up.

And being that it is such a gem in the community and a respite in the bustle of Kahului and Wailuku it's important to have that nice open area where families feel safe. Our kupuna groups come. Our wonderful volunteers who are represented in the, in the back portion – our Weed and Pot Club. We could not do what we do in the maintenance arena without them. Because we are just a four person staff we wear lots of hats. I as the Program Manager am responsible for not only, not only grants or advertising special events coordination and membership but I also go outside and I rake and I weed, too. So, we all get our hands dirty. It's not glamorous. We have dirt in our fingernails. And we sweat but it's for this amazing resource. These are the faces of the individuals that we take care of in front of you and without, without them it would be lost. It would be in a museum as a picture and our children will not be able to experience it, touch it, feel it, and learn the way that our kupuna intended for them to learn. And that is the way that we want to keep it and that is why we strive to do the things that we do. It's not for us. It's for our children and their children.

And so, I, I really implore the Council to reconsider the 20 percent --

MS. WILLENBRINK: Three minutes.

MS. DALIVA: --cut and I humbly, humbly thank you for your past support and your continued support. Mahalo.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Thank you very much. The next testifier is Alda St. James followed by Renee Leiter.

MS. ST. JAMES: Good evening, Council Chair and Council Members. I am Alda St. James and I really appreciate the opportunity to talk to you again this evening. I'd like to tell you a little bit about our Keiki Kokua

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scholarship fund and that's a program which you are helping to support and I really humbly appreciate all the help you've given us. Do you know what GAL's are, Guardian Ad Litem's? Have you heard that term? Well, they're court-appointed. Yeah, Gladys knows. They're court-appointed advocates for children in foster care. And they can either be attorneys or they can be trained volunteers. In California, they're called CASA's, Court-Appointed Special Advocates.

And our founder of this scholarship fund was a CASA in California for many, many years. And they had a program there where the CASA's actually took the foster kids out, went to movies, dinner, sports events, whatever and it was really successful. And our benefactor for our scholarship fund is helping to do that in Hawaii and he's hoping that Keiki Kokua would run that program some day. However, for now he's just established our scholarship fund for, it's a way of him giving back to helping the community that he lives in now, he lives in Kaanapali, and helping the community by giving back to our foster youth. So, tonight I'd like to introduce you to two of our scholarship recipients in 2009, Evanette and Ashley.

MS. TURALVA: Hi. Good evening, Council Members. My name is Evanette Turalva. Yes, I am a recipient. I received a scholarship the beginning of this year. I'd just like to say that, um, with my past history I wouldn't be considered even worthy of going back to school because I have stolen so much from the community. I, I used drugs for eight years. I've dealt it in the community to families, you know, and by the grace of God I went to prison and, you know, my soul was saved there and I came out with a different heart. However, with the skeletons in the closet, yeah, it's not, we not, we're looked upon for what we've done before and not who we are today. So, I had to struggle with a lot of things but I ask God where I could be used the most in my community and how I could give back to those that I've stolen from. You know, and he said go back to school.

The desires of my heart was to be a nurse. And however, I have four children. I just got recently married. I was a single mother for a long time and funds weren't available at the time. However, I said Lord if this is truly you, then make a way and just so happen I met her husband at Denny's where I am employed now and we spoke. And I've known Alda for years. From the age of 6 to 9 I was molested and she was my counselor in the school and helped me through it. I know she has a passion to help. A passion to give and she loves what she does. That's her joy is to help those in need, especially the foster children and all of

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that. So, just so happen we met after all these years. We spoke but on her way out the door her husband, whom I hardly know, he ran back, and said hey, Eva we have funds available for school. I don't know if it means anything but if it does we have it available. And that was my calling. I said okay, Lord, I said if you, you want this to be yours make the way and so he did.

So, I applied for the scholarship. Lo and behold, I got it. Of course I was late for registration, late for everything but by the grace of God I was accepted. I am now full-time, full-time in school. I work. I volunteer in every way possible. I walk around door to door and minister to people. I volunteer at her, whatever programs they have. In every way I just try to give back. And if it wasn't for people giving me a chance to make something of myself, I don't believe that I would be able to give back to the community. You know, and because of going to school I know that I'll be a great nurse. It's been my, my desire all my life. I've seen how sometimes in the old folks home the old folks are treated and I would never want my grandparents to be treated that way, you know, we supposed to take care, we supposed to take care with love, all our hearts. And, you know, and I also have been an encouragement to a lot of other people, ex-addicts who has also been through the walks of life and still going through but yet they see where I am today and they believe, I give them hope that's what they say.

But anyways, I'd just like to beg you folks. This is a great program. It really, really helps. It's showing my kids the kind of adults they can turn out to be. Even though the trauma we went through they are now pushing and striving and they take my word, you know, they say I lead by example. So, I just want to say thank you for your time this evening and please continue to fund this program. Mahalo. Forgive me. Any questions? Okay. Thank you.

MS. HONDA: Good evening. My name is Ashley Honda. On behalf of Keiki Kokua I would like to say thank you for supporting our organization. As a scholarship recipient . . .(change tape, start 3B). . . I am thankful for the opportunity of having my college expenses be more affordable for my parents. My grandparents have adopted me since I was a baby so I've had my legal guardians all my life. They have sacrificed a lot for me and in return I want to become successful to make them proud. With the help of your continued support, you will make college more affordable for other families that want nothing but the best for their children.

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I'm also currently a Liberal Arts student at MCC and plans on transferring to Manoa where I would like to pursue a degree in marketing. It's a dream of mine to one day become an entrepreneur. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifiers? Seeing none, thank you very much. Renee Leiter.

MS. LEITER: I'm sorry I'm the leftover from the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens crew but we do mix up our plants and seeds occasionally, too, so I can understand. I'm going to make this very short. I'm sure you're just as tired and hungry as I am by now. But I really feel so strongly about this program that I'm going to squeeze in anyway. I guess I've been a volunteer for more than 50 years all over in various organizations, mostly on the mainland. I've only had the joy of doing this for seven years and this is the most inspirational place I've ever worked at in my life. I cannot believe how much is accomplished by these four people that run a program that the entire State can be really proud of.

It's unfortunate that you are not in the position to fully fund them to their true value but I'm just one of perhaps two-dozen volunteers. And we'll all be there at 8:30 tomorrow morning to do our weeding and our potting as we do every week. For me it's been very inspirational. I joined very selfishly because I wanted to learn more about this whole ecosystem, that's totally different from the Northeast where I grew up. But I think what impresses me the most and really grabs my soul is that I've never been anywhere on the island that so expresses the nature of Maui. And I don't mean the nature of just the plants but the nature of the culture. And it really has brought to me the beauty of every single plant how it was used, every tree, just the purpose of everything in the Hawaiian culture. And it's given us the wonderful opportunity to learn things like making leis and now mostly recently picking gourds and preparing them for use. And anything and everything else that you are I'm sure are very familiar with. These are the beautiful things of Maui that we hope will never be lost and this is a place to learn all about them.

As everything else has transformed to Costco and Wal-mart, we have this little gem in the middle of downtown that is the true Maui. It expresses it for little kids to come with their mommies when they're like two or three and they chase them out of flowerbeds; old people who come from Roselani with their walkers and their wheelchairs because it's such a peaceful beautiful place to be. Please reconsider. Don't make us become

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yet another endangered species and another lost wonder of Maui. Thank you very much for your attention.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you again, and nice seeing you, ladies. Charldine Jo Jo Apo. Jo Jo Apo. Not here? Kapino Neior. Kapino Neior. All right.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER (*from the audience*): It's past their bedtime.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Oh, okay. Let's see Evanette, oh, Dana Howeth. Well, not pass your bedtime yet, yeah.

MS. HOWETH: I don't know. Just about. Good evening, Council Members. It's a pleasure to be here before you this evening and really to listen to all of the wonderful stories of my colleagues in the community. My name is Dana Alonzo-Howeth and I'm the Executive Director for the Community Clinic of Maui. And I'm actually here tonight not to support my own agency but to support MEO. MEO has really become for us as the primary safety, health care safety net provider in the community, a real source that we have come to rely on to transport our patients to and from their medical visits. Without MEO many of our patients wouldn't get to our medical visits and wouldn't be able to get the care that they need. So, we have really come to rely on, on that agency.

On an organizational level, we called them up about two, about three weeks ago when we had our blessing for our new facility because we called other transportation vendors and it was going to cost us anywhere from 400 to \$700 to transport our staff. Given that it was so cost prohibitive we called MEO and we asked if they would consider transporting our staff. They said, sure, no problem how many staff do you have. They brought over two buses and all they asked for was a donation to get our staff to our blessing. I could not, I cannot tell you how much that meant to our staff to get our staff there.

On a personal note, I had the opportunity to attend the arts and cultural event up at Iao Valley this weekend. And they asked that we park at several, they gave us an option to park at several locations. One is at the County municipal building. We took the bus. The buses ran all day, two buses. They were packed to and from, from 9:00 to 4:00 for that event. So, as I listen to all of these stories this evening, what I'm hearing from everybody is that MEO is a lifeline to our community, not just for health and human services but for the arts, the culture, sports, and everything that

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we do. And I'm just amazed by all of the services that they do. So, I ask for your continued support of that agency. Mahalo and good evening.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Dana. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you very much and goodnight. Rae Chandler.

MS. CHANDLER: Good evening, Council Chair and Council Members. My name is Rhiannon Chandler and I'm the Executive Director of Community Work Day Program. A lot of people call me Rae and I wanted to thank you very much for your support of Community Work Day Program. Our budget did get cut kind of significantly by the Mayor's budget. And we are very appreciative of funding and not asking for any money we are grateful that we can continue our work. And I'm grateful to have several board members that are going to be able to testify at these hearings so I'm not going to talk too much about our organizations which I'm sure you're already familiar with.

But I want to tell you that I have been the Executive Director of Community Work Day since August of last year and prior to that it was Jan Dapitan and I'm sure you all know her. And I wanted to tell you that Jan personally paid for my tuition to be in the program Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows which came up here earlier and we are not in the budget. And I wanted to offer that if you had any questions about the program that I could answer those and read a short statement about what it was that was the initial catalyst for the program.

Maui Nui occupies a special place in the State, Country, and World; however, we face many challenges that could very well erode the unique splendor of these special islands. A significant effort has been made over the past two years to recruit and train future leaders of Maui Nui and prepare them for the issues that they will encounter. The synergy and social capital that flows from a bonded group of leaders dedicated to the prosperity of this County will undoubtedly ensure the success of Maui Nui as we approach the obstacles to come. Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows is a yearlong program designed to train community-identified leaders. Through concerns and beliefs expressed by the Decisions Maui, by Decisions Maui in the 1980s and reinforced in 2003 by Focus Maui Nui, the Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows program was conceived to provide significant support in identifying and training leaders through a community-based program specifically designed to address aspects of planning for Maui Nui's future.

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So, there's a class of fellows every year. There are 13 members generally. We've had two classes. At this current time we do not have the funding to continue in our third year but I'm here to promise you that we will never ask for funding again. We are working to be sustainable. After this third class comes in we will have a funding structure that will support our class of fellows in the future 'cause we do plan to have many classes of fellows and be a great support to the future of Maui Nui. So thank you very much for being here and if you have any questions I'll be happy to answer.

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

MS. NAGASAKO: Good evening, Chair, Council Chair and Members. My name is Gail Nagasako. I'm the Disaster Chair for the--let's see, I got that--for the American Red Cross. A lot of people don't realize that the American Red Cross depends completely on donations. We're a volunteer organization. Other than our director and one office staff, we're all volunteers. We respond to all kinds of disasters on Maui big or small. When, when we've had the fires at Olowalu, the road closures, we've opened shelters on both sides. For the, the winter floods we open, we had three shelters open. More unusual circumstances, the hostage crisis over at Harbor Lights, we had to open a shelter. People came home from work and couldn't get in their homes because there was a standoff. So, we opened a shelter for them.

And, and all our volunteers they're ready to come out in the middle of the night and man these shelters. Whenever we get the call we're there. For a small, for small disasters, small to maybe, you know, when you're looking at an islandwide thing, but not small to the people they happen to, like your house burns down or a flood, you're flooded out, we're there in the middle of the night. We get the call. We have people all over the island ready to respond. And, and we get there, usually, the scenario we see is a roof on, on the ground or a house completely ablaze and the family is in the street and they've got nothing. And a lot of these families they have nowhere to go, they have nowhere to stay. They're got little children that are terrified. They've, they've got no food. They've got no clothing except the clothing on their back. We're there for them to put them up in a hotel if, if they don't have friends or relatives to stay. We try to be good stewards of our dollar and, and find relatives or friends that they can stay with but often they can't. So, we put them up in hotels. We get them, now we operate on, on a debit card, so we get them a debit card and we load for

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the amount of food and clothing that they need for the number of people. We bring along stuffed animals for the children and sometimes for the adults.

And, and all of this cost money. And then once they're settled in the hotel, we meet with them back in the office after that and, and find out what their needs are and try to work them into the other agencies that might be able to help them. We help with first and last months rent if they find a rental that they can rent and they can't afford to pay that first and last month's rent. And we depend completely on donations to provide these. One, one time my husband and I went out to Honokohau for a fire that was deep in the valley and we're driving and going where are we? Is this the right place? The road kept going, going, going, --

MS. WILLENBRINK: Three minutes.

MS. NAGASAKO: --well, pretty soon we see the water in the road then we get down to the, to the house and there they are in the yard and they've got nothing. And we, it was six children and two adults and we got them in hotels, got them clothing and stuff. And this is, I want to read to you what the, the grandma wrote for, for Christmas on her Christmas card. To Red Cross, you are always within our hearts for what you people did for our family. I don't know how we can pay you back for such a good heart and a lot of help for the children. That was such a gift that made them happy and took the fear out of them. They had the thoughts of going without nothing and no support from us 'cause we lost everything, but thank God for you people 'cause you were right there with the support, et cetera, and they had clothes, shoes, et cetera, and most of all they didn't have to live on the beach. Again, thank you again, and again and many, many aloha. Have a merry, merry Christmas and God bless you all.

So, you've helped us with funding in the past and I hope you'll continue to fund us in the future.

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

MS. NAGASAKO: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Evanette Turalva, you already testified, yeah? Chris Braden followed by Clyde Murashige.

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MS. BRADEN: Thank you. I imagine you all need stadium seats by now. I'm here on behalf of the Maui Adult Day Care Center. They have four locations, Hana, Lahaina, Kahului, and Wailuku. There are between three and 400 local families that benefit from this and the only reason they're not here is because they are caring for their elderly folks that either had to go to bed or they're doing the care for them. My husband and I moved here 25 years ago and started to enlarge the place of our tent. We began adopting children and by the year 2000 we were adopting our third child and we got a call that my mother-in-law needed care immediately. And she flew out, I was, we were both still working full-time. I put the baby under my desk at work for six months and if it hadn't been for the Maui Adult Day Care Center I don't know that I would still be sane. We decided that it was most economical for me to then quit my job, take care of mother who had dementia and the baby, plus my preschooler.

And so, anyway, I just want to tell you that this service is amazing and you fund I think almost, 'cause I'm a client I don't know exactly about the budget, but I believe that the clients pay for about 50 percent. And most of the people that go there wouldn't be able to afford it if it wasn't, if it wasn't funded, the other 50 percent, by other entities mostly I believe the County. So, I am very grateful. My family is very grateful. I would like to second or third that motion on the Maui Humane Society while I'm here. I go to a church across from the Kahului Library. We got turned in to the Health Department because there were so many flies because there were so many feral cats in the area. I personally bought a trap and have trapped out about 100 animals, cats and roosters and chickens. So, I just want to tell you that, yay, for the Maui Humane Society. We couldn't do it without them either.

But Maui Adult Day Care Center, they are so compassionate. They treat people with such love. And Dr. William Thomas who started the Eden Alternative says that the three great plagues of aging are helplessness, hopelessness, and boredom. And as you heard before the one facility that has the preschool attached to it is using part of what he has developed in that he incorporates plants, children, and animals into the care of the elderly and that's one example of what we're doing here on the island. Also, as a former board chairman for the Honolulu United Methodist Preschool, I can tell you that even though this preschool, which I really don't know that much about is not yet accredited that does not necessarily bear on the quality --

MS. WILLENBRINK: Three minutes.

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MS. BRADEN: --of the program. It takes quite a bit to get accredited. And so, please don't hold that against them. Anyway, thank you very much.

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

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Question?

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Member Medeiros.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Thank you for your testimony. Two things. First, the question asked about the accreditation wasn't to make it more difficult on them. It was actually to encourage them to do so, so they could get tuition assistance from places like Kamehameha Schools so that more kids could go to their facility. So that's why. . .

MS. BRADEN: You see that's why I shouldn't have said anything.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Yeah. And then the second question is what is your position with the Maui Adult Day Care Center?

MS. BRADEN: I am a client. My mother-in-law, I cared for her for nine years since 2000 and she passed on in January.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay. Well, I thank you for your support of the Maui Adult Day Care Centers, because we're working to try and build one in Hana, another one, a new one.

MS. BRADEN: Wonderful.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay. Thank you.

MS. BRADEN: Great. Good, good going.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Those that are here remaining, you know, here, after Mr. Murashige provides his testimony we're going to take a couple minutes just to stretch our legs. So, Clyde, please make it nice and short. We got your written testimony. Go ahead.

MR. MURASHIGE: I will. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good evening, everyone. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you tonight. I'm here representing the J. Walter Cameron Center. The Center has been actually

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in existence for more than 36 years. The facilities have been up for that length of time. And during that time we've served as a home for numerous agencies. Currently, there's over 20, I believe there's 20 non-profit and public agencies that are resident agencies at the Cameron Center. And as everybody understands, the 36-year-old building like everybody's house tends to need a lot of repair and maintenance. And our primary goal is really to provide the resident agencies with a safe and well-maintained building.

We actually come before the Council and respectfully request your support for a \$240,000 line item in the Mayor's budget to help us maintain and keep that facility going for, for many, many more years to come and continue to serve our Maui community. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Clyde. Members, any questions for the testifier? If not, ladies and gentlemen, we're going to take a short recess, maybe a couple of minutes to stretch our legs. So, this meeting is now in recess. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 9:06 p.m.

RECONVENE: 9:10 p.m.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . .(gavel). . . The Budget and Finance Committee meeting is now reconvened. The next testifier is Dottie Aganos. Good evening.

MS. AGANOS: Good evening. I just had a feeling was me that's why I didn't sit. Thank you all for hanging in there. I'm Dottie Aganos, a retired teacher, and member of the Board of Directors of Community Work Day Program. It really irritates me when I see abandoned cars and household opala alongside our County roads where it does not belong. So, I give my support to the Community Work Day for the great effort that it does to keep Maui clean. Like so many other non-profit organizations, the Community Work Day Program relies on funding through grants from the County to carry out its mission and its work.

There's no other organization that does what the Community Work Day does for Maui. Here's a little sample. The Community Work Day Program is able to stretch all the County dollars further by combining them with in-kind donations of supplies and equipment from many community businesses and volunteer labor. Community Work Day is

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dedicated to supporting beautification and environmental education programs throughout the islands. We sponsor litter clean ups, graffiti removal projects, native plantings, and recycling programs. We work hand-in-hand with the County, the County's Department of Environmental Management, the Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Office of the Mayor to assist with the clean up of dumpsites, trash, abandoned cars, and the clean up of homeless camps.

We have a paint exchange program that keeps paint out of our landfill and offers it back to the community free of charge. We make 1,200 wire baskets each year to support the recycling programs throughout the County. We hold a display at the County Fair each year to educate the community and give away plants to anyone who promises to plant them and take care of them. And in 2008, Community Work Day volunteers picked up over 300,000 pounds of litter, removed 150,000 pounds of invasive species, and planted more than 200,000 native plants throughout the County. And Community Work Day for the last two years has held uncovered truck law demonstrations at the Central Maui Landfill with the Maui Police Department to promote compliance with the law to cover truck bed loads for safer, cleaner Maui roads. This is just a small sample of the great projects that Maui Community Work Day does.

And again, I say there's no other organization that does what the Community Work Day Program does. So, I hope that the Council in its wisdom will continue to support our programs with the funding necessary to keep Maui beautiful and so that Community Work Day continue to educate people on how to treat the aina more respectfully. Thank you for your time.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for Ms. Aganos? Seeing none, thank you for being here. Nancy Johnson.

MS. JOHNSON: Good evening, and thank you for staying so late. I'm Nancy Johnson. I'm in charge of Allied Health at Maui Community College. I'm just going to take one minute to tell you the other half of the story that I told you last night. Last night I talked about nursing, tonight I'm going to talk about dental. With your help we're able to have a dental hygiene program now that's nationally accredited for the associate degree program – the only one in the State of Hawaii. And we have the Maui Oral Health Center. I have a brochure for you that you'll receive when they pass it out to you. This year we provided 10,000 visits to people who otherwise

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wouldn't have had dental care. Ten thousand toothaches resolved. If you've ever had a toothache, you know how important it is. So thank you so much for your support of our dental program, as well as the nursing program and long term care.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you very much. Grassleen Amumu. Grassleen Amumu. A-m-u-m-u. No? David Merchant.

MR. MERCHANT: You know it's getting late when you guys might outnumber us out here. Again, my name is David Merchant. I am here today as a volunteer member of the Board of Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Maui. I'm the President of that board. It's an all-volunteer board and we volunteer for two reasons. It's important and it works. And we know it works also for two reasons. One, we're a . . . we're part of a larger national organization and we have statistics that show that kids who are in Big Brothers, Big Sisters do better in school, get in less trouble, have less problems with drugs. The longitudinal studies have been done. But I think in many ways we know it works for kind of a more common sense reason.

As all of us look back in our lives, and I know when I do like when we were kids, there are a very, very few maybe five or less than five adults who really made a difference. These were your mentors. For me, they were teachers, coaches but some of the kids or many of the kids that we focus on at Big Brothers don't have those teachers, don't have those coaches. And so, what Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Maui does is tries to fill that void. We are the only organization nationally and I know on Maui that really focuses exclusively on one to one mentoring for at risk youth.

And the value is recognized by really the clients. The clients are the kids and the parents or the caregivers who know that their, their child needs some of that mentoring. We have three main programs. Our traditional community based mentoring, lunch buddies at schools, and then site base mentoring where kids can come after school. They are matched up with older kids, high school bigs for the little, for younger kids. And they, they receive that mentoring that they need. Every one of our programs is growing 25 percent more than last year for the two that are easiest to count. The traditional community based mentoring and the lunch buddies. The site based mentoring is also growing. In 2008, we added sites in Kihei and Molokai. In 2009, we are adding site based mentoring on Lanai and Waihee.

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And also, in 2009 we are going to be focusing on a community that has always been one of our clients but has never been counted and those are kids or children of people who are incarcerated. They're there. They're obviously in need. We're partnering with MEO and Keiki O Ka Aina to offer this service and we're proud to offer this service. It will be kicking off in 2009. In closing, Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Maui is an organization that is meeting a need that is growing. It's, these are tough times, which means that the support services need is actually expanding and we're trying our best to meet that need. Our work as you well understand is not free. Every match requires a background investigation. Requires ongoing support, supplies, a place to be, and just ongoing support from the staff.

And so, we ask that you continue you support for Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Maui and recognize that our work, we're doing good work. It works and we're actually expanding where we're trying to impact this community. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you very much. Denise Miya. Denise Miya. Judith Hook. Judith Hook. Scott Ibara followed by Connie Lang.

MR. IBARA: Hi. Good evening. I'm speaking on behalf of the Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Maui as a big brother. I want to talk about the program the, the way I see it, my point of view. I've been a big brother since 2002. I was born and raised on Maui but I went to school on Oahu. And while I was going to school and working, I started the program and, you know, I was matched with this, with this little boy. He was, he was nine years old at the time. And he was you could say the prime candidate. He, he really needed this program. He, you know, did really poorly in school. He was teased in school. He'd come home crying. You know very classic case I guess you could call it. And the first year that I was matched with him, he, it was one of the hardest things I've ever done I think, it was, you know, just, just spending time with him, you know, once a week, every other week, on the weekends. But, you know, after that year it got a lot better and I could see the changes and eventually I was able to move back to Maui . . . *(change tape, start side 4A)* . . . and but before I did, you know, I could see a big change and his mom pulled me on the side before I left and said, you know, Scott, thank you, thank you for spending time with my son for the last couple of years. You know he's actually getting really good grades; he's popular in school. And when I go back to Oahu I make

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it a point to see him, you know, at least have lunch or, you know, just meet up for the day. And you can tell he's excited, you know, about telling me all the things he's been up to, all the things he's done, how well he's doing in school. And it, and it's just, that is the big reason, you know, I do it. And, and when I moved back to Maui I started the program again and I signed up. And, and I still keep in touch with my little, I call him my little. I mean that's what they're called. I'm a big.

But we, we keep in touch and I signed up with another little and, you know, he's another one like the rest of the littles in the program, they, they need this program. I like the program so much I signed up again. And I do like Dave Merchant was saying, we have a lunch buddies program. So, once a week, I work in Kihei at the Tech Park, right down the street there's the Kihei Elementary School. I have lunch with one of the kids over there once a week. Great program. And again I can, I can see a difference. I started with this little boy last year in the fourth grade. And then now he's in the fifth grade. He's opening up. The teacher, you know, tells me how much better he's doing. And it's really heartwarming to hear.

You know just from the outside people saying, you know, I'm glad you're able to just spend, just a little bit of time every week and be able to see such a big difference. And so, I'm really asking for your support for the program. I'll just cut it right there.

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

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you very much, Chair. Scott, I just want to say thank you. You know it's people like you that make Maui special. Thank you.

MR. IBARA: You're welcome.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Thank you again. Connie Lang. Violeta Ulep. Cyndi Segundo. Gilberto Sanchez. Finally.

MR. SANCHEZ: I came late, yeah. Good evening. Aloha, Council Members. My name is Gilberto Sanchez. I'm a single father. I have two daughters; 14 and 15 years old. I'm a taxpayer. And I want to, need to support the Head Start. Head Start helped me a lot about MEO. Actually, MEO I feel that everybody, even in the Council, everybody around, they have 44 years

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working MEO and active and I think everybody use it once, maybe once. And right now, I know it's very hard right now for, for everybody in the budget and everybody. But one of the things we, I want to point is the, the Head Start is one of the best services I even use myself and they help me a lot.

I think no. . .and the Council you have to consider in the no left behind any kid to participate in this program. There's a lot of people that have a lot of waiting list, big waiting list for going inside that program. I feel one of the more important things is that look for the keikis what we have. My kids already big and they don't need it but I see a lot of people that need it.

Also, the Enlace Hispano. Enlace Hispano are also helping a lot of people for different diversities, different places and I think you guys hear about it. I'm very sure you guys went to the festivities where they have only Enlace Hispano. It's very good. It's very nice. And I think also they coming together, the communities because we part of the community, the Spanish, the Spanish, the Hispanic community is part of Maui. And I really, I don't want to leave them behind.

Also, at MEO they have the small business develop where Susie. Susie is very good. Very tough and very nice, too. But they also they help us a lot because I did my business on that. I did and I think MEO is part of Maui. Part of our saying is...one of the, what they say is people helping people and really they do it. And I think everybody in, in this table and anybody, ah, there's more people right now. . .everybody had one part, a small part of that. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Thank you for being here so late. Thank you. Rhondalei Hoopii.

MS. HOOPII: Thank you, Council Chair and Council Members. I have to agree with Mr. Sanchez. You know as a native to Maui I have from one time or another accessed every service and community resource that has expressed themselves here. I don't envy, envy you folks, you know, on your job and allocating funds and especially at a time like this. But I'm here to speak on behalf of Women Helping Women and speak out against domestic violence. And I consider myself to be a productive member of the community. I've been a single parent for about 15 years and I consider myself to be self-sufficient. Within my family I provided for them very good. I've had very good jobs. I'm just about ready to get my bachelors, yay, in Psychology. And I'm very proud of myself for that.

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But just recently I was in a relationship for some time and just recently I've been affected by domestic violence. And I had to access Women Helping Women for support. I'm getting a little teary but that's okay. I never thought I would be in a position where I would have to access their support, you know, after all that I came through in my life, you know, a recovering addict and, you know, going to school and raising my children in a lifestyle that I wasn't raised in. And they're just beautiful children, you know, everything that I wanted to be in my life. And I get to witness it through them so that's good. I've had to access their programs in the past but just recently I found myself in a situation where due to the economy where I had been laid off and then I was recently involved in this relationship and we moved into a large home. And everything was beautiful and then the violence occurred and I found myself there alone wondering how I'm going to make ends meet. And so, through Women Helping Women I was able to access support, individual counseling, you know, group counseling. And I'm specifically in one of their rental assistance programs. And so, without that program I probably would have been not only devastated by everything else that was happening in my life but maybe in losing our home, too.

And so, with their help though I've been able to continue in my education without being too overwhelmed with everything that's going on. And so, I'm, you know, I'm grateful for that program. And I speak on behalf of all the women that have, and men that have been affected by domestic violence. You know and it's programs that, like Women Helping Women that really support. And I know that when this audience was filled, in fact, more than half of the nation's population is, has been negatively impacted by domestic violence in one way or another. And so, I'm hoping that you folks will hear my big voice at the very end even though nobody's here. That's okay. And I was the only one I know because nobody else is here. And, you know, that's the other thing, you know, I understand that too, that there's many women, you read the newspapers every day, there's women out there have been in the same situation as me and they're --

MS. WILLENBRINK: Three minutes.

MS. HOOPII: --not able to speak up for themselves. So, I'm here today and I'm hoping that you support, continue to support Women Helping Women. Thank you.

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

MS. HOOPII: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: We appreciate that. Marissa Aisek. Nope. Amelia Bonilla. Nope. She left. She left. She left. Members, that's all the testifiers that we have this evening. And I want to thank, you know, the people that stayed back for being here supporting, you know, one another in this testimony here at Maui Waena School. Again, you know, thank you for your input the, your concerns and your requests, you know, in the 2010 Mayor's Budget proposal.

...END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY...

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Again, you know, the Council have a tough job in trying to formulate a budget that would support this community. When I say this community, Maui, Molokai and Lanai. So, we got to take a look at all the spectrums and all the services that we provide all of the islands that make up Maui County. So, again, thank you very much. Members, you have any announcements to make? I do have one.

Don't forget tomorrow we get meeting 9:00. You know, while we're here I'm just going to pass this information to you folks. You know we meet almost every day in the Council Chambers, you know, reviewing the budget for 2010. We do take public testimony at the meetings Monday through Friday. You know, so that if you do have time and you want to support an organization, I, I would recommend that you come maybe in the morning and provide the testimony rather than being here, you know, at this, you know, late hour of the evening.

So, you know, we really appreciate your attendance and, and your, you know, we're here to hear your concerns. So, again, Members, we'll see you 10:00 [*sic*] tomorrow morning. And see you on Molokai tomorrow night.

If there's no announcement, this meeting of the Budget and Finance Committee meeting is now adjourned. . . .(*gavel*). . .

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.

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ADJOURN: 9:33 p.m.

APPROVED:


JOSEPH PONTANILLA, Chair
Budget and Finance Committee

bf:min:090324-Kahului:cs

Transcribed by: Cathy Simmons

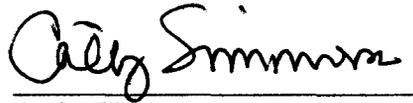
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CERTIFICATE

I, Cathy Simmons, hereby certify that the foregoing represents to the best of my ability, a true and correct transcript of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not in any way concerned with the cause.

DATED this 17th day of April 2009, in Wailuku, Hawaii.



Cathy Simmons