

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

March 30, 2009

Lahaina Civic Center Social Hall

CONVENE: 6:30 p.m.

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

STAFF: Michael J. Geers, Substitute Legislative Analyst
Tammy M. Frias, Substitute Committee Secretary

Ken R. Fukuoka, Director, Office of Council Services
Michele Yoshimura, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Pontanilla
Arthur Suyama, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Danny A. Mateo

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

OTHERS: Di Christofferson, Volunteer, Red Cross
May Fujiwara, President, Lahaina-Honolua Senior Citizens Club; Aging with Aloha Coalition
June Kaaihue, Member, Lahaina-Honolua Senior Citizens Club
Richard Nagamine
Corey Kanae, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. Being Empowered and Safe Together (BEST) Reintegration Program
Robert Kihoi, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. Being Empowered and Safe Together (BEST) Reintegration Program
Kaunalu Higbee, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. Being Empowered and Safe Together (BEST) Reintegration Program
Diego Torres, Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance Program
Calista Delano, West Maui Boys and Girls Club
Malia Kanohokula, West Maui Boys and Girls Club
Becky Vaughn, Unit Director, West Maui Boys and Girls Club
Shaun Lopez-Naea, West Maui Boys and Girls Club
Aaron Naea, West Maui Boys and Girls Club

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Kaleo Carbajal, West Maui Boys and Girls Club
Paea Tasini, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. Business Development Corporation
Janet Ramirez, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. Enlace Hispano Program
Josefina Sanchez
Fredeliz Misay, Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance Program
Justine Misay, Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance Program
Vilivaka Pinedo-Vehikite, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. Youth Services
Nicole Rios, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. Youth Services
Manuel Pacheco-Banuelos, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. Head Start Program
Rocio Escobar, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. Head Start Program - Teacher
Leonardo Sequeira, Outreach Specialist, Enlace Hispano Program, Maui Economic
Opportunity, Inc. (Interpreter for Erica Garcia Trejos)
Erica Garcia Trejos, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. Head Start Program
Ron Kawahara, Vice-Chair, Maui Economic Development Board, Inc.
Kiana Hayes, Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance Program
Francesca Curimao, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.
Peg Robertson
Don Couch, Board Member, Boys and Girls Club of Maui
Ezekiela "Zeke" Kalua, Executive Director, West Maui Taxpayers Association
Kalani Ho, Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows Leadership Program
Alda St. James, Executive Director, Keiki Kokua
Jim St. James, Board of Directors, Keiki Kokua
Art Tabanao, Keiki Kokua
Monica Chihara, Keiki Kokua
Walter Chihara, Keiki Kokua
Jan Kitaguchi, Keiki Kokua
Stacey Moniz, Executive Director, Women Helping Women
Chris Breckels
Hans Michel
Stacie Thorlakson, Government Relations, Lahaina Bypass Now
Bruce Erfer, Board of Directors, Kaanapali Hillside Homeowners' Association
Emil Christian
Georgia Hollis, Kaanapali Hillside Homeowners' Association
Jazmin Tinsley, Project Manager, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Maui
Mike Soweri
Tamara Paltin, Save Honolua Coalition; Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows Leadership Program
Tony McComas, Board Member, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Maui
Gilberto Sanchez
Rodger Coombs
Keri Kalilikane, Hale Mahaolu
Gregg Nelson, General Manager, Napili Kai Beach Resort
Jeri Manucci
Glenn Manucci

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Jessica Kailani Ross, Vice President, Leialii Homeowners Association
Butch Soares
Stuart Kahan, Community Work Day Program
Elaine Gallant, Maui District Tennis Association
Additional attendees (approximately 140)

PRESS: Wendy Osher, News Director, Pacific Radio Group

**ITEM NO. 1: PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010 FOR THE
COUNTY OF MAUI (C.C. Nos. 09-59 and 09-88)**

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . .(*gavel*). . . Good evening, everyone. I'd like to call the Council's Budget and Finance Committee meeting to order here at the Lahaina Civic Center. Today's date is March 30th, 2009. Again, good evening. At this time, I would like to call your representative, Councilmember Jo Anne Johnson, to introduce the Members that are here tonight. Jo Anne?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Aloha.

AUDIENCE: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: It's always wonderful to see so many smiling faces and even though this is a tough budget year, I'm, you know, I'm sure with your help we'll get through this all.

I would like to introduce the Chair of the Council, to my left, Mr. Danny Mateo; Budget Chair Mr. Joe Pontanilla. . .

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Next to him is Councilmember Mike Victorino.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Aloha.

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Next to him, Councilmember Wayne Nishiki.

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: To his left, Councilmember Michael Molina.

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AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Next to him, Mr. Bill Medeiros, Council Member.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Councilmember Gladys Baisa.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: And Councilmember Sol Kaho`ohalahala.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you very much. And I'll let Joe introduce the Staff.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Jo Anne, for that introduction. At this time, I'd like to introduce the Staff that is supporting the Committee tonight. We do have Michael Geers, who is a Legislative Analyst; Tammy Frias, who is a Committee Secretary. Also with us are Executive Assistant Arthur Suyama who reports to our Council Chair, Mr. Mateo; and Michele Yoshimura, my Executive Assistant that supports me during my work time.

Again, good evening, ladies and gentlemen from Lahaina. Before we go into the Mayor's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2010, I'd just like to pass an information to you folks because we need your help as much as you, you know, you need our help. This is in regards to House Bill 1744 that will be heard on Friday, and this is in regards to the Transient Accommodation Tax. The State of Hawaii is looking at the transient accommodation tax which we are projected to bring into Maui \$18 million to support, you know, programs like you folks have here in Maui County as well as some other programs for the County of Maui. So we'd like to encourage each and every one of you or your organization to contact our Representatives that support Maui County, the Senators as well as the Rep..., Representatives that is in the State Legislature and, and tell them about your concerns and tell 'em to not approve House Bill 1744 because it would be very detrimental for this County to lose \$18 million. So, as a Council, we ask your support in supporting us to try and defeat that particular bill. So, thank you.

So at this time before we start our public testimony, the Chair would like to request that each of you that have cell phones or pagers, to put them on the off mode or silent mode so that whoever is giving test..., testimony will not be interrupted.

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Okay. For those of you that will be providing public testimony tonight, you'll have three minutes to provide your public testimony. If you could state your name, the organization that you represent, and provide your testimony to the Committee that's here tonight. After you are completed with your testimony, if could you stay for a few seconds, you know, some of the Members here tonight may have questions for you. So if you could stay for a moment and then take your seat if there's no questions.

The first person to sign up for public testimony is Di Christoff..., Christofferson. . .followed by May Fujiwara.

...BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY...

MS. CHRISTOFFERSON: Hi, aloha. I'm Di Christofferson from the Red Cross, and this is my first time, so. . .(*chuckle*). . . We appreciate all the funding and support you've given us over the past years. From house fires to Pali fires, floods, hurricanes, or tsunamis, the Red Cross responds to all disasters, big and small. For those displaced by a home fire, we provide a safe place to sleep, food, and clothing. Imagine being a first-time visitor to Maui and heading to the west side only to discover the road is closed by a fire and no way to get to your hotel. The Red Cross is there to help by providing food, shelter, and support to residents and guests alike, along with food and beverages for the Fire Department. During the floods last year we provided shelter, food, and cleaning supplies to our clients. The Red Cross workforce is 90 percent or, excuse me, 96 percent volunteer, and we respond 24/7, 365 days a year. Our services are available to anyone affected by a disaster--big or small, regardless of income, all will receive our help. All Red Cross funds come from donations and our help is always free to those in need. Many of our volunteers have gone to the mainland to assist with various disasters, and Red Cross volunteers on the mainland have also helped here in Hawaii. Around Thanksgiving I responded to a fire in Kahakuloa Valley. We arrived and the roof of the house was on the ground and the entire structure burned out from beneath it. A grandma was there with her two children and daughter-in-law, and the daughter-in-law had left the scene in shock with three other children--all were homeless and stunned, not knowing what to do. They've lost everything. We gave the children hugs and stuffed animals and sent the clients with two hotel rooms, and issued debit cards for food and clothing. Later we paid for the first month's rent for the daughter-in-law and her children. We received the following letter from our client.

"You are always in our heart 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

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them. They had the thoughts of going without nothing and no support from us because we lost everything. But thank God for you people because you were right there with support and they got shoes and clothes, et cetera. Most of all, we didn't have to live out on the beach. Again, thank you, thank you. Many, many aloha."

The Red Cross appreciates the support of the County of Maui and hopes for your continued support over the next few years, as funding has been a little bit tight. And mahalo for your time, attention and consideration, and we hope someday to give help to all the rest of the people here if they ever need it. Thank you.

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

MS. CHRISTOFFERSON: Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: The next testifier is May Fujiwara, and before May gives her testimony, I'd just like to thank the Lahaina-Honolua seniors for the snacks that you brought us here tonight. I know we're going to enjoy it. . . .(chuckle). . .

MS. FUJIWARA: You're welcome.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: So following May is June Kaaihue. Go ahead, May.

MS. FUJIWARA: Good evening, Budget Chair Pontanilla and Members of the Council. Welcome to Lahaina. My name is May Fujiwara. I'm a member of the Lahaina-Honolua Senior Citizens Club. Members, please stand.

Note: Approximately 40 senior citizens stood up.

MS. FUJIWARA: Alright, thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

MS. FUJIWARA: We are here to thank you for your past support of MEO and all of the programs MEO delivers. As you know, MEO has greatly impacted our lives in many ways for many, many years providing our community, especially our seniors, with their many needed programs. We love the Maui Bus, but many seniors are unable to walk to the bus stops, and MEO is the only bus service we know that will pick up our seniors house to house to go shopping, to get to our medical appointments, and to meetings and to functions like tonight. So please continue to support MEO's transportation request for seniors, people with

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disabilities, the medically needy, and youth as provided for in the Mayor's Budget.

For those of us who can and do utilize the Maui Bus, we ask that you increase the frequency of the Villager Route from every hour to every half hour.

Other MEO programs we request your support: \$3 million to go along with the State money to build the first phase of the MEO Transportation Facility; \$240,000 for Youth Services for at-risk and out-of-school youth and to native Hawaiian youth who do not participate in school activities and/or go to youth centers or to other organized youth programs; MEO's Head Start Program. I also ask you to restore funding that was not in the Mayor's Budget to allow for full-day and summer preschool on Maui and Molokai; MEO's Enlace Hispano Program to help integrate our Hispanic community into the life of Maui County; MEO's BDC, BDC's request of \$224,000 that will continue to assist people starting their own business, creating jobs, and spending money on Maui and Molokai. This money will restore funding for the Molokai office and assist with tuition fees for people to attend MEO's educational programs.

As a member of the Aging with Coalition group, I ask you to continue funding for health care initiatives for the Aging with Aloha Coalition and the Maui Comm..., Community College's Nursing and Dental Programs in the amount of 275..., \$275,000. These programs support increasing health care providers in areas of shortage, education for family caregivers, and the public to prepare for and face the challenges of increasing elderly population. And also, this includes the long-term care curriculum projects at the high school and college levels.

MR. GEERS: Three minutes.

MS. FUJIWARA: I also support a budget request for our fire, firefighters and our police officers who put their lives at risk every single day to work with and help our community. Also, please support funding for planning for the greenway master plan for bike paths. Thank you for allowing me to speak.

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

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

MS. FUJIWARA: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: ...thank you very much. June Kaaihue, followed by Richard Nagamine.

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MS. KAAIHUE: Aloha.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Aloha.

MS. KAAIHUE: My name is June Kaaihue and welcome to Lahaina. Mahalo for giving us the chance to speak to you all about our needs and you helping this very sad and trying economic times. Most of us are senior citizens and know what is hard times. We can survive now because of it; however, investments in banks and stocks and bonds and even our homes is a reality check. Who will hire us while the general public is also looking for jobs? So our children and grandchildren need to pickup the slack. Most of us are taking care of the grandchildren for parents who still have jobs. This is why MEO is so important to us. Kids under age five has childcare with the Head Start Program. They learn etiquette, colors, ABCs, numbers and new words, how to get along with others, sharing, et cetera. Boys and Girls Clubs also have school functions; children have homework done there; games; strict discipline. MEO buses pick them up after school, take them home, and it's a wonderful service for them. This service extends to the seniors also, a big part of our lives because not all of us can drive, especially in the evenings. MEO takes us to functions all over the island. They also take the sick to the doctors and the, the well to shopping surprises. . . .*(chuckle)*. . . Their drivers also are courteous and work hard. . .to, to bosses are easy to talk to, and the service are mostly free of charge, although donations are sometimes given.

Other programs are the BEST program that cares for incarcerated men and women and their way of getting out of jail, and because of that they need that extra help. They also help immigrants. The program helps get them jobs, learn English, find homes, et cetera. It's almost mind-boggling to think of the things MEO does for the people of Maui. They do an outstanding job for all of us and funding for this organization should be top priority for you and us. I know because I believe in them.

Thanks again for this chance to say, help us, keep them and us alive and well at these times. I believe in the President of the United States, Barack Obama and his cabinet to change the course of our nation, and I also believe in our Mayor Charmaine Tavares and her Council to make Maui no ka oi. Mahalo.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, June. Members, any questions for the testifier at this time? Seeing one, Richard Nagamine, followed by Corey Kanae.

MR. NAGAMINE: Aloha.

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COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aloha.

MR. NAGAMINE: My name is Richard Nagamine and. . .I want to thank all of you to give me a chance to ask what I want from my area. First of all, the people that's going to come up will ask you to keep the MEO. . .give it, give them the support, and don't stop at that because MEO has done so much for everybody.

What I came here to say today is when the Mayor was, had that budget hearing, I came up and asked the Mayor for "no parking" sign on the road. Where I live there's possible about four houses might be in the new future, gonna be two-story building. Right now we have about five, six cars to every house and with the extension of having two-story building, I don't know how we're gonna get through that area. My area. . .we had a fire at one time, but we didn't have all the cars, and we had the ambulance come up and at that time it was still good. But for us now I'm looking for the future because if we don't fix this now when there's no, not much car in my area, I don't know what going happen. And there's. . .within my area some of the owners cannot drive out from their driveway because there's too many cars parked on the side of the road. So, I ask you people to give us the chance to put a "no parking" sign. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Richard. Question. Where do you live?

MR. NAGAMINE: 585 Kahaku, just above the old Kelaweia.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Kahaku Street?

MR. NAGAMINE: Yeah.

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

AUDIENCE: . . .*(chuckle)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Corey Kanae, followed by Robert Kihoi.

MR. KANAE: Aloha and welcome. My name is Corey Kanae, and I am. . .I'm here to represent. . .on behalf of the MEO BEST Reintegration Program. As for myself, I one strong believer in people helping people. And for myself, I've been living a life of crime and drugs for many, many years, over 17. I just got released say about almost a year now and. . .you know, since getting released I never had anyone there for me. MEO stepped in and I signed up for their program, and they've been nothing but help, support--mentally, spiritually, you know, just in

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every way. They helped me to get my license, they helped me to get work, they helped me to get into college. And, you know, I've been taking from this community for so long and I was labeled one career criminal many years ago, and today, you know, I get to do these things, I get to give back just basically because of MEO's BEST Reintegration Program. Today I'm in college, I'm earning an Associates Degree to go and work in human services field to deal with adolescent youth. And so I get to try and help our keiki of our aina change their lives around and not go the path that I went. And, you know, many years ago I told myself that this is going to be my life already, and I honestly believed that. Today, I no believe that at all. I believe I one strong, strong believer in people and cultural-based programs. And today, I going be able to give back to our keiki how MEO has freely given to me. So, I'd like to suggest that. . .you know, thank you guys for your guys' past funding, and I'd like to ask you guys at the least to continue the funding, if not upgrade the funding. Because one person like me affect this community so much when we're doing crime and drugs, imagine 500, imagine 1,000. If they can change one life like mine, imagine if they change 500, imagine if they change 5,000 and the cost of that. So, I'd like to thank you for allowing me to share myself with you guys. Mahalo.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you very much. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you, Corey. Richard. . .oh, Robert Kihoi, followed by Kaunalu Higbee.

MR. KIHROI: Hi, my name is Robert Kihoi. I'd like to thank you guys for coming and I, too, is one of. . .MEO BEST Reintegration Program clients, and that's all I get for let you guys know that what that program did for me. From one, from being a career criminal to coming out of prison not having family support and stuff like that. That's all. . .(inaudible). . .gave me was hope and encouragement and help, and they wen' help me get my, my permit, driver's license, insured my car, help me get job. They even wen' help me get my CDL license. So, I here for let you guys know that, if anything, this program is just helping people like me who coming out of prison for not for go back prison. 'Cause all the stuff that we did before never work, and these people stay showing us ways and means how for live life better. And before never have that kind programs and today get and I, I really support MEO for everything what they've done for me and my family and to the community. So I, too, is one strong believer of people helping people and that if, if given the chance to help somebody, that's all we need is just that chance for help somebody and give back. So I, too, ask you guys if you guys can keep on supporting the BEST Reintegration Program. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you again. Kainalu Higbee, followed by Diego Torres.

MR. HIGBEE: Hi, my name is Kainalu Higbee. I'm also representing on behalf of the MEO BEST Program. And right now, I'm actually currently in MCCC. Next month I make five years straight that I've been in prison, in jail, incarcerated. And when I came back from the mainland prisons, I didn't have anything. My family is not too rich, they're not. And so the BEST program helped me. They had job fairs, they helped me out to get a job. There's a lot of culture classes. So, I got into the Hawaiian programs in there. I'm, I'm now dancing hula, I'm dancing for the community. I don't get paid nothing at all, but I still go to the practices. It's, it really changed my life. I've been sober almost three years already and I feel really, really good about myself. I went to their job fair, I got a job. I'm currently working outside in Kihei at the Villas at Kenolio thanks to the BEST Program. When I came out to work, I didn't have any money for clothes, shoes, nothing like that, and they took care of me. They, they gave me the shoes and the clothes that was required for the job. They gave me my, my driver's permit. I'm working on my license right now. They're going to help me to find a place to rent out because it's hard for people incarcerated to find a, to find a nice house. And so the BEST Program has really helped me out and really gave me something to live for. And I'm not sure if there is anyway that I could do that by myself because it's really hard out there. But now I'm kind of looking at things another way because of the BEST Program. And so I'd like to say thank you to all the staff members and everyone involved, and thank you for you guys for funding this program. It's really helped me a lot. Aloha.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier this evening? Seeing none, thank you very much. Diego Torres, followed by Calista Delano.

MR. TORRES: Aloha, Council Members, Chairman Pontanilla. My name is Diego Torres, I'm 17 years old and have been a part of the Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance for two years now. From our business visitations to our community service projects, the Youth Alliance has provided me with the opportunity to learn, to grow, and to get involved in the community that I love. Adults often stress the importance of youth involvement in our communities. Parents and teachers encourage us to make a difference in the world. Well, tonight I am asking you to allow me to make that difference by continuing to fund our program.

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I would like to share with you an experience I've garnered through the Youth Alliance that exemplifies the opportunities this special alliance has granted me. My first Youth Alliance session was a visit to Maui's own television station Akaku. Each of us Youth Alliance members were assigned a job. Some worked at the control room, others worked with the camera, others were interviewed live on TV. It was remarkable how many people were involved in the process. Every worker was an essential part of the whole, necessary for Akaku to function. Likewise, each one of our voices is important in our community and change can't happen until we let those voices be heard. Akaku is the voice of the people, people with real problems and concerns.

I have acquired vital skills that will help, that will be a stepping stone for my future. I am on the edge of my youth and when I become an adult, I will be more confident that I can be independent and a productive member of our world thanks to the Youth Alliance. I will be voting next year and I don't know about you, but our last presidency has taught me the importance of having a wise government with benevolent intentions. With the Youth Alliance, I can be informed about the issues going on and make an intelligent vote. Thank you very much for considering my testimony in support of continuing funding for the Youth Alliance Program for Fiscal Year 2010. Mahalo.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you very much. Calista Delano, followed by Malia Kanohokula.

MS. DELANO: Hello, my name is Calista Delano, and this is what the West Maui Boys and Girls Club means to me. The Club is like a home to me because I spend most of my time there. I have been going to the Club for about three years. The staff treats me with respect and so do the other members. The discipline at the Boys and Girls Club can be strict but fair. The Boys and Girls Club, at the Boys and Girls Club we do tons of fun activities and we go on field trips often during school breaks. Although I can only go on Monday, Tuesday, and Fridays now, I still have plenty of fun. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to come and share with you what the West Maui Boys and Girls Club means to me, and thank you for supporting our Club.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, Malia Kanohokula, followed by Becky Vaughn.

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MS. KANOHOKULA: Hi, my name is Malia Kanohokula and today I will tell you what Boys and Girls Club means to me. Boys and Girls Club feels like my family and home because of my friends, and that is how Jen, Dustin, Maurice, Becky and Denniyle treats me, and everyone else too. It feel, feels like home because I always have fun and there is a snack bar, and I like Boys and Girls Club because I have all my friends there and I can do my homework and watch T..., and watch movies with my friends on Fridays. On Thursdays there is girls group. On Tuesdays we have bumper pool tournaments. On Mondays we have indoor relays and foosball tournaments. Every month we pick youth of the month. My second favorite part of Boys and Girls Club is Power Hour because if I don't do all my homework, I will have to stay home. Thank you for taking time to hear my speech, and thank you for supporting Boys and Girls Club.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, Becky Vaughn, followed by Shaun Lopez-Naea.

MS. VAUGHN: Good evening. My name is Becky Vaughn, I'm the Unit Director of the West Maui Boys and Girls Club. And I'm here more than anything else tonight to just express our, all of our gratitude--this is just a small sampling of my group that I have--our gratitude for the blessing that our clubs are to our island's youth. We have a brand new club opening very soon and it's like waiting to open the best Christmas present you know you've ever gotten in your life. Literally everywhere I go if I'm wearing a staff t-shirt or writing a company check, people are asking and everyone is very, very excited. So we look forward to being able to reach a lot more youth and being involved with a lot more collaborations of the youth serving agencies. Currently, we have close to 200 members and an average about 50 kids that we serve a day. It's spring break right now and we have had over 50 kids every single day, that instead of sitting around playing video games or being on the streets causing trouble, they're at our club playing sports and doing beach cleanups, we're giving them good meals, and we're just having a lot of fun. I have a fantastic staff and we all feel that we have the greatest job in the entire world. We're helping to develop some really outstanding citizens for our island. We have an environment that is respectful and positive and encouraging and just fun. So thank you so much for blessing us with that and for your continued support, and please come see us at our new club and see all the wonderful things we're doing. And. . .very proud of my kids, thank you for being here tonight, and for the family support that they brought with them. And thank you for your support.

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

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Plus we received the invitation--

MS. VAUGHN: Oh, good.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --I think all of us will come.

MS. VAUGHN: Wonderful. I look forward to it.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Shaun Lopez-Naea, followed by Erin Naea.

MR. LOPEZ-NAEA: Good evening. . . --(*CHANGE OF TAPE, Start 1B*)-- . . .and I go to the West Maui Boys and Girls Club. To me the Boys and Girls Club is where you can hangout with your friends and do your homework after school. At the Boys and Girls Club there is nice staff there: Becky, Jan, Denniyle, Maurice, and Dustin. I play sports, do homework, and have fun. There are tournaments; I won two times. We do community service and help the community. The Boys and Girls Club is important to me because if there wasn't a club to go to after school, I would have to go home with my brother Erin because my mom and dad work until five o'clock. But I live far away from my school, so the club is where to go. The West Maui Boys and Girls Club is important to me, so thank you for supporting the Boys and Girls Club.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you. Aaron Naea, followed by Kaleo Carbajal.

MR. NAEA: Good afternoon. My name is Aaron Naea and I attend the West Maui Boys and Girls Club. To me the Boys and Girls Club is not just a club, it is like a home. It is like a home because I come here after school everyday of the school week, and everyone treats everyone else like family. Without the West Maui Boys and Girls Club, I would be going home to an empty house because my mom and dad work. At the Boys and Girls Club I play sports, do homework, play in the teen tournament, and I won four times. My most favorite thing about this club. . .it's. . .is it's a place where I can hangout with my friends. So thank you for supporting the West Maui Boys and Girls Club.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you. Kaleo Carbajal, followed Paea Tasini.

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MR. CARBAJAL: Good evening, good evening. My name is Kaleo Carbajal. The Boys and Girls Club is a great, is great because I feel other people I met so far are outstanding. I have friends in the Boys and Girls Club, which tells me that the Boys and Girls Club is a great place. I've been staying at the Boys and Girls Club for almost a year. I say it's great seeing new people at the Boys and Girls Club. It also gives me a great thought of what more can happen at the club. It makes my life better by all the nice people and staff I met like, Jen, Denniyle, Maurice, Dustin, and Becky. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Thank you very much. Paea Tasini, followed by Janet Ramirez.

MR. TASINI: Aloha, County Council.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aloha.

MR. TASINI: My name Paea Tasini. I, I live here in Lahaina side. I'm here to testify on behalf of MEO BDC and BEST Program and MEO. . .everyone in MEO. I'd like to say that. . .I, too, am an ex-felon. I, I'm 33 years old today and married and I have six kids with one more on the way, and I'm very happy today. Today I'm waiting on the approval of my general contractor's license, and I do have a job that's, that's already waiting to be, to begin as soon as I have that license in hand. And MEO were the ones that educated me through their Four Core Business Program. I was able to incorporate my business two weeks ago. I was able to make a loan through their loan department, and to be able to fund my education, my schooling that's going to enable me to obtain my general contractor's license. I have very big hopes for the future. I want to make a lot of money. I want to give back to society. I, I don't want to dwell on the past anymore. But I want to thank you guys for giving me this opportunity to testify on behalf of MEO and the good work that they've helped to consult me in and to help me achieve. And that's all.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you very much. Janet Ramirez, followed by Fredeliz Misay.

MS. RAMIREZ: Hi, my name is Janet Ramirez.

MS. SANCHEZ: Hi, good afternoon. Dear Honorable and Chair, Members of the Council. Thank you for this opportunity to support the Enlace Hispano and the Maui Economic Opportunity. I will be speaking in behalf of Janet Ramirez since

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she is quite nervous and scared that you guys might not understand her. My name is Josefina Sanchez and I volunteered myself to speak in her behalf. I will be speaking in behalf of the Enlace Hispano. May the Enlace Hispano please stand up? *(Spoke in Spanish)*

Note: Approximately 25+ people stood up.

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

MS. SANCHEZ: For many years Enlace Hispano has helped me as well as many other people in many ways. They have helped me apply for Head Start for my children. Over many years they have helped me filled out countless forms and applications. Enlace Hispano has coordinated the visit of Guatemalan and Mexican Consulates, and some family members. And I have the opportunity as well as many other people to renew our passports. During the visit, I volunteer myself to distribute application and explain procedures to my community. I enjoy being, I enjoy being a help to Enlace Hispano. Enlace Hispano helps us to adapt as newcomers with many needs. Probably it would be easier for English-speaking people or other cultures that have been in Maui for many years. But the important thing is that it provides service appropriate to our culture. This cannot be substituted with translation or interpretation. They distribute among us pamphlets about HIV; cancer; diabetes; and substance abuse; translations to English, the driving manuals; and many information that will help us be aware about the health risk to make easier the trans..., transition to this great State. Enlace Hispano not only helps me with interpretation and translation, but with any needs we have to get by in this, our new country. If they cannot provide the service, they refer to us. . .they refer us to a different agency and governmental office until we learn about our available resources on Maui. Thank you for being here and for continuing to support the MEO Enlace Hispano community service and the Head Start.

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

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

MS. SANCHEZ: Thank you.

MS. RAMIREZ: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Fredeliz Misay, followed by Justine Misay.

MS. F. MISAY: Good evening, Council Members, Chairman Pontanilla. Hi, my name is Fredeliz Misay and I am 17 years old. As a member of the Focus Maui Nui

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Youth Alliance, I humbly ask that you continue funding our program in Fiscal Year 2010. I have been a part of the alliance for a year and wanted to share a few special experiences I wouldn't have had if it weren't for the Youth Alliance Program.

First, as a first year member of this program, I can't say much about a variety of experiences, but the fact that I am able to gather with other members from different districts to explore more about the community is already why I enjoy. I am having a great time meeting new people and learning something new every time we meet at projects and activities.

Second, I would like to share the experience I had when we went to the Pacific Whale Foundation. At first I thought this session was going to be boring, but learning about the ocean and the creatures living in it got me interested. We also had to pickup trash around the harbor, and seeing all those trashes was not great at all. I remember picking up a lot of cigarette buds, beer bottle caps and other more weird stuff, such as baby diapers. Though the picking of the trash was nasty, I still had a fantastic time because after all of those hard work, we got to ride on the boat and the sandwiches that we had for lunch were delicious.

Third, I would like to share my favorite experience. This was the last session that we just had last Tuesday, March 24th. At this session we got to talk to Mayor Tavares and to some of the County Council Members and it was really interesting to hear their advices about succeeding because all of them actually told us the same thing but in different ways. The advice that they gave us was to always take a risk. In other words, it is better to say that you have tried than to just sit there and say I should've, could've or would've.

Finally, with the Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance Program, I am able to learn about how our community works with the help of the five key strategies for action and other, in our vision, which is a future in which abundant opportunities for rewarding employment are met by a qualified resident workforce in Maui County; a community which honors. . .its cultural heritage and natural environment. I, as a member, will be authorized with the skills and experiences to become a leader for any challenge. Thank you very much for considering my testimony in support of continuing to fund the Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance Program. Thank you. Good night.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you. Justine Misay, followed by Vilivaka Pinedo-Vehikite.

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MS. J. MISAY: Aloha, Council Members, Chairman Pontanilla. My name is Justine Misay and I am 16 years old, 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 alliance for a year and wanted to share a few special experiences I wouldn't have had if it weren't for the Youth Alliance Program. Being a member of the Youth Alliance made me experience working with the community and others and meeting different students from different schools. And . . .one thing I really like about being a Youth Alliance member is that we got to meet with the County Council and talk to them, and they gave us advices that will lead us to what we would want in the future. And one thing they told us, told us is never fail, never give up. And the other thing I experienced is making the community a better place. I experienced cleaning Maalaea Harbor and how to take care of the environment and went to . . .and went whale watching with everybody. . . .*(chuckle)*. . . Yeah. I really enjoy being in the Youth Alliance because I experience things that I haven't experienced before, and that's all. Thank you very much for considering my testimony in support of continuing funding the Focus Maui Youth Alliance Program.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you very much for being here. Vilivaka Pinedo . . .followed by Nicole Rios.

MR. PINEDO-VEHIKITE: Aloha, Chair Pontanilla and the Members of the Budget Committee. My name is Vilivaka Pinedo-Vehikite and I have been in MEO Youth Services for approximately two years. I attend Maui High School as a freshman. I'm here to ask for your continued support in funding of the MEO Youth Services because this program is special to me and many of the kids in the comm. . . , many of the kids in our community. MEO Youth Services provides a lot of learning experiences like building and planting taro patches, making luaus, boys council. . .making luaus, boys council, culinary arts, and life skills and job skills. One of the projects for the, for the tobacco prevention--we volunteered in the County Fair where we directed smokers to a designated area, to a designated smoking area. This helped eliminate the secondhand smoke to everyone, especially youths. Youth Services also provided culinary training, which will be a possible career for me. I love to cook, especially luau food. There are several things that stood out to me. . .food safety, to me was food safety. We learned that washing your hands and your cooking utensils will prevent cross-contamination, and also cooking many different foods are really fun. Youth Services also provides boy council which helps us go through the twist and turns of life and how to become, and how to become a man. We've been talk. . .we've talked about healthy relationships and the responsibilities that come with becoming a

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man. We also do cultural explorations. We joined DOCARE in Honokowai Valley where we met Mr. Ed Lindsey. He told us the history of the spiritual valley. These experiences that I had was finding, was finding the ancient Hawaiian artifacts. We also learned that, we also learned about the noni plant and the uses of the fruit. MEO Youth Services have also provided many opportunities for me to learn and grow. Please continue to fund MEO Youth Services and the MEO Youth Trans..., Transportation. Thank you very much for letting me testify. Mahalo.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Thank you. Nicole Rios, followed by Manuel Pacheco-Banuelos.

MS. RIOS: Good evening, Chairman Pontanilla and Members of the Budget Committee. My name is Nicole Rios and I am a sophomore at Maui High. I'm 16 years old and I live in Kahului. I would like to ask for your continued support of the MEO Youth Services. I have been in this program for two years and I've enjoyed it a lot so far. I can still remember my first day coming to this program. We were working at Uncle Duke's place. The girls had to wash and cut the stems off the luau leaves, making my arms itchy, while the boys cut banana trees. Once we cleaned the leaves, we made an assembly line and prepared the laulau. We then put them into the imu, imu overnight. I remembered feeling nervous and meeting. . .about meeting everyone, but now they're all like brothers and sisters. Since then we have gone on many cultural camping trips, worked to eliminate invasive species on the island, are a part of tobacco and underage drinking prevention, got CPR and first aid certified, and made our own lo'i patches. During Christmas break we went camping in Hana. While we were there we worked with our Hana group in Kipahulu at the lo'i patches. We pushed the weeds down to the bottom of the patch so the hot mud can kill them and the weeds then become fertilizer for the next set of taro. We also took out the ready taro and cleaned them in the river and pulled out all the weeds. All that hard work still didn't stop us from having a fun mud fight. When we're not working, we're learning. Lately we've been doing many creative things. We've started to paint things that are important to us and letting us have a positive relay, positive way to release our emotions. We've learned different brush techniques and we've gone to Haleakala and sketched some trees and other things we saw. So please continue your support and funding of MEO Youth Service and Transportation. Thank you for your time in allowing me to testify.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Manuel Pacheco-Banuelos. . .followed by Ron Kawahara.

MR. SEQUEIRA: Aloha, everybody. My name is Leonardo Sequeira. I'm an Outreach Specialist for MEO Enlace Hispano, and the gentleman over here, he's going to testify. My only duty is just to translate. Okay.

MS. ESCOBAR: Our friend, Mr. Pacheco-Banuelos, was going to address you today, but he's a little bit nervous. So one of our other parents that also came out to support is going to do that, if that's okay.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Go ahead. Go ahead.

MS. GARCIA TREJOS: . . .*(Spoke in Spanish)*. . .Erica.

MR. SEQUEIRA: My name is Erica.

MS. GARCIA TREJOS: . . .*(Spoke in Spanish)*. . .Ivan.

MR. SEQUEIRA: I'm the mother of Ivan.

MS. GARCIA TREJOS: . . .*(Spoke in Spanish)*. . .

MR. SEQUEIRA: I want to thank you for the program.

MS. GARCIA TREJOS: . . .*(Spoke in Spanish)*. . .

MR. SEQUEIRA: Because it help my kid, my child with food and the bus transportation.

MS. GARCIA TREJOS: . . .*(Spoke in Spanish)*. . .

MR. SEQUEIRA: Because the. . .that all the instructions they're giving to make it easy to transition to the school. *(Spoke in Spanish)*?

MS. GARCIA TREJOS: No.

MR. SEQUEIRA: That's about it. . . .*(Spoke in Spanish)*. . .

MS. GARCIA TREJOS: No. . . .*(Spoke in Spanish)*. . .

MR. SEQUEIRA: She'd like to know if you guys have any questions for her?

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

MR. SEQUEIRA: Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Ron Kawahara, followed by Kiana Hayes.

MR. KAWAHARA: Thank you, Chairman Pontanilla, Members of the Budget and Finance Committee. My name is Ron Kawahara and I'm here representing the Maui Economic Development Board. I've been involved with the organization since 1997, and we recently celebrated our 25th anniversary in '08. The mission of the MEDB is to provide leadership and vision in our community for the responsible design and development of a strong and diversified economy. And our vision was stated by one of the members of the Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance, and that is a future in which abundant opportunities for rewarding employment are met by a qualified resident workforce in Maui County; a community which honors its cultural heritage and natural environment. I'd like to give the, the Members here an overview of, of high technology, which is really what Maui, MEDB tries to emphasize in trying to diversify our economy, and this information comes from the Hawaii Science and Technology Institute.

Maui County has the most private sector technology related jobs on all the islands, including Oahu, that's, that's compared to public sector jobs like the UH research and things of that nature. Maui has 1,847 high tech jobs in 163 tech-related firms. The tech jobs represent 1.8 percent of Maui's total workforce, and this workforce in tech-related jobs grew 3.7 percent from '02 to '07. It represents \$106.4 million or 2.7 percent of Maui's total workforce earnings. The average pay, that's the average pay in the tech-related job is \$56,443, and that's 47 percent greater than the average Maui worker's earnings, and that's pretty significant. If we're trying to diversify Maui's economy, we need to do it in ways that can pay living wages here and not, and have a very small footprint in terms of damage to the environment. You know, Focus Maui New which the. . .a couple members of the Youth Alliance testified--and the Youth Alliance was really an outgrowth of the Focus Maui New project. And it's interesting because in '03 the priorities listed by the 1,700 or so participants--you know, many of these testified for the first time in a, in a public setting, and then the groups were limited to no more than 15 people. So you really got a feeling for what Maui's residents really wanted and, and this is what the priorities were. They want to improve education; they want to protect the natural environment and address the water needs; the infrastructure; affordable housing and transportation was a priority; they wanted to adopt targeted development strategies so not to rely so strongly on our tourist

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industry, although that will remain a significant part for the foreseeable future; and last but not least, they wanted to preserve local culture and traditions. And for those of you that attend the County Fair, you know that the MEDB has a, has a booth and then we have a, a survey that--the last survey, the last County Fair we had 1,000 surveys filled out, and you know what, these same five items were listed as priorities, but they were in different order. . .probably because of the slowdown in our economy. You've heard the members of the Youth Alliance speak but, you know, there's other programs that Maui, MEDB gets involved in, some of the more notable ones like Women In Technology where we reach 6,000 students, teachers, educators, and businesses.

MR. GEERS: Three minutes.

MR. KAWAHARA: And another one is the AMOS Conference, Advanced Maui Optical Surveillance System, and that, that brings in over 55 scientists and engineers, 72 technical papers--a significant contribution. . .over \$2 million to Maui's economy. So just a few of the things that MEDB is involved in. We want to thank you for supporting MEDB in the past and we look for your support in the future. Thank you.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Kiana Hayes, followed by Francesca Curimao.

MS. HAYES: Aloha, Council Members and Chairman Pontanilla. My name is Kiana Hayes and I'm a member of the Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance, and I'm going into my third year as a member. I remember going in to my first session and being scared to speak up because I wasn't really that outgoing, and I could probably never do something like this and stand up in front of a room full of people and voice my opinion. One of the things that the Youth Alliance has taught me as being a young woman in my community is to be able to get up and have confidence and have the things that I need to know that I can be successful as part of this community. A lot of the things that we do is, you know, going into the community and stuff, going into businesses and learning the ins and outs, but I have had my favorite sessions. Last year our theme was "Technology in Evolution", and a lot of the things that we did involved the technological aspects and jobs in the community and that sort of stuff. We did a visit to Akaku and ran our own one-hour TV special, and we visited the Observatories on Haleakala that are run by the University of Hawaii, and it has opened my eyes to way more things than I would've ever imagined getting into or ever having the opportunity

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of doing, especially being born and raised on a small island. Along with those types of things we also do trips to Molokai and Lanai, and that has also taught me that, that we all have the same needs, we all have the same interests, and one of the few things that you know now is everybody's saying, well, you guys are our future, you guys should be in the community and voicing all your stuff, but a lot of organizations may not offer that type of opportunity. And I'm thankful that the Youth Alliance does because it gives me the opportunity to get up and do something like this. . . .Yeah, I think that's it. Thank you for considering my testimony and for the continued support of the Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: The Chair is going to call a stretch leg recess at this time. So we'll take a ten-minute recess. We'll reconvene at 7:40. This meeting is in recess. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 7:30 p.m.

RECONVENE: 7:45 p.m.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . The Budget and Finance Committee meeting is now reconvened. At this time, the Chair would like to call on Francesca Curimao, followed by Peg Robertson.

MS. CURIMAO: Good evening, Council Members. My name is Francesca Curimao and I'm here to represent MEO Rental Assistance Program. Back in August we became homeless, me and my family, and we were staying at Na Hale O Wainee. It was only a one-income family. Eventually my husband started working. . .we were able to provide rent, but we didn't have the money for deposit, so we went to MEO seeking assistance. They greatly helped us out a lot. They were able to locate a three-bedroom house for us. So. . .and in addition to that, I will be doing a budgeting and credit class. So what I'm asking is if you folks could still provide and assist services for other people out there. Thank you very much.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you very much. Peggy Robertson, followed by Alda St. James.

MS. ROBERTSON: Hi, my name is Peggy Robertson. I live on Wahikuli Road in Lahaina. Thank you for coming over here tonight. I'm glad your roads were all clear. I feel there are three important projects that need to be put in the budget. I

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have pictures here that I've numbered and I want to pass those around because pictures is a thousand words. The first one is the seawall on Front Street. Please let me give you these first. . . .The work was started--the seawall I've mentioned, I've brought up three times, three years in a row. The work was started this year, but I think they only did four pillars and then they stopped because of budget or something. But there's 20 more pillars that are still unfinished, the concrete is eroded, and some of the rebar is showing--all need to be painted. They're. . .I, I want you to really look at those pictures because you think, well, what difference does it make. Well, first of all, there is a safety problem there. Those go and then the rest of the wood is going to go and you're going to have a mess on Front Street, and it's going to cost five times the amount. It has not been maintained in the past ten years. If they maintained it, it wouldn't look like it looks like right now. The next problem is--oh, also the sidewalk next to it. . .walk that sidewalk sometime, someone's going to break a hip on it. I mean it is so bumpy and patched up, it's just terrible. The next problem is our roads. A lot of safety stripping is missing, especially right on that corner of Fleming and Front Street. That always is dangerous. But we also need a lot of resurfacing. . . --(*CHANGE OF TAPE, Start 2A*)-- . . .the road which everybody knows about. I can't ever pronounce this, Papalei [*sic*]--help me out, Jo Anne Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Papalaua.

MS. ROBERTSON: Papalakena [*sic*] or something? On Front Street, the library road?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Papalaua.

MS. ROBERTSON: Yeah. We also have problems at the corner of Kenui Street and Baker--I have a picture of that--and Lower Lahaina Road, Wainee Street also should be examined. Fleming and Wahikuli definitely will need resurfacing because of the recent construction of the new waterline. We've had construction going for seven weeks. It's starting at 7:00 in the morning everyday now, and I guess they have a contract for almost 200 days. We never knew about it, didn't hear about it, weren't talked about it. But please, let's get that resurfaced. It looks like a ghetto. Don't forget the road going up to the Civic Center, that was only half done. Don't you just love that one? I'd like to see that finished. Lastly, we need a direct bus to the airport from West Maui. I bring this up every year because it's a sensitive issue in our family. Our families are seniors and people with medical problems need it. I'm sure the hotels and timeshares and condos would appreciate it, too. Just imagine if you've been on a plane for ten hours and you can't speak the language too well and are used to driving on the left-hand side of the road and you get out in Lahaina and they say, rent a car and drive there, even though you haven't had any sleep in 10 or 15 hours. It's. . .whenever we travel, we get on the bus and then go to the place, and then we rent a car. So

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please, if you just give us a bus, I'm sure the ridership will go up just like it did when I named it the Maui Bus and told 'em to put a little color on their white bus and then it will know, everyone will know what bus to take. You know, this is a good--we had this idea at the same time and they still have not done it when we decided those other three, two things. All. . .by the way, all these things will create jobs for people, and if you get any money from stimulus, why not do some of these important things. Lastly, I hope our County representing us are aware that the Department of Land and Development is having a meeting here tomorrow night at 6 o'clock to discuss the idea of the 700 acres and \$4 million of our tax money to make an off-road vehicle park above the Hyatt and Kaanapali area that can cause mud, fire, dust and erosion. Would the County be--this is my question--would the County be responsible for the environmental impact statement? Who does those, the EIS? Who does those?

CHAIR PONTANILLA: State.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: State.

MS. ROBERTSON: Who requests them? Is the State going to request itself to have an EIS or does the County do that?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: It's required by law.

MS. ROBERTSON: Oh, it's required by law. Okay. Well, anyway. . .I hope some of you come tomorrow night so you can hear it. Bye. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Question.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Member Medeiros?

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Mr. Chairman. And, Ms. Robertson, thank you for your testimony. The person in charge have heard the projects of what you're talking about? You know when I was in charge up here, Public Works Highways, and that was one of the most challenging maintenance is the seawall on Front Street, and the reason being that concrete does not do well in salt air and salt water. So you can put up a new column or you can dress it up, you know, with a new concrete, but it won't take long before that ocean water and, and salt in the air deteriorates the concrete. So my suggestion to the Department and Division is to see if they can find another type of material that would be more durable to that kind of conditions, and so they're looking at it. But I know they try to keep up with it and it's very difficult because they have a small crew in

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Lahaina and they have a lot. I mean Public Works Highways takes care of cemeteries, parking lots, highways--there's so many jurisdictions that they have to be responsible for. But they will know about your concern on the Lahaina, Front Street seawall.

MS. ROBERTSON: Well. . .just the concrete could be treated with something. If we can have surfboards that last for 50 years, it seems to me they could put something on top of the concrete. They don't even have the paint on it right now. They fixed four or 'em, but they didn't even paint it to protect the, the concrete underneath. So. . .and I've only seen one crew working there this past year, and they only did four and that was it. I have not seen anymore work all year long. I don't know if anyone else here has.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: And, and the follow-up to that is you mentioned the sidewalks, their surface. When I was working out here, we asked one of the special companies that deal with concrete, Miyake Concrete, to suggest a material that would work better. They suggested it, we laid it down, and it deteriorated in no time. So there needs to be some other material found that can withstand the conditions close to the ocean like that, and I'm sure they're working on it.

MS. ROBERTSON: Okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Thank, thank you.

MS. ROBERTSON: Yeah.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Member Medeiros. Thank you, Peg. The next set of testifiers, six of 'em, represent Keiki Kokua. We do have Alda St. James, followed by Jim St. James, followed by Art Tabanao, followed by Monica Chihara, Walter Chihara, and Jan Kitaguchi. I understand that Jan Kitaguchi does have a youngster.

MS. ST. JAMES: Jan had to leave.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: She had to leave? Okay, fine. Go ahead.

MS. ST. JAMES: I, I do want to say I'm sorry. Jan, Jan had a three-year old foster daughter with her. She waited 2 ½ hours and just could not wait any longer to testify. But she did want me to tell you that she really appreciates what you're doing for Keiki Kokua.

Good evening, Council Members. Thanks again for your continued support of our organization. We ask you to please keep the \$20,000 for Keiki Kokua in the

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Mayor's Budget for the Fiscal Year 2010. In difficult economic times, such as we have today, the three most important things that nonprofits provide are food, clothing, and shelter. While Keiki Kokua does not provide food, our programs do alleviate the need for shelter and we provide clothing cheap. Let me explain.

First, regarding shelter. Keiki Kokua prevents homelessness in foster youth by sustaining foster families, helping them manage the challenges of raising someone else's child and by providing social support. The goal is to keep the child in a stable, loving home for as long as possible. Nationally 20 to 40 percent of former foster youth become homeless after aging out of the system. This statistic comes from the Institute for Children and Poverty. In Hawaii, the number of homeless, former foster youth is around 30 percent.

Regarding clothing, just this past weekend the Keiki Kokua Thrift Store held a big sale. They offered clothing at 75 percent discount off of our already low prices. It is clear to everyone that Keiki Kokua's main interest is helping the community cope during tough times. And, of course, our foster care community is thrilled to get their regular 30 percent discount anytime they shop at the store. There's one final point I'd like to make. Keiki Kokua is taking bold steps to become sustainable. And while others are wondering how they will survive, we are thinking seriously about expansion.

I want to say mahalo for believing in us and in our mission from the beginning, and for your enthusiastic support. Without you, we wouldn't be where we are today. Thank you very much.

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

MS. ST. JAMES: Thank you.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Jim St. James, followed by Art Taba..., Tabanao.

MR. ST. JAMES: Good evening, Council Members. I have no props tonight. So it'd be fast. . . . *(chuckle)* . . . Many of you know that I've been a foster parent for many years and that I'm on the Board of Directors on Keiki Kokua. What you might not know is that since 1990 I've been a counselor for youth and families, and presently I--I'm going to read the rest. Okay. Presently, I recruit, license, and give ongoing training to therapeutic foster parents in emergency homes who take in high-risk teenagers. Many of these teenagers have mental health diagnosis. These youth have suffered trauma in prolonged periods of stress in their

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childhood. Statistically the best chance for stabilization and healing of these children come from the care of loving and patient foster parents. It is a rewarding but a very hard job for foster parents, as these teenagers can be exceptionally challenging to deal with. A couple of examples. Last week we had a pretty tough week. There was one foster teen who stole a foster family's car, went out drinking with friends, put it in. . . wrapped it around a pole, and as the police came she backed up into the police car trying to get away. Another home had a boy who was depressed, starting cutting his arms--and this was a new foster family, it was pretty hard for them. They took, had to take him to the emergency room. In another home who had three foster girls, two of them ran away. So, I just wanted to give you examples of some of the, you know, the things that foster parents have to go through. They're, they're pretty tough people. But. . . this is the best side of this. I found out one of the best ways of overcoming past hurts, haunting memories, depression, and feelings of hopelessness is through positive support. This is what Keiki Kokua offers to both foster children and to foster families, and it's the key in maintaining foster home longevity and avoiding foster parent burnout. While, while talking about foster care system is generally serious and usually sad, the joy in seeing children heal and succeed actually makes this work extremely satisfying. Seeing the positive and, yes, even the humorous side of these children's lives keeps us going. And I was going to tell you some jokes that I tell in the training, but on second thought, I don't want to lose County funding, you know, so. . .

ALL: . . . *(chuckle)* . . .

MR. ST. JAMES: . . . *(chuckle)* . . . Well, I'll, I'll tell you one joke that I tell. Okay. Since we're talking about budgets, you'll want to hear this. When it comes to giving, some people stop at nothing. And, you know. . . *(chuckle)* . . . I tell that to foster parents; you got to think about that one. But foster parents really give a lot and, you know, Keiki Kokua fortunately has been given a lot and we thank you for giving last year and, and giving again this year to keep our programs going. It's actually going to be hard to swallow a 20 percent cut from last year, but we have faith that we'll make a difference through the Keiki Kokua Thrift Store that we're, we've started up. And the store is actually a reflection of the adventurous and independent spirit of the Maui foster parent community. They really are, it really is. The foster parents really do a lot and they, believe me, they support you in supporting them, and they know that without you we wouldn't be able to be there for them. So thank you very much.

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

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

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Art Tabanao, followed by Monica Chihara.

MR. TABANAO: My name is Art Tabanao.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Oh.

MR. TABANAO: . . .(*chuckle*). . . And my wife and I live in Lahaina and fund the Keiki Kokua Scholarship Program. Our interest in helping foster children stems from my experience as a court appointed special advocate for foster children in California for six years. As a volunteer, my training was similar to that of a Guardian Ad Litem in Hawaii. I'd like to take a few minutes to share a little about Keiki Kokua's Scholarship Program. \$1,000 scholarships are awarded to Maui high school graduates who have been in foster, guardianship, or kinship care or eventually adopted. The scholarship can be used to attend college, trade, or technical schools. This is the second year Keiki Kokua has offered scholarships. In 2008, we had three recipients. Two attended Maui Community College, and one young lady from Molokai attended Kapiolani Community College in Oahu. In 2009, there will be seven scholarships. Two are going to last year's recipients. One is graduating from MCC and will attend the University of Hawaii at Manoa in the fall. The other will be in her second year at Kapiolani Community College. This year two scholarships were awarded early. In February, one went to a 26-year old married mother with four children who started MCC in January. While taking care of her family and going to MCC, she was also waitressing at two restaurants. The other went to a 23-year old man who also started MCC in January and was graveyard shift manager at a Taco Bell. This year the other three scholarships are going to, one, a young lady with cerebral palsy, who will be in her second year at Kapiolani Community College. Two, to a young lady who hopes to graduated. . .from MCC this year and plans to attend the University of Hawaii at Manoa in the fall. The third, to a young man graduating from high school this year. He hopes to get into the University of Hawaii at Hilo or will attend MCC in the fall. We've asked all scholarship recipients to mentor and support the new awardees. So our hope that as years go by there will be a history of camaraderie and success that will serve as a model for their peers in high school. It is also our hope that the scholarship program will help these youngsters realize their potential and encourage them to dream of success, a program without which many youngsters might not think college or further schooling was even a remote possibility. Without Keiki Kokua there would be no scholarship program. Please continue to support Keiki Kokua. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you very much. Monica Chihara, followed by Walter Chihara. You first?

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MR. CHIHARA (from the audience): Can I go with her?

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Oh, yeah, why don't you come up.

MR. CHIHARA: It's going to be the same thing.

MS. CHIHARA: Aloha, Council Members. My name is Monica Chihara. My husband Walter and I have been foster parents for close to ten years with kids of all ages staying in our home. I'm here to ask funding for Keiki Kokua program continue without decrease, as this is an invaluable service to foster parents of Maui County. The founders, Jim and Alda St. James, are actually the ones who trained us for our foster care licensing many years ago, and they've supported us ever since. They're extremely dedicated to the youth of our County. Keiki Kokua is a program that offers a proactive approach in the way of support to the families helping these kids through a very difficult period. The pro..., their program of networking through other foster families and notification of programs available and support at every level is beneficial for both the foster and biological parents and, ultimately, the foster child. Keiki Kokua has worked tirelessly to expand their program through their own ingenuity. Their recent open, they recently opened a small thrift shop to raise money to support their cause. They've held an elaborate fundraiser that was a huge success, and all this, all this so they can do even more to help these youth who are at the mercy of adults in their lives that make harmful decisions. They've been in front of you several times not because they love these meetings, but they believe so strongly in the cause and are so committed to these youth. So shouldn't we help those who help themselves? I ask you to please keep this program alive. Mahalo.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for Mr. and Mrs. Chihara at this time? Thank you for your testimony this evening.

MR. CHIHARA: Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Don Couch, followed by Zeke Kalua.

MR. COUCH: Good evening, Council Members. My name is Don Couch and I'm here to testify about the Boys and Girls Club. I'm a Board Member, I've been a Board Member since 2003. It's been, it's been a wonderful time. I was going to tell you why I was a Board Member, but you saw just five of the thousand kids that we take care of and service all the time. We've known great growth in those many years that I've been involved in the Board, and it's a real pleasure serving in an

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organization that has such tangible, very tangible impact on the community. We understand that the, the economic downturn, downturn, excuse me, is having an impact on all of us and if our part is a 3, 3 ½ percent decrease, we will live with that. Please help us to make sure that we are not asked to do more this year. Our services are increasing. We, our needs are increasing because more kids are coming now, especially during this economic downturn. I want to thank you also for supporting MEO because they bring our bus, bring our kids from the schools that can't get driven over by their parents, and I want to thank you for all your past support for the many years. Come and see the new building. You're going to get the invitations as soon as we get the certificate of occupancy and get everything moved in and ready to go. But I want to thank you very much for all your support on that. Mahalo.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Zeke Kalua, followed by Kalani Ho.

MR. KALUA: Good evening, Chair Pontanilla, Members of the Committee, Council Members. My name is Ezekiel Kalua, Executive Director for the West Maui Taxpayers Association, and I want to thank you all for being here and for giving us the opportunity to speak. It's trying times no matter where you are in this County right now, and we know that this is going to be a very difficult budget to go over. We plan to spend a lot of time at the County level this year to work with you on it and coming up with the best things that we can. In the past years we've been asked to prioritize our top three concerns and this year it's going to be very hard, but I'll give you one right off the bat, and that's our new tanker truck for the Napili Fire Station. If nothing else, we need that truck. We fight a lot of fires on this side of the island, those fires cause delays in the traffic in our economic generation, and parents getting home to their kids, you name it. I mean the impacts are always great no matter what happens on that roadway. We don't envy you, but we do know that you're going to do the best job that you can and we appreciate you for that.

In speaking on behalf of the Senate bill, we have written opposition to this bill and we are just dumbfounded of the fact that they like to take from the poor to help the poor, to help the poor. I don't understand where they're coming from. I know the author of that Senate bill is a coward and the supporters of that bill are cowards, and they ought to be ashamed of themselves. You know, to take from an island that has, that has got a good bond rating to possibly go and help solve problems over there was defeated in the past. That was clear when they tried to

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tax all the islands to build the monorail. You know, they have the audacity to be building elaborate projects like that without knowing where the funding is coming from, and all of a sudden they think that by taking \$18 million from us and allowing us to raise to GE taxes to hopefully makeup for that loss is doing us a favor. Ridiculous. Now they're, they're just lucky that they didn't have open testimony about that here on this island, 'cause it probably would've been the biggest attended event to date. And so we're in that fight with you, we will support you no matter what. We hope that Friday is a very unfavorable day for that Senate bill. And thanks a lot for your time and your efforts to every one of you that wrote a letter opposing it. Thank you very much. Thank you for caring enough about the community you represent to do something about it.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? If not, Zeke, I want to thank you and your organization for going all out in trying to defeat the Senate bill as well as the House Bill 1744. We appreciate that. And as far as your Lahaina tanker, I understand that the specs had been looked at and the Department is moving forward on purchasing that tanker. So, Members, any more questions for the testifier or comments? Again, thank you very much.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Kalani Ho, followed by Stacey Moniz.

MS. HO: We're in full force here. . .(chuckle). . . Aloha and good evening. Thank you so much for making the drive to West Maui. My name is Kalani Ho and I am a member of the first graduating class of the Ka Ipu Kukui Fellowship Program. This initiative was created by Decisions Maui and Focus Maui Nui to promote and develop future leaders through a community-based program designed to address planning for Maui Nui's future. I'm here tonight with several of this year's class, Leilani Pulmano and Tamara Paltin. . . .We had one more, not here. As Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows, we benefit from a hands-on learning program that exposes us to the many issues facing Maui. We interact with current leaders on the difficult issues, such as water management, future development planning, and cultural preservation, among others. Most importantly, we are exposed to all sides of these issues and learn to listen with open minds before making informed decisions. We experience firsthand the true value of social capital and what that brings to our community. Maui faces some daunting challenges with no clear solution. It will take the efforts of our most valuable resources, our current and future leaders to push forward in resolving these challenges. This program brings together a diverse group of emerging community leaders creating a forum to explore change and recognize that easy answers do not exist. However, by collaborating and coming together we can work to find solutions that will work. The Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows Program has provided leadership training for two

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classes of fellows, totaling 23 participants. The operating expenses for this program are about \$50,000 per year. We respectfully ask that the County Council provide 25,000 to help keep this program going for another year. The balance of the budget will be made up by tuition cost and fundraising efforts by the current fellows. In addition, we are working towards making the program self-sufficient, which will reduce our needs for County funds going forward. For me, personally, this program has challenged me to become a better Maui citizen and not sit on the sidelines as I watch Maui's future be shaped, but to get upfront, take a seat, and get involved. Maui's such a special place and I feel it is my kuleana to ensure that it is the best place for future generations to come. Thank you for your time this evening. We hope you can find room in your budget for the Ka Ipu Kukui Fellowship Program and for, to help foster the next graduate, the next generation of Maui's future leaders. Thank you.

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

MS. HO: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Stacey Moniz. . .followed by Chris Breckels.

MS. MONIZ: Good evening, Budget Chair, County Council Members. I wrote my notes down because I'm a little multi-tasking, I'm a little scattered today and I have. . .*(cleared throat)*. . .a little bit of laryngitis. My name is Stacey Moniz and I am the Executive Director at Women Helping Women. Women Helping Women is a Maui agency that's provided comprehensive services to victims of domestic violence, including emergency safe shelter, 24-hour hotline, assistance with temporary restraining orders. We work with families, children, even men who are abused. Over 12 years ago we began providing services on the island of Lanai, and after 3 years of Federal funding the County picked up the majority of the expenses for us to continue our presence on Lanai for the past 7 years. After the brutal murder-suicide of Kim Kaniho Batoon last year, we held a vigil and over 300 people marched silently twice around Dole Park to show their sadness over the. . .and to honor her memory. Our services on Lanai are as critical as any that we provide, and we're grateful for the County's support. About five years ago, a group of West Maui citizens began meeting as the West Maui Domestic Violence Task Force. They approached Women Helping Women about three years ago and asked us to open a center on this side of the island and to provide critical domestic violence services to the victims where, here where they live. The State provided us with a grant-in-aid to open the West Maui Center in July 2006, but the funding was cut last year and all the grants-in-aids all disappeared. But thanks to the Maui County Council, you funded part of the center, so we've been able to keep that open part-time Monday, Wednesday, and Friday here in

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Lahaina. We've done a lot of work here and we're community building. It's not just providing services, it's really about building the community. There's a group of citizens called Friends of Women Helping Women who have continued to try to raise funds in addition to the money that the County is giving. So some day we hope to be open five days a week and have enough money to keep our center open five days. But right now for three days a week we're doing really well.

I wanted to say on behalf of the Board of Directors, the staff, the women and children at Women Helping Women, I'd really like to humbly appreciate the many years of support from the County of Maui. I'd also like to respectfully request the continued funding of our line-item as budgeted, and also request continued funding for the Rental Assistance Program of which we're one of four agencies that gets to distribute that money. Help us continue to help victims of domestic violence. Mahalo and peace.

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

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Chair, and thank you, Stacey, for being here tonight. Stacey, recently we've seen an incredible acceleration in the amount of horrible violence. You know, I've never seen so much killing and really, really bad violence like we never saw before. What do you think is doing this and do you see this escalating in the future?

MS. MONIZ: Thank you, Member Baisa. I really believe that part of it is the stress. The number one reason that people argue is financial reasons. I mean even people that don't end up beating each other up, the biggest reason people fight and argue is money. And so with this kind of economic climate, people getting laid off, the uncertainty, people are very, very desperate. I had a woman in my office today who was talking herself out of getting a restraining order, even though her husband was threatening to kill her while he loaded a gun, and she really didn't believe he was serious. And I thought to myself...this, this is serious. And so my staff called me into the office. You know, I'm the Executive Director, I shuffle papers, that's my job any more; I don't do direct services. But this was a situation where my staff was very concerned, and she just feels like he's stressed out and he's saying things that he doesn't mean. And I said, you know, desperate people do desperate things; I'm really concerned for your safety. So what is it? Part of it is the economy. Part of it is, you know, it's still drug use, it's still stress, but it has escalated. It is...we've not seen violence like this before.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Is your shelter full?

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MS. MONIZ: Yes. And our restraining order program, we were slammed today back to back to back restraining orders. And, you know, our Lahaina office was busy, our Lanai office is busy. Everywhere we look it's crazy busy and our funding got cut, we've laid off four staff. I said that last year when I came to Council. So. . .I, I don't have an explanation for it. I just know that--like tomorrow night I won't be at the Kihei meeting 'cause we're having a vigil for the woman who was killed two weeks ago and shot by her husband and. . .or her ex-boyfriend.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: One of the things that I'm looking at is I noticed that in the current Mayor's Budget proposal, that she has maintained your level of funding. . .

MS. MONIZ: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: . . .and I think that's a good thing in spite of, you know, others have been reduced already.

MS. MONIZ: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: But I can see where this community is definitely going to need your services more than ever as this gets worse and worse. So, I want to thank you very much for coming tonight to explain. Thank you.

MS. MONIZ: If I can just say one more thing?

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Sure.

MS. MONIZ: Sorry, I know it's more than three minutes, but. . .

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: It's alright.

MS. MONIZ: . . .one of the things that we are doing is. . . --(*CHANGE OF TAPE, Start 2B*)-- . . .because as more and more this is hitting our own community. You know, we had two men killed at the very beginning or at the end of last year and the beginning of this year right after the woman murder-suicide on Lanai. And so we've been doing a lot of community organizing and that's where it's really going to make a difference. And so we've seen a huge growth in when we have these silent marches or the silent vigils. People are showing up more and more and asking what can I do. We're talking to churches, we're talking to civic groups. We're really organizing. People. . .the universe hates a vacuum, yeah, so when all this negativity comes in, it floods with positive. People are calling and trying to offer their volunteer time, their services, their money. And, you know, so it's not

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going unnoticed I think by the general public, too. So, but I do really, really appreciate you raising this from the County Council.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you. Thank you very much for all that you and your staff do. Thank you.

MS. MONIZ: Thank you.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Chris Breckels, followed by Hans Michel.

MR. BRECKELS: Aloha and good evening, Council Members. Thank you for coming to Lahaina. After hearing all this testimony, my, my thing is kind of trivial. But I was on the Traffic Safety Commission for five years with the Apana Administration, chairing it the last year, and I've always been concerned about traffic safety, that's kind of like my little thing I'm concerned about. And I've just noticed looking at the budget that every year it's always that same amount, like let's say for that one particular item would be the Road Resurfacing, you know, 300,000. And like I know like in Puukoolii it was like 200,000 just for that small, little section. You know, but the cost of materials keep going up, yet that line-item on your budget doesn't seem to be going up to match the, the increase or whatever. And I, I just think that with the contribution of West Maui to the tax base or whatever, I think you should stick West Maui on the top of your list and then put everybody else below us. But I mean I love all of Maui, but just to be concerned about that.

And I also just wanted to mention that my kids also went to that Boys and Girls Club too after school, and I just wanted to say something in support of that. That really took a lot of load off my, myself and my wife for having that time where I knew that they would be safe before we got off work to pick them up and whatnot.

And now that Walter and Monica is gone, I just wanted to say running a PTA and whatnot, whatever, they were always for every little program. I had no idea they were even in the foster program, too. So, I think they should get some kind of a County award for all the stuff they've done for West Maui. . . that, you know, he's the number one booster for Lahainaluna, Walter, you know, everyday he's got the poster on there and whatnot.

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But I also noticed a thing about like \$10 million or something, I think that's in 2012, for the odor control for the West Maui Reclamation, the kukae plant down there by Honokowai. I think with all this added development going on in West Maui, all these hotels, I, I really feel that they should be paying a fair share of that. I mean that's. . .you know, the worst thing about is when they flush their toilet, it's going right across the street, where all of us in Lahaina gotta go all the way down the road there. So we, we're the ones that's gonna be suffering, yet they're adding such large volumes to that, that particular infrastructure. So, I just think that some. . .they should be assessed something every time they build something or count how many toilets they get or whatever. . .that that's that smell that you smell when you go by there. It's, it seem like I never noticed it so much until the timeshares all got built.

So anyway, that's my three cents. Even I get an extra penny on there for the budget reasons, instead of the two cents, but. . .thank you very much.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay. Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you very much. Hans Michel, followed by Stacie Thorlakson.

MR. MICHEL: Hello, Council Members, Chair. A very short story over here. Kapunakea Camp to Front Street, from Honoapiilani Highway needs to have road pavement done--the side by Safeway. Help Jo Anne Johnson because she needs help on that. Kenui Street got paved a couple of years ago into Front Street, and they didn't have enough pavement or little bit extra for fix that short piece. I mean that's something which needs to be looked on. That's the small item.

The bigger items is over here where the State Department will take Keawe Street. Keawe Street is a big concern and I will show you these three pictures, these three pictures over here. . .all flood out. I'd like them three back because Wednesday night we have a meeting here. These three pictures I'd like back tonight because we have a meeting with the Highway Department and I'd like to show 'em because when they come around, it's usually dry over there. The place is flooded, got flood out in the last rain and I happen to caught that, and so lucky I had my camera with me and I shot the pictures. That's why we have a little proof over there. My concern is now how far will the State go down with the Keawe Street extension? Will it go all the way into Honoapiilani Highway or will it stop on the train track where all the water stucks?

CHAIR PONTANILLA: We don't have anybody from the Planning Department or Public Works, but we can get that information for you.

MR. MICHEL: Yeah, you try do that because we no like get shortchanged, you know? The Honoapiilani Highway into Keawe Street needs to have a 45 in the road, not a

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90, because you have an elbow, you can make the turn. In other words if, if a trucker comes, he cannot make the turn over there. That's a modification the State people have to look into it; otherwise, you going to have problem. And all the problem we have over there, we need to have a light signalization like Lahainaluna Road. The way you have it now, it's not functional because people come from Longs Drugs going into Keawe for the new shopping center. It will not give the people a chance to turn into Lahaina town. It's not working, the traffic light, it's--so who going pay for that, the County or the State?

Okay. Now, make it short. I tell you one thing about the flood channel, yeah. Here I have, I have all the pictures--you guys can see--I get the numbers, you can look at 'em, make sure we have enough funding to move the flood channel all the way till Lahainaluna Road. This is all where the water comes from, from above. . .from the Estate, Bishop Estate in the old cane field, into the housing if it overflows. Then if you need more picture, I think you can ask Zeke Kalua because him and I one time went through the rain and we had quite a good collection. So, just so you can see what you guys are looking for. And that's about actually all. And then I think it looks alright, as long as it's high and dry in Lahaina. I give those pictures to you and maybe Jo Anne Johnson can then maybe bring it back to Lahaina, yeah, so you guys can see what, what I have in here from up Lahainaluna side. 'Cause the State has a plan--I mean, excuse me, Department of Education is planning, but when do you think the shuffle, that we never know. So that's the problem, you know, so no guarantee something going to get. . .*(inaudible)*. . . So I give that to, to you?

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Yeah. We'll make copies for everyone.

MR. MICHEL: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . The State guys are nice guys, but remember, they never come when it rains, yeah.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: . . .*(chuckle)*. . .

MR. MICHEL: . . .*(chuckle)*. . . So. . .no, you see that it's important, we got stuck, and if we don't fix that--and, and the water happens to come from Hawaiian Home Lands.

MR. GEERS: Three minutes.

MR. MICHEL: Yeah, okay. Hawaiian Home Lands, the water, it's not from, from the industrial park water. It is from Hawaiian Home Lands coming down to the old cane field and then come down and gets down here, and the rest will go behind the new shopping center, follow the train track. Okay, gentlemen, ladies, thank you--

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

MR. MICHEL: --for your time.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Members, any questions for Mr. Michel? Thank you again, Hans, for being here. Stacie Thorlakson, followed by Bruce Erfer.

MS. THORLAKSON: Good evening, Council Members. My name is Stacie Thorlakson and I'm here representing Lahaina Bypass Now. First of all, on behalf of Lahaina Bypass Now (LBN), we want to say thank you so very much for the years of support that you have included with funding in your budgets. With your help, your contribution to the . . .our end result, we have seen a lot of projects come forward, and we thank you. Together we have significantly increased our bus ridership, networking of roads and road improvements, plus creating a walk and bike pathway for a healthier and safer mode of transportation for our residents and visitors.

Overall, LBN is appreciative of the proposed budget for bus stops and shelters, Shaw Street sidewalks, Mill Street extension, and other funds allocated to help improve our West Maui community.

Today our top priorities are the Lahaina Village Bus Route, Wahikuli Trail, and create a Green Master County Plan.

LBN still needs funding for a reverse Lahaina Village Bus Route with an estimated operating cost of \$350K. This bus route is mostly common used in any effort to acquire appropriate funding for this route would be beneficial for our residents and visitors. We continue to work with the Department of Transportation, and your contribution would be graciously appreciated.

Another project that we still need funding for is the Wahikuli Trail. We appreciate the funds allocated last year in the Department of Parks and Recreation for the design, but we ask for your support to allocate appropriate construction funds to complete the trail. This walk path continues to gain more exposure for pedestrians as an alternative mode of transportation.

Lastly, LBN is working on a Greenway, Greenway Plan. Subsequently, State DOT is drafting their pedestrian and bike master plan(s). And we look forward to working with the Maui County to create a master Greenway County Plan. Lahaina Bypass Now is committed to accelerating the development of an effective regional transportation system for West Maui through a collaboration and cooperative approach. Thank you for your time.

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

MS. THORLAKSON: Thank you. Oh, and we will be supporting the TAT on the negative.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

MS. THORLAKSON: Alright.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Bruce Erfer, followed by Georgia Hollis.

MR. ERFER: Good evening. First of all, I'd like to say that you have a difficult job, especially hearing all these social needs. It's hard to talk about sidewalks and streets after hearing some of these stories.

But anyway, I see an analogy with the County and the family who has a leaking roof, but spends the needed repair money on a new truck. The County continues to allocate money for new toys: tennis courts, park improvements, skateboard parks. I may get booed by somebody, but, but they do this, you do this while ignoring the need to first repair and improve the most basic components of our infrastructure, particularly those dealing with real safety and the movement of our citizens. I've testified in favor of the bus system in the past and I still think it's terrific. But these new toys also come with a lifetime of repair and maint..., maintenance as well. It will be two years in June since our neighborhood application for speed bumps along one short street was approved. We still have no idea when these street bumps will be installed. It's been more than 25 years since the County allowed a substandard Puukolii Road to become the only ingress/egress road to the several developments on the hillside above Kaanapali Resort. This road has no sidewalk and the myriad of pedestrians must walk on this narrow road as the terrain allows no alternative. After years of trying to get Puukolii repaved and dedicated to the County, recently 300 feet of the 4/5^{ths} of a mile road was repaved, 300 feet. I also. . .someone also mentioned this evening that half the road up to the Civic Center has been paved about 2 ½ years, 2 years ago, I'm not sure when, but half, half the road's been paved, not the other half. Public Works originally asked for \$80,000 of private monies to enable the repaving of, of the entire Puukolii Road. It begged that figure up to \$86,000 and then paved 300 feet, approximately 7 feet of the entire. . .7 percent of the entire road. Within a week of repaving the 300 feet, the County crew was out fixing more potholes, some as close as 8 inches from where the repaving stopped. It's incredible. Many of us feel we've been deceived and duped regarding the use of our private monies which were contributed by Kaanapali Land Management and

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the County's commitment regarding the resurfacing of Puukolii. And I hate to put the onus on Councilmember Mateo, but his letter to me of March 12, 2007 states, "Attached is Director Milton Arakawa's response which basically states that if the private entity would like to pay for the 2-inch resurfacing at an estimated cost of \$80,000, the Department of Public Works can coordinate the work with their scheduled paving of the entire County portion." Now we ask, when will the remainder of this road be paved and the long-overdue sidewalk be installed? Interestingly, I believe it was--I'm not sure--this Kalama Park that very recently had a half million dollar sidewalk or walkway installed throughout the park. How can a park need a sidewalk more than along a major feeder road when pedestrians must walk on this road service? Parks is supposed to be green and streets are supposed to have sidewalks.

MR. GEERS: Three minutes.

MR. ERFER: Puukolii--that's it. But I also want to mention the \$300,000 for West Maui road repair is just, is just so minimal, it's ridiculous.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for Mr. Erfer at this time? Seeing none, thank you again for being here. Georgia Hollis. Georgia Hollis? Jazmin Tinsley.

MS. TINSLEY: Good evening and thank you so much for having me. I'm the Project Manager for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Maui County. I want to start off by thanking all of you for being here and for supporting us the way you have thus far. I'm going to start off also with stating our mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters and then going into detail of what that entails for us. The mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Maui is to help children reach their potential through professionally supported one-to-one relationships with mentors that have immeasurable impact on youth. So talking about immeasurable impact on youth. . .unfortunately, in this day and age with the economy and the way that it, that it is, it's a little bit more challenging to, to reach that potential. We do our very best. We have an amazing staff and amazing board members, but it's taking a little bit more now.

So with that being said, I just want to go over the programs that we currently offer. We have our Community-Based Program which is the mentoring one-to-one program, an amazing program that entails volunteers going out and hanging out with the children, helping them reach their educational potential, basically giving them anything and everything that they need in their power with the help of Big Brothers Big Sisters to make sure that they're, you know, they're safe and happy and we're filling a void for them.

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We have our After School/Mentoring Program which is in Wailuku, Makawao, Lahaina, Molokai, Kihei, Hana and as of April 30th, we are proudly going to be on Lanai. Lunch Buddies as well, this is a program that we have volunteers go and have lunch with the children and just hangout with them basically.

Other programs are Meth 360, which is a meth prevention program that is geared towards adults, community members, and children as well. We also have TIFFE Parent, Parent Nurturing Classes which is for families affected by substance abuse. Also, Amachi which is a new program that works with children of incarcerated parents. So that is huge for us as well.

So with that being said, it's taking so much more for us to reach these children. We have the, the mentors taking classes on substance abuse prevention for the children. Unfortunately, it's coming up at a very young age for them. We also have them in classes for sexual abuse prevention. So basically there's a lot more going into it for us and for our volunteers and for our children. They're not only coming in for, you know, guidance now. They're coming in because they're hungry and they need shoes.

So we ask for your full support in knowing that we're doing everything that we can right now, but that the needs are becoming more and more immense, and with that we need more and more support from you. So thank you so much for having us and hearing us out, and thank you for your support going forward.

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

MS. TINSLEY: Thank you very much.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Mike Soweri, Soweri. Mike? Tamara Paltin.

MS. PALTIN: Hi, good evening. I got a couple stuff on the agenda tonight.

First, I want to thank you for coming to the west side to hear us, and also thank you for a couple of years ago allocating \$1 million of the Open Space Fund to Save Honolua, and I would just like to request that that still stays in the budget. We're still. . .the Mayor and Maui Land & Pine are still in negotiations, so it's not a dead issue. So if you could just keep it in there, we're still working on it.

Also, as I was standing up before with Kalani about the Ka Ipu Kukui Program as well, and through the course of that program we were fortunate enough to go to the Wastewater Treatment Plant in Lahaina. And I'd like to second what Mr. Erfer said about the toys. I noticed in the prior budget there was about

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\$2 million for the Lahaina Civic Tennis Courts. We've got perfectly good tennis courts in Napili that never get used. And then there's another 750,000 in this year's Fiscal Year for tennis courts, whereas all the Lahaina Wastewater Reclamation Facilities are like. . . I see big 0's, 2010 through 2013, and to me that's critical, you know. Maui County is always looking for water and that's a guaranteed source of water that's currently being pumped into injection wells, destroying our reef. And with the whole recreational renaissance that the State is investing into, the environment is the economy and so much reefs are being destroyed by the invasive algae which is being fed by the nutrients. This is something that needs to be done sooner than later before it's too late. We don't know what's going to cause the reef ecosystem to collapse. So, I mean tennis courts can be put on the backburner, but the reefs are in sorry shape right now and it needs the money right now, and to me just give Steve Parabolicoli everything he wants because I mean. . . reclaimed [*sic*] water can be used for irrigation, you don't need to divert stream water, it kills like five birds with one stone. And it's, it's just commonsense, you know. They have the technology to make it drinking water, but I know a lot of people are adverse to that, even myself, I wouldn't feel that good, but for irrigation, for fire hydrants, even like if you guys could change the plumbing laws which haven't been changed since like maybe the '70s so that in all kind of new houses they can use reclaimed [*sic*] water for toilets, you know, close the lid, don't let your dogs drink out of the toilet. And I mean that right now that's illegal to do because of the Plumbing Code or whatever. So, I mean just little things like that if you guys could just keep an eye on that and, and move away from tennis courts with this economic downturn, I mean.

Also for Honolua, too, I, I ran into couple construction workers out of, out of work and they're saying surfing is keeping them off crack and like that, some of the guys are going into crack, whatever. But if, if we can save Honolua and keep it, the reefs nice and like that and keep the guy surfing instead of doing drugs, that also, I think, would help our community as well.

MR. GEERS: Three minutes.

MS. PALTIN: That's about it.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you very much. I know it's late. . . .(*chuckle*). . .

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Tony McComas, followed by Gilberto Sanchez.

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MR. McCOMAS: Thank you all very much, and it is getting late. Thank you for your patience and your time. We really appreciate you guys hanging out and getting a chance to listen to everybody. I'm a Board Member for the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Maui and as Jazmin came up here earlier and spoke about our, our mission statement, I, I kind of wanted to kind of go off of that a little bit. And, and our organization here on Maui as well as throughout the United States is based on mentoring, one-to-one mentoring with children and, you know, I ask you to think about, you know, those who mentored you to get where you are today. And ironically because this was supposed to be done on the 19th, my mentor is here today, my dad actually. . .(chuckle). . .he didn't even know I was going to mention him, but he's from Southern California here and he was the one who shaped me through my life. And these children that we have coming into our. . .our organization are being shaped, you know, in a positive manner and being able to stay off drugs and, and get a better education and do all these things. I could go on and on about stories, but the most important thing for us is to make sure that we're bringing in individuals, adults, mentors, who are good for these children. And part of that is we do background checks and, and make sure that, that each of the individuals that come in have a clean history and are able to provide a child with the services they need to grow in their education and, and as well as, you know, social. . .those sort of things.

So, I do want to mention that this year is the 40th anniversary for Big Brothers Big Sisters on Maui and we'll be having a shindig later in the summer, which we will definitely invite you all to, but just as an opportunity for us to kind of showcase our programs and services to the community--nothing crazy. But, you know. . .and, and as you know, everybody's mentioned it tonight, economic downturn, blah, blah, blah, it is what it is, but it is bringing more children to our services which require us to service more.

So we just ask that you continue to support us. We really appreciate everything that you do for the community, and thank you very much for your time this evening.

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

MR. McCOMAS: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Gilberto Sanchez, followed by Rodger Coombs.

MR. SANCHEZ: Good evening, my name is Gilberto Sanchez. I want to talk about something in the west side (*inaudible*), MEO. MEO is helping a lot about. . .in the west side.

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The Head Start Program is one of the very important programs that we have in Lahaina, and is actually. . .we need more support for the Head Start. What I mentioned before is we need to remember also for the coming. . .the kick, the kids for what we have right now, the kids, what, we going represent maybe the next ten years maybe they going be sitting down where you guys are right now. And we need to have very good representatives in the community giving them their best we can, like, community. The Enlace Hispano also.

So on three, three things I see over here in Lahaina. The Head Start from the MEO; Enlace Hispano, they're helping over here every three, three times a week, coming over here helping a lot of people, making everybody successful. . .helping them whatever the need and the needs for the. . .

And also the sen..., the seniors. I'm talking about some people from the MEO and they mentioned to me they have about 300 employees, and in 44 years 300 employees giving jobs everyday I think is very important. And right now I know the economics is very hard, and the seniors is about 5 to 8,000 people serving MEO a year, and I think it's gorgeous.

One of the things that is very important for me is let's go keep it on. I don't know how, but maybe it's a proposal, maybe you guys can. . .*(inaudible)*. . .like everybody say, but I think the cooperation is for everybody. And Obama came and even making remarks for each person and. . .in the government to cooperate with the budget. And I know many people, they are requesting. . .some people they're requesting increasing the budget, some people they're requesting more better pay. I think we no have the opportunity to do that in this year. We have very hard time in the whole community.

And each of you guys--I'm not sure if you guys agree with me--but maybe you can guys can make the example. I don't know. . .you guys, whatever you guys make, bring maybe in the, in the table \$1,000 for each person, of you guys and to bring one more job. . .they make it, the community change. And this side of Lahaina, sometimes we feel insulated. We no have too much support in this side. It's not the same as Wailuku, Kahului, or Kihei because you guys see it everyday. But Lahaina, most of the time, is we feel alone.

MR. GEERS: Three minutes.

MR. SANCHEZ: So the more important thing for me is maybe you guys want to think about it is cutting the budgets, making the example in the County, yourselves. Thank you.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Thank you for being here. Rodger Coombs. Keri Kalilikane.

MS. KALILIKANE: Aloha, I'm Keri Kalilikane and I'm here today on behalf of Hale Mahaolu's Homeownership and Housing Counseling Program to ask for your continued support of our program. With the assistance of the County of Maui, the Hale Mahaolu Homeownership and Housing Counseling Program has been able to continue to provide counseling services in the area of homebuyer's education for first-time homebuyers, reverse mortgage counseling for homeowners 62 and older, and mortgage delinquency and foreclosure prevention counseling. Over the past six months, our program has seen a great increase in the need for mortgage delinquency counseling and project the need to continue or increase over the next year. Your continued support of this program would be greatly appreciated.

Additionally, I'd also like to ask for your support of MEO's Transportation Program. They provide a much needed service to all of the residents at our Hale Mahaolu housing sites throughout the County of Maui. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Chair.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Member Baisa?

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you, Chair. Just a quick question. You mentioned you've seen a huge. . . --(CHANGE OF TAPE, Start 3A)-- . . . I'm curious, how good is your success rate when you help people with this? Are they losing homes, are you able to prevent some of that?

MS. KALILIKANE: To this point. . .to explain the increase that we've seen in fisc..., last fiscal year, we had a total of 13 clients throughout the whole year. This fiscal year up until the end of February we've had 47 clients. So that's a great increase in people who need this type of counseling, and our success rate at this point has been pretty good. Unfortunately, we do have some people, clients who come to us two days before foreclosure option. So obviously we really can't help them in that manner, but we have been able to. . .if not save the house, we've been able to negotiate with the lenders to at least give them an extension of time in order to try and look for alternatives. Recently with the Making Homes Affordable Program that President Obama has come out, because they are also offering a refinance program for those who are not yet delinquent, I've had a great number of calls of people inquiring about that program and whether or not we'll be able to assist them, which we, we would.

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COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you very much. You know at the FACE Conference, we heard a lot about the people that are falling into foreclosure and it appeared that one of the things that everybody decided was that we had to do a lot more in this area of foreclosure prevention, and it appears that there's a huge need for educating the public that help is available.

MS. KALILIKANE: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Because like you said, most of them come to you when it's too late. . .

MS. KALILIKANE: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: . . .and I don't know how we get the message out because the, the. . .the advertisements we see on television. . .

MS. KALILIKANE: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: . . .tend to be the sharks. . .

MS. KALILIKANE: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: . . .that really want to make money off of these people, but really don't want to spend the time and do what you do in order to get this mortgage modification or whatever it is they need.

MS. KALILIKANE: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: So, I don't know how we're going to get the word out, but if there. . .you know, it's, I think it's some place we need to put some effort and some money because if we don't stop these foreclosures, I don't want to see the tsunami of homelessness. . .

MS. KALILIKANE: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: . . .that we're going to deal with, which is worse.

MS. KALILIKANE: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: So, I want to thank you very much for what you do.

MS. KALILIKANE: Thank you.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any more questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you. Jeri Manucci. Jeri Manucci? Glenn Manucci. Jessica Kailani Rose, Ross.

MS. ROSS: Aloha mai kakou.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aloha.

MS. ROSS: Mahalo for being in Lahaina and being patient with all of us. It's exciting to hear all of these wonderful things going on, and I know it's a difficult job you have to arrange this budget.

I'm coming to you as a representative for Leialii Homeowners Association, and we have successfully met with the County, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, and HHFDC to work out a plan to start developing a playground for our community. We came up with a punch list of to dos and one of which, the first of which is to come before you tonight to request funding to be set aside for a future conceptual plan development once our three parties have come up with a plan. They're currently meeting and are looking for which site the land agreement to develop this playground. And so at some time in the near future we will return to request funding for a conceptual plan for this playground. So at this time we're informing you to please set aside money for that. And that was the end of my speech.

But hearing all of these wonderful testimonies and knowing the job you have to do, I would like to embellish a little bit because this sounds so manini. But the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands is empowering their communities to be more responsible as beneficiaries for Hawaiian Home Lands, and we have a fantastic opportunity in Leialii. It's very likely that we'll be inheriting a huge acreage of the HHFDC lands--that's premature to say so--but we are as a community envisioning the development of a community center that incorporates business offices for many of these communities, nonprofit community services like--I don't have the list of names in front of me. But one community member said that we feel isolated and this is so true, and we want to bring offices for our MEO, for Big Brothers and Big Sisters, for Queen Liliuokalani, OHA. All these agencies are all located on Kahului, in Wailuku side, and we have to drive so far to reach these services. An additional Boys and Girls Club is number one on their list, a youth service center. We have a fabulous youth service center, but I just asked Don Couch, are you able to service all the children? No. Do you have to turn some away? Yes. And so we look to develop that as well. So our conceptual plan at this time is for a playground, but we're hoping that that will grow into a huge community center, and the plan is still evolving as, as we meet

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and talk. So we hope to come back to request funding for a conceptual plan that includes many, many things. That's all.

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

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Mr. Chairman. And thank you for your testimony, for your mana`o this evening. Do you have any idea the approximate cost of just the playground project?

MS. ROSS: Project. Just the playground or the project? . . .*(chuckle)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: No, just the playground. . . .*(chuckle)*. . .

MS. ROSS: Okay, just the playground. After looking at catalogs. . .around \$100,000 for toddler to adult.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Alright. And is Hawaiian Home Lands contributing any funds towards that project?

MS. ROSS: Those options are available through grants, implementation grants, also through. . .their Planning Department employees.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay. Is your contact information with our staff there? You signed up for your testimony?

MS. ROSS: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay. Alright. Well, thank you for your testimony this evening.

MS. ROSS: Thank you for the opportunity.

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

MS. ROSS: Aloha.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --for being here.

MS. ROSS: Aloha.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Aloha. Butch Soares.

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MR. SOARES: I got here half an hour late, so I didn't hear everybody. But in listening for two hours, I've come to the conclusion that you nine people are special. The only reason I say that is in order to accomplish your project of this budget, you need to have the wisdom of Solomon and the creativity of David Copperfield.

AUDIENCE: . . . *(chuckle)* . . .

MR. SOARES: Okay. Having said that, I'm, I'm representing myself this evening as a member of the community, and I have three things that are really sensitive to me.

Number one is. . .and I've, I've come before you for the last five or six years with the same issue, and I'm hoping that as I look at the budget and I see that there's \$150,000 appropriated for the, this particular gym, I'm hoping that's, that's to convert the gym to be qualified to be an emergency shelter. Is that what that 150,000 is for?

CHAIR PONTANILLA: I understand it's for some retrofit for this building, but we can get that information to you.

MR. SOARES: Okay. And as I explained, you know, over the years, I'm sure you're all aware, the three emergency shelters for West Maui are up at Lahainaluna and Princess Nahienaena. So you're going to have 25,000 people going up Lahainaluna Road in an emergency, and I don't see that happening every other day at school only for 500. So it'll be a little chaotic. Enough said on this. And I'm, I'm sensitive because I was on the Fire Commission for the last five years and I've listened to the Civil Defense Director and whatever his opinions were is certainly his. I share a different opinion.

The second, the second point is. . .in listening to different people and reading the paper, I know you folks are dealing with the Fire Department at this time, and I don't know if the Police have come and gone. But my recommendation is that whatever those two departments have asked for funding for, for support of their Department, my recommendation is I would say support them. As other people have mentioned, we, we hear a lot of stories about different toys for, for the community. You know, when you call 911, you, you're not wanting somebody to come with a toy. They gotta come with some equipment that can be able to handle the emergency. Okay. And, and that also represents the fact that, you know, West Maui we're sort of circular, you know, people that go. . .once they pass the tunnel they forgot we're here, other than they wait for the, they wait for the next window envelope for our property taxes, which leads me to the third issue.

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...Because I'm getting at the point in my life where all of a sudden my, my economic values are a little different, my property taxes continue to go up substantially. It went up 400 percent in the last five years. So, I have a piece of property that's worth \$1 million, but if you want a view, you lay on the grass and you can see the sun. So that's the view I have for \$1 million. But I'm willing to, I'm willing to sell it to anybody for a million bucks.

MR. GEERS: Three minutes.

MR. SOARES: But anyway, really you, you guys gotta look at property taxes very, very seriously because a lot of people are, you know, just on the bubble. Thank you for your time.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier this evening? Thank you very much, Butch, for being here. And the last person to sign up for testimony this evening is Stuart Kahan. Thank you for being here at this late hour, Stuart.

MR. KAHAN: Aloha, my name is Stuart Kahan. I want to thank you, Chairman Pontanilla, and all the rest of the Finance Committee for being here and having us listen. I'm still the last guy, so here we go. I've got a few things. One is the continued support of the infrastructure for the west side of Maui, particularly the roads at, at corners. It's not the whole road, it's like just at the corner of Kenui and Front Street or Papalaua at Front Street, and Shaw Street and Front Street, and Prison Street and Front Street. So right along that corridor there are sections that need improvement.

Your continued support of MEO, of course, is, is wonderful. We love your support and we need, we need to let you know that. And as you saw, sir, from tonight we had plenty.

The third thing is the Community Work Day Program, your continued support of that would be much appreciated. Thank you very much and aloha.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Stuart. Members, any questions for the testifier this evening? Seeing none, again, Members, Stuart was the last person to sign up for public testimony. Um...I'm sorry, I thought I called him earlier. Gregg Nelson. Mr. Nelson, is the last person to testify this evening.

MR. NELSON: Aloha, Chairman Pontanilla and Committee Members. We really do appreciate you being here. I'll keep my comments very, very brief.

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I am General Manager of a resort way up north of here called Napili Kai, but I am also a member of the Board for the Maui Hotel and Lodging Association. And I just want to put in a pitch for the Maui Visitors Bureau budget. I think it's extremely important, especially after hearing all of the testimony and presentations this evening, that we keep that budget intact. It's vital as a source of revenue generation for all of the other nonprofits and the social programs that we have going on in our County that we keep this going. I know in my hotel, even though it's tough times right now, my sales and marketing budget is the last thing I would ever cut. I spend on average about 5 to \$600,000 a year on marketing and sales and advertising. And I hope that you will maintain that in the budget, and drive home safely tonight.

We really do appreciate you being here. You have a tough job ahead of you, and thank you for all you do for Maui. Aloha.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Mr. Nelson. I'd just like to ask. . .well, a request from your organization, that you support the County of Maui in trying to defeat that Senate bill as well as that House bill taking away our transient accommodation tax. We'd appreciate it.

MR. NELSON: Yes. Like, like Zeke, I'm on the West Maui Taxpayers Board, and I have submitted testimony, also, myself. I think that is the. . .a. . . an act of desperation over there in Honolulu and we cannot tolerate it.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

MR. NELSON: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: For Mr. Soares' information, I, I got a note from our Staff that the funds for the Lahaina Civic Center Gym improvement is more for insulation and automated retractable bleachers on the east end of the gym. So, I thought we had some monies to retrofit some receptacles around here.

So Mr. Nelson was the last person to testify this evening. Is there anyone out there that wants to provide public testimony at this time? We do have one person that want to provide public testimony. If you can come forward, state your name, organization that you represent, and once you are done with your testimony if you can sign up with the Staff on my right--

MS. GALLANT: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --so that we have a record of you providing testimony.

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MS. GALLANT: Thank you. I had, I had no intention to testify tonight, but Bruce keeps challenging me on the tennis court situation. . . .*(chuckle)*. . . Tennis keeps taking it on the chin as if it is a luxury item and a separate community, but it is not. It is part of every community. And I'm here to ask that the funds reserved for repairs and construction remain. Your foresight in including the repair and expansion of tennis facilities on Maui will prove visionary. Because recently, Governor Lingle and the Department of Land and Natural Resources proposed a recreational renaissance to improve and expand public facilities over the next five years. This makes sense because the recession is at our door and sports, particularly free and inexpensive sports, like tennis, are more in demand. If you look into past research states, the research states that even during the Great Depression public facilities like tennis courts, municipal golf courses, beaches and pools were crowded and thrived. Recognizing this, Franklin Delano Roosevelt under his new deal and through his Works Progress Administration built tennis courts and municipal golf courses around the country to offset the closing of private facilities. It is no different from today. We are facing our own recession. We see our public tennis courts as one of Maui's most valuable recreational assets, and ask that as you ponder your budget cuts and your current budgets, that you remain committed to the improvements begun, complete the construction agreed upon, and remember that sports has always been the resource most, most worth improving during hard economic times, especially as private facilities close and people look for less expensive and more available public offerings. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. And if you can state your name and the organization--

MS. GALLANT: I'm--

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --that you represent?

MS. GALLANT: I'm sorry. My name's Elaine Gallant and I'm with the Maui District Tennis Association.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Elaine, I just wanted to let you know that the money that's going to pay for the tennis courts is coming from Park Assessment. That goes into a special fund that cannot be used for roadway projects or anything else. It's reserved specifically for parks projects and capital improvement projects, and as envious as other people may be of what's in the Park Assessment for West Maui, it is reserved for our parks.

MS. GALLANT: Hallelujah.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you.

MS. GALLANT: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Any more questions, Members? Thank you very much.

MS. GALLANT: Thank you very much. Good night.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Is there anyone else that want to provide public testimony at this time?

...END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY...

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Seeing none, this meeting is now adjourned. ...*(gavel)*...

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.

ADJOURN: 9:10 p.m.

APPROVED:


JOSEPH PONTANILLA, Chair
Budget and Finance Committee

bf:min:090330-Lahaina

Transcribed by: Tammy M. Frias