

# **BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Council of the County of Maui**

## **MINUTES**

**April 9, 2009**

### **Lanai High and Elementary School Cafeteria**

**CONVENE:** 6:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councilmember Joseph Pontanilla, Chair  
Councilmember Gladys C. Baisa, Member  
Councilmember Sol P. Kaho`ohalahala, Member  
Councilmember Bill Kauakea Medeiros, Member  
Councilmember Michael J. Molina, Member  
Councilmember Wayne K. Nishiki, Member  
Councilmember Michael P. Victorino, Member

**EXCUSED:** Councilmember Danny A. Mateo, Vice-Chair  
Councilmember Jo Anne Johnson, Member

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

Denise Fernandez, Council Aide, Lanai Council Office

**OTHERS:** Nancy Tamashiro, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. Senior Club  
Lorraine Dyer, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. Senior Club  
Edwin Magaoay, Kumpang Lanai, Coalition for a Drug Free Lanai  
Joelle Aki, Kumpang Lanai, Coalition for a Drug Free Lanai  
Dr. Sharie Liden, Kumpang Lanai, Coalition for a Drug Free Lanai  
Waynette Kwon, Lanai Visitors Bureau/Maui Visitors Bureau  
Diane Irons, Lanai Youth Center  
Regina Agliam, Lanai Youth Center  
Desmond Ige, Lanai Youth Center  
Traci Ige, Lanai Youth Center  
Jody Ige, Lanai Youth Center  
Kristi Caberto, Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance  
Brandon Agliam, E Malama I Na Keiki O Lanai Preschool  
Pua Paoa, Kumpang Lanai, Coalition for a Drug Free Lanai  
Alton Aoki, Lanai Seidokan Judo/ Kumpang Lanai, Coalition for a Drug Free Lanai  
Beverly Zigmond, Women Helping Women  
Stacey M. Purdy, E Malama I Na Keiki O Lanai Preschool

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Gail Shin, Program Administrator, E Malama I Na Keiki O Lanai Preschool  
Stacey Moniz, Director, Women Helping Women  
Cindy Cline, Deputy Director, Women Helping Women  
Ron McOmber  
Jessalyn R. Taal, E Malama I Na Keiki O Lanai Preschool  
Alexandra Palumbo, Maui and Lanai Visitors Bureau/ E Malama I Na Keiki O  
Lanai Preschool  
John Ornellas  
Butch Gima  
Christine Costales, Lanaihale Forest and Watershed Project  
Rose Ling Simon, E Malama I Na Keiki O Lanai Preschool  
Pat Reilly  
Riki Hokama  
Alberta deJetley, Vice-President, Kumpang Lanai, Coalition for a Drug Free  
Lanai  
Lori Kehrberg  
Jim Johnson, Castle & Cooke Inc. (videographer)  
(34) Additional attendees

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: ...*(gavel)*... I'd like to call to order the Council Budget and Finance Committee meeting for April the 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at the Lanai High and Elementary School Cafeteria to order. Good evening, everyone.

AUDIENCE: Good evening.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you for having us here this evening. At this time, I'd like to yield the floor to Councilmember Sol Koha...Kaho`ohalahala who will provide us the introduction of the Members that are present for tonight's meeting. Sol.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO`OHALAHALA: Thank you, Budget Chair. Let me start with the introduction of the Committee Members that are here tonight. At the very...my very far left would be Councilmember Michael Victorino who's from the Wailuku area of Maui. And then next to him is Council Member from the South Maui, Kihei area, this is Member Wayne Nishiki.

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

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COUNCILMEMBER KAHO`OHALAHALA: Yeah, thank you. And then we have from East Maui, Member Bill Kauakea Medeiros.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Aloha.

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

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO`OHALAHALA: And then from the Upcountry area of Maui we have Member Gladys Baisa.

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

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO`OHALAHALA: And then to my right from the North Shore of Maui we have Member Michael Molina.

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

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO`OHALAHALA: And then from the Central part of Maui, the Chairman of our Finance Committee...Budget and Finance Committee, Member Joseph Pontanilla.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you very much, Sol. And tonight I'd like to introduce the staff that is supporting the Budget and Finance Committee this evening. We do have Kim Willenbrink. Kim is the Legislative Analyst. And also Clarita Balala who is our Committee Secretary.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Excused for tonight's meeting is our Council Chairman, Mr. Danny Mateo, as well as Councilmember Jo Anne Johnson.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Tonight it is your opportunity to present to us your comments regarding the Mayor's Proposed 2010 Budget. Just a few ground rules for public...people that are providing public testimony. You're going to have three minutes to provide your testimony. If you can provide us with your name and organization that you represent, the Committee would appreciate that. As soon as you complete your

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testimony though, if you could stay a while because some of the Members may have questions for you. But before we start with public testimony, if everyone can turn off or put their cell phone to the silent mode. Thank you.

Ladies and gentlemen, you know, as we go to different district meetings throughout Maui County, you know, as a Council...as the Chairman of this Committee I've been make...making some statements in regards to what's happening in the State Legislature. If you read the paper, there's a possibility that our transient accommodation tax may be suspended for six years and we're encouraging, you know, the public...the people...you folks, to contact our Representatives, as well as our Senators to voice your concerns in regards to the repealing of or suspending of the transient accommodation tax for the different counties here in the State of Hawaii.

What that does...what it means for Maui County is \$18 million and the proposed budget that is being presented by the Mayor includes that \$18 million. So it is very important that, you know, we contact our Legislators in the State to voice our concerns in regards to not taking away the TAT for each of the counties – Maui County, Kauai County, Hawaii County, as well as the City...City and County of Honolulu. And that \$18 million, like I say, is all...already included in the Mayor's Budget. If it does go away, then we'll have to make adjustments. You know, we're looking at different things as far as we're trying to meet our objectives in creating a sound budget for the County of Maui.

So with that, Members, we'll go directly to public testimony. The first person to sign up for public testimony is Nancy Tamashiro.

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

MS. TAMASHIRO: Thank you so much for coming. We know that it has not been an easy trip for you today. So thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you for coming. I'm Nancy Tamashiro. I'm representing the MEO Senior Club. . . .*(Several members of the MEO Senior Club stood up)*. . . This is part of that. . . .*(applause)*. . . But we have over 240 members. Okay. Thank you for...in the beginning thank you for supporting MEO in the past. Through your support we have a new 14-seat bus which arrived today and I am telling you I have not been on it but the people are saying it is magnificent. It has a . . .*(applause)*. . . it has a DVD player, and you have comfortable seats, and we couldn't happier so thank you, thank you, thank you for that.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Nancy, could you use the microphone, please? Thank you.

MS. TAMASHIRO: Let's see. Now, this...the bus enables more passengers to ride to the weekly nutrition program to provide transportation for those who need help shopping on Lanai. We greatly appreciate the support you have given us providing bus transportation for the semi-monthly shopping trips to Maui. . . .(applause). . . We beg you to continue this support and we thank you for the understanding and compassion that you have shown to the senior citizens on Lanai. . . .(applause). . .

May I please address one more issue?

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Go ahead.

MS. TAMASHIRO: Now this is for the Senior Services Aide. Bernie Ohashi was not able to be here tonight so I agreed to speak for her. Bernie is the Senior Services Aide for information and referral services on Lanai. The goal being to keep kupuna in their homes.

Bernie services 50 people. She does assessments for Kupuna Care for the Maui County Office of Aging. She arranges for home delivered meals. She assists with transportation. She arranges for homemaking services. She arranges chore services. She assists with personal care. Bernie has been doing all these things since January 3, 2006. Now that's over three years.

MS. WILLENBRINK: Three minutes.

MS. TAMASHIRO: She does not have a permanent position. She has no benefits. No health insurance is provided for her. So we beg that the community [*sic*] members to be fair to Bernie and make her position permanent. She doesn't...I mean all these things she does but she works at her own with the old folks, too. So we beg you make her position permanent. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

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

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COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Yes, can you please tell us who is she employed by?

MS. TAMASHIRO: Oh, I believe...now, I believe, okay, that it's the Maui County Office of Aging. Is that...does that make sense to you?

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Could be.

MS. TAMASHIRO: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Probably under Kaunoa. No?

MS. TAMASHIRO: No, I don't believe so.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: So you think it's Office on Aging. Okay. 'Cause we need to know where to look.

MS. TAMASHIRO: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Okay.

MS. TAMASHIRO: I totally believe that that's where it is – Maui County Office on Aging.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: All right. Thank you.

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

MS. TAMASHIRO: Thank you so much.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Next testifier is Lorraine Dyer.

MS. DYER: I'm Lorraine Dyer and I also represent. . .

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Put the mic on. The mic's not on or she's not using it. Try and get closer.

MS. DYER: Okay. I'm Lorraine Dyer and I also represent the MEO...Lanai MEO Senior Club. I'm the President. And also we wish to thank you for our – the Council and the Mayor – for what we have already received from MEO, our buses, our transportation, our trips to Maui which are...the

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twice a month trips are greatly appreciated and it's greatly needed for our seniors, especially the Wednesday trip so we can go to the Farmer's Market and purchase our, you know, with the Farmer coupons that's coming up and purchase fruits and vegetables. And the bus – it was fantastic – I rode in on it and it is good, comfortable, roomy, and everything. So...and we don't...we just don't want to lose our, our transportation that we have on Maui or here and if we have been cut one or two days a week here for shopping locally...if one of those days could be restored, it would be a great help to the seniors that live here on the island and everything. So just getting to Kahului and doing all that is really a great asset and it's really helpful for all of us to get there 'cause it's really, you know, difficult from Lanai to get to Kahului and Wailuku and do shopping and everything. So thank you very much.

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

MR. MAGAOAY: Aloha and good evening. I'm Edwin Magaoay. I'm here this evening to represent the Menehune Basketball League which serves a total of about 120, sometimes more, kids aging 6 to 15, and the parents of the Drug and Alcohol Free Celebration. I'm here in support of the Coalition for a Drug Free Lanai. The Coalition for a Drug Free Lanai has supported the Menehune Basketball League and the Alcohol Drug and Free Celebration [*sic*] and had made an impact in the Lanai community by providing alcohol and drug free activities for all ages. We request the support of the Maui County Council by providing funding for the Coalition for a Drug Free Lanai because they've made a big difference here on Lanai. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you for your testimony. Jolie [*sic*] Aoki.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO`OHALAHALA: Joelle.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Oh, Joelle.

MS. AOKI: Thank you. Good evening. I'm glad you made it here this evening. I think we're all glad you made it here. My name is Joelle Aoki. I'm the Executive Director for Kumpang Lanai – Coalition for a Drug Free Lanai. And first of all, I'd like to thank you very much for your support the past five years. We have done so much with the monies provided through the County and we're very grateful. Thank you. The Coalition for a Drug

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Free Lanai is the only prevention based agency on Lanai that services the general community – adults, youths, families. We provide support and resources to other organizations and the majority of our educational programs are provided here on island at Lanai School and during the regular school day or after school and its administration has allowed our organization to have a lot of support through their allowing us to be on campus and expand our drug and alcohol prevention services to youth on Lanai by being in school to a captive audience.

Our partners include Very Special Arts, University of Hawaii, Alu Like, Kamehameha Schools, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Lanai High and Elementary School, the State of Hawaii, and the Office of the President's Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration, which is otherwise known as SAMHSA. In the past two years, the funding from the County of Maui has also assisted with the community needs assessment that was completed this past February. We have the...we received the final report from Dr. John Gartrell in the Department of Sociology.

In addition to that we've completed our second year of the Pride Survey, which is a survey that is approved through the Office of National Drug Control Policy. And this is a survey that collects the four core measures on drug and alcohol use on our...for our youth on our island. And this is a...such an integral part of our work because this not only helps our organization but other organizations such as the Youth Center and, and other prevention agencies. Even Women Helping Women have access to this and anyone that would like to utilize the information from this they're welcome to use it. And we thank you for that because your funding did assist to pay for that survey to be completed. And again, that was the second year we did it. I'll, I'll fax...excuse me, I'll e-mail a copy to the Budget Finance Committee for your review. And this data has allowed our community, the past two years, to see really what's happening on our island. It's given us hard data which has not been done by the State of Hawaii and was done previously on a biannual [*sic*] basis. And the last time the State of Hawaii completed a drug and alcohol use survey for youth was in 2003. So we have hard data specifically for Lanai for 2008 and 2009 and we will continue to do this every year so that we know what's going on in our community.

MS. WILLENBRINK: Three minutes.

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MS. AKI: Some of our accomplishments this year included over 312 youth that received services and its mentoring programs including over 1,700 adults and we've also hosted health fairs with the Four Seasons and Castle and Cooke Resorts in the past two years. This past fiscal year the CDFL received funding from SAMHSA, Drug Free Community Support Grant, in the amount of \$100,000. We have applied for a renewal of these monies in the amount of \$125,000 per year for five years and this will assist with mobilization, community building, and prevention services on island. The County of Maui funding is greatly needed to uphold continuity of our efforts and the CDFL must secure the matching funds one-to-one in order to continue to receive Federal monies totaling \$125,000 per year for a five-year period. This is an increase of \$25,000 more than what the CDFL received per year in the last five years. We are required to seek additional matching funds for a one-to-one match from local government sources and other partners in order to secure the Federal funding for the next five-year cycle.

We are aware and sensitive to the economic climate of our counties, State, and Nation, and have worked diligently to seek additional partners and grants to meet the match. However, due to the economy it has been very difficult. I would like to please ask for your continued support, Council Members, in providing a continuance of the line item funding of \$50,000 for the CDFL. By providing these monies it will more than double your support to Lanai along with the Federal funds. Again, thank you for your time and your continued support.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier?  
Seeing...oh, Member Kaho`ohalahala.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO`OHALAHALA: Joelle, so you have an upcoming grant for 125 you said is, is the amount that you're seeking --

MS. AKI: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO`OHALAHALA: --and then the match is the one-to-one --

MS. AKI: One-to-one.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO`OHALAHALA: --and you have a line item of 50,000 --

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MS. AKI: That's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO`OHALAHALA: --and that will help toward the 125 match?

MS. AKI: That is correct.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO`OHALAHALA: Okay. Thank you.

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

MS. AKI: Thank you. May I say one more quick thing?

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Sure.

MS. AKI: The Coalition for a Drug Free Lanai would like to express its support for the Lanai Youth Center, Women Helping Women, and MEO, as well, and Destination Lanai.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

MS. AKI: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Next, next testifier is Dr. Sharie Liden, followed by Waynette Kwon.

MS. LIDEN: Good evening. I'm Dr. Sharie Liden, Coordinator of VSA Arts of Lanai Mentorship Program, and I'm also a board member of Coalition for a Drug Free Lanai. CDFL programs address directly and through supportive community programs the needs of children, teens, and parents on Lanai in the effort to prevent drug and alcohol abuse. As the economic environment worsens due to layoffs it is imperative that CDFL is able to react quickly to changes in needs and delivery of services to the families in the community. The early literacy programs, art programs, and after school activities that children and parents attend give hope, develop academic skills, and provide diversion from the stress that unemployment or economic hardship brings. Now, more than ever, our combined efforts need the \$50,000 requested from your budget. VSA Arts, Hawaii Pacific on Lanai received support from CDFL to conduct programs for youth and adult mentors.

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The VSA Arts programs are a very popular means of engaging children of all ages and adult mentors in creative activities that train children to think, create, and cooperate using art and technology. These programs can lead to careers in the arts and are designed to generate income that helps maintain the programs and provide supplies. Adult mentors are drawn from the Lanai community and include master artists and adults who find meaning in life by helping the upcoming generations to develop into productive citizens.

The partnership of CDFL and VSA Arts combines their missions by providing an inspiring and useful alternative to the lure of drugs and alcohol here on Lanai. I urge you to support the line item of \$50,000 in support of CDFL and our children. Thank you.

**CHAIR PONTANILLA:** Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Thank you, again. Waynette Kwon, followed by Diane Irons.

**MS. KWON:** Aloha. Good evening. My name is Waynette Kwon and I'm representing the Lanai Visitors Bureau, also known as Destination Lanai, as well as the Maui Visitors Bureau, Lanai Chapter. Currently, Lanai Visitors Bureau received \$220,000 as a line item as part of the Maui Visitors Bureau and with that we are charged to do the sales and marketing for the entire island. We know that this is successful. We currently have the highest spending – per person, per day spending – in the State of Hawaii as well as expenditures. So we're thankful for that. That is what helps keep our community growing and thriving. Lanai Visitors Bureau is a major asset to the entire Lanai community. We are a resource as well for the Lanai business community, for the Four Seasons Resort Lanai, Castle and Cooke Lanai, Lanai Culture and Heritage Center, CDFL, Lanai Youth Center, Lanai Arts Center, Lanai High and Elementary School, Lanai Community Benefit Fund, as well as support the Festivals of Aloha for Lanai, Pineapple Festival, and the Christmas Tree Lighting Festival. So we are not just only a marketing arm for the entire island, we also act as a community liaison as well. So again, thank you so much for supporting the Maui Visitors Bureau and Lanai Visitors Bureau in turn and we ask for your continued support for the line item of \$3.8 million. Mahalo.

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

**MS. KWON:** Thanks.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Diane Irons, followed by Regina Agliam.

MS. IRONS: Good evening. Can you hear me? My name is Diane Irons and I'm the Executive Director at the Lanai Youth Center. On behalf of my staff, board members, and parents, I want to thank all of you for coming tonight and giving us a chance to speak.

The Youth Center membership has approximately 200 youth or one-third of the school population. We offer programs onsite, as well as throughout the island. Because of our programs the youth have left footprints not only in the City, but on the beaches, on the mountains, and everywhere else where a child's imagination can run rampant. Do you think our kids know that we educate them by offering homework assistance, cultural stuff, health skills? They do if they look at the sign-in sheet. But more times than not, they'll tell you they're just having fun.

Because we have a small youth population we continue our partnerships with many organizations on the island. This assures quality programs. Our partnerships also take us to Maui. On the 18<sup>th</sup>, we will for the second time, participate in the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens Earth Day Celebration. Last month we developed a partnership with Maui Big Brothers and Sisters to implement an after school mentoring program between high school and elementary age school students. We are also working with Maui Hui Malama Learning Center to conduct school...after school tutoring also. I continue my relationship with the Maui Non-Profit Directors Organization and things I learn from them I bring back which better helps me to help my staff and all the partners.

The Lanai Youth Center is the only organization on the island that offers structured and supervised programs five days a week, twelve hours a day, to youth ages 7 to 18. We are a vital part of their lives and the County has always supported us and for that I am truly grateful.

Last year we talked about adding a portable unit to our facility as a quick fix. Well, the permits finally got approved. Our groundbreaking ceremony is Saturday and hopefully we'll be able to start using the facility in May.

Tonight I have a very big issue to discuss with you and that is the Community Swimming Pool. The youth use the swimming pool regularly on Saturdays and whenever the school was out. The pool was used by the

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high school students for their P.E. program and by the PALS program. Community members who have various physical ailments used the pool for therapy. Others used it for exercise and just general recreational purposes. As you probably know, the pool was closed recently. It is a sadness that touches the entire community. We ask that you consider the possibility of having the County take responsibility for the pool so that our children can once again enjoy its benefits. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Question.

MS. IRONS: Yes?

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Who was the last, I guess, company, to provide you that service of the pool?

MS. IRONS: The pool? Castle and Cooke.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Castle and Cooke?

MS. IRONS: Yes.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: So they shut it down?

MS. IRONS: Yes.

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

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Mr. Chairman. Yeah, I just want to follow up on the Chairman's question. Is there any community agreement between Castle and Cooke and the community about the function and the use of the swimming pool?

MS. IRONS: I believe there was. Ron? Ron? Ron? Was there an agreement between Castle and Cooke and the community. . .

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: You need to speak into the mic --

MS. IRONS: I'm sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: --and, and if he knows --

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MS. IRONS: He might know the answer.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: --the answer, when he comes up we'll ask him.

MS. IRONS: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay. Thank you for your testimony this evening.

MS. IRONS: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Member Nishiki.

COUNCILMEMBER NISHIKI: Did the company communicate with this community in regards to the closure or did they just close?

MS. IRONS: No. They did let us know.

COUNCILMEMBER NISHIKI: And the reason for closing?

MS. IRONS: Hard economic times.

COUNCILMEMBER NISHIKI: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Member Kaho`ohalahala.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO`OHALAHALA: Thank you, Diane, for making that input. There was a letter that was sent to, to me with various signatures from community members concerning the pool and the need for it to perhaps be considered by the, the Maui Parks and Recreation Department. It has been transmitted to all of the Council Members so they each have a copy of that letter and it is an item that's new in terms that it was not anticipated by the Parks and Recreation Department of which we have already met and sat down and went through their program already. So nonetheless, having said that, at least you can be assured that the information is within the Council's which in...within each of the Members right now. And as we're going through the deliberations and we will perhaps have an opportunity to speak not only to the Members themselves in our deliberations, but also perhaps touch bases with the Parks and Recreation Director, as well as the Mayor, to talk about this issue and see how we might proceed.

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MS. IRONS: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO`OHALAHALA: So...okay. Thank you.

MS. IRONS: Thank you.

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

MS. IRONS: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Regina Agliam, followed by Desmond Ige.

MS. AGLIAM: Aloha. My name is Regina Agliam. I am the Program Specialist and Admin Assistant at the Lanai Youth Center. I would like to thank you for your continued support of the Lanai Youth Center – a fun, learning, and safe place for the youth to gather. I would like to submit signed signatures on behalf of our Lanai Youth Center board members, teachers, community members, parents, and youth. The youth would also like to enclose their letters to say thank you in their own words. In closing, I would like to ask that you support the following: E Malama I Na Keiki O Lanai Preschool, Good Beginnings of Maui, and Bev Zigmond of Women Helping Women. Mahalo. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you. If you can leave your testimony with our secretary. Desmond Ige, followed by Traci Ige. This is a family affair right here.

MS. J. IGE: Yeah.

MR. IGE: Hello. My name is Desmond Ige and I am eight years old. I like going to the Youth Center because I get to play video games with my friends. Please support the Lanai Youth Center. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Traci Ige, followed by Jody Ige.

MS. T. IGE: Hi. My name is Traci Ige and I am in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. I would like to thank you for the support that you have given to the Lanai Youth Center. I ask that you continue to support the Lanai Youth Center. Thank you.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Jody Ige.

MS. J. IGE: Aloha. My name is Jody Ige and I am a Program Specialist at the Lanai Youth Center. I just want to thank you for the support. As you can see, it is a family area for the kids to gather, not only for my children but also for many of the children here on Lanai, and ask that you continue to support the Lanai Youth Center. Thank you.

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

MS. J. IGE: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Kristi Caberto, followed by Brandon Agliam.

MS. CABERTO: Hi. My name is Kristi Caberto and I am a member of the Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance. I humbly ask you that you continue funding our program in the year 2010. I have been a part of the Alliance for two years and wanted to share a few special experiences that I wouldn't have had if it weren't for the Youth Alliance program.

One experience that I had that was memorable . . .*(change tape, start 1B)* . . . was a visit to the Pacific Radio Group. There we got to see how to produce a show on the radio, and not only that, we got to produce our own PSA with the help of the professional deejays over there. We got to record, produce, edit it all professionally. I had a little background with working with the equipment because we produce radio shows here. But working with the pro was great. As a plus I got a few pointers.

Last year for one of our sessions, we visited the War Memorial Hospital. This was great for me because my future plans are to work into the medical field. So this gave me a heads up. We toured the hospital and the best part was that we got to go into the operation room. I've never been in an operation before...operation room before. I finally...I got to be in one and seeing all the equipment was exciting.

Also, I got to visit the Maui Arts and Cultural Center. I was never...I have never been there before and it was a great experience. Out of the whole group I was only one that's never been there before so I didn't know what to expect and it was great. We went behind the scenes and on one of the stages and got to see the dressing rooms and what it takes to put a show on and have it . . .*(inaudible)*. . . I'm glad that I got to...got a

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chance to visit these places. Thank you very much for considering my testimony in support of continuing funding the Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance program.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Thank you very much. Brandon Agliam, followed by Aunty Pua.

MR. AGLIAM: Hi. My name is Brandon Agliam and I am a parent. My wife and I would like to thank you for supporting the Good Beginnings – Maui County. During my lay-offs period, Good Beginnings provided emergency assistance and with their help our two little girls were able to continue going to preschool. We are very grateful.

I would also like to ask that you support E Malama I Na Keiki O Lanai Preschool who is the only licensed daycare on Lanai. The staff are very dedicated to our keikis. Also, Bev Zigmond of Women Helping Women and the Lanai Youth Center. Mahalo for your support. Thank you.

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

MR. AGLIAM: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --testimony. Aunty Pua. Aunty Pua, followed by Alton Aoki.

MS. PAOA: Good evening, Council Members. I didn't hear you because you called me Aunty Pua which is something the locals call me here. I was going to introduce my formal name, Clothilda, but don't ask me how I got a name like that. Anyway, here we are. I'm a member...I've been a member of CID...CDFL as a representative of the Hawaiian community for the past eight years and I have felt very privileged to be a member of that group that is run by Joelle. She's been a great director. And lately, I've been working as a youth service organizer and presently...with Joelle who is...we're working together in accomplishing financial fitness for students – the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. And this program is called Na Wai Puapuai. It helps to engage and develop the students, the knowledge, behavior, and confidence with respect to personal finances. The way the economy is today we should have some kind of teaching along those lines, right?

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I'd like to quote Senator Daniel Akaka, "We must teach the skills that every young person needs to make good economic choices and financial decisions." Now we have several programs that Joelle has already told you about. Another program that was introduced several years ago and we're going to reintroduce it – E Ola Pono – Live the Right Way. It's a conceptual value that relates to substance abuse and violence and we understand the violence today has kind of gone amok, especially with women. Now we need your continued support and for all these CDFL programs which helps to ensure the Federal funding we receive by way of matching funds. I appreciate your time and support. Mahalo.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you for your testimony. Alton Aoki, followed by Beverly Zigmond.

MR. AOKI: Good evening, Council Members. My name is Alton Aoki and I'm here to testify in support of Coalition for a Drug Free Lanai. On October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006 with the Coalition's assistance and partnership we were able to, to start our judo school. We went from six students to currently 34 students and it was only through their assistance and support that we were able to do so. In 2008 of December, we were able to enter our first tournament. Eleven of our students went to the Hawaii State Judo Championships. Better than I predicted, we came home with three gold medals and three silver. So Lanai can be proud of having six State champions on island.

As difficult as these economic times may be, more difficult, the more critical is the support programs such as mine, Ed Magaoay's Menehune Basketball, and all the others that you've heard here tonight. CDFL acts as this anchor that supports all of our programs here. Without that support a lot of these programs will collapse. Mine certainly will because without their help we can't...it's very difficult to function on this island. We have limited access to materials, to funding – it's any business' worst nightmare.

Programs such as ours help sustain the demographic health, so to speak, of this community. And is...it is with this that I'm testifying on behalf of CDFL to please continue your support and fund the Coalition for a Drug Free Lanai. Thank you.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you for your testimony. Beverly Zigmond, followed by Stacey Purdy.

MS. ZIGMOND: Good evening, Chair Pontanilla, Vice-Chair Danny Mateo, and Budget and Finance Committee. First of all, thank you for coming tonight. My name is Beverly Zigmond and I am the Program Coordinator for the Lanai Domestic Violence Program for Women Helping Women. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share our thoughts and concerns with you.

I would like to thank the Council for its many years of support for Women Helping Women, as well as to ask you to continue that support by approving our line item in the Budget. Without your support, victim services in this community would be threatened. Those services, of course, include crisis intervention, emergency shelter, filing of temporary restraining orders, and advocacy in whatever shape may be necessary.

My position also entails providing training and community awareness, with a vision that our island community embraces a zero-tolerance approach to domestic violence so that everyone – women, children, men – are safe inside and outside their homes. Being able to keep my doors open year after year means that Women Helping Women has become a fixture in this community. Most people know we're here. They know where to go when they're ready to reach out for help.

Recently, I worked with a 24-year old immigrant who had been on the island for only a short while. She had been experiencing abuse from her partner most of that time. Her mother decided to intervene and found out about Women Helping Women through a co-worker. It's your support that allows that longevity.

I would also like to share with you something I've noticed over the past year or so. I've noticed an increase in awareness and perhaps even outrage of domestic violence. As you know, Lanai experienced the murder-suicide last August. From that tragedy, over 300 people – that's 10 percent of our population – participated in a silent march around Dole Square in a show of support against that senseless tragedy. Since that time our silent vigils which are held in honor of every murdered domestic violence victim across the State has grown in numbers. It's no longer just me and a colleague and her 8-year old daughter.

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Another positive signal to me was the reestablishment of the Lanai Domestic Violence Task Force at the beginning of this year. Twelve people plus myself have banded together with the mission of transforming our community into a violence-free community to hold batterers accountable and to transform social attitudes through education, awareness, and role modeling. Three of those task force members asked me to submit their testimony to you tonight and I have included those in a packet with, with some other letters, including two other community members and two former women that I have worked with.

So I would like to also thank you for your continued support of our Rental Assistance Program, and on a personal note, to put a plug in for the Youth Center, the preschool, and CDFL. Thank you very much.

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

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: I wanted to ask you a little bit about your Rental Assistance Program. You know, there's a proposal right now to try to do a little bit more in that area and I'm wondering if you can tell us how it works for you, whether you have waiting lists, is it successful?

MS. ZIGMOND: Actually, I need to defer most of that to Stacey who will be following me. I do know that a few of the women here on Lanai have benefitted from that program.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you. I'll wait 'till Stacey comes up.  
Thank you.

MS. ZIGMOND: Thank you. Okay.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any more questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you for your testimony. Stacey Purdy, followed by Gail Shin.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Hi, Stacey.

MS. PURDY: Hi. Just to clarify, I'm not the Stacey that's following her. Stacey with the pink scarf is the Stacey she's referring to. Okay.

Good evening, Council Budget Chair Pontanilla and fellow Council Members. Aloha and welcome to Lanai. My name is Stacey Purdy and I

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am here tonight to testify as President for E Malama I Na Keiki O Lanai Preschool.

I would like to extend our appreciation for your past and current support of this crucial early childhood education program. As you know, Keiki O Lanai is our only preschool here on the island. Funding from the County of Maui has helped to keep this program sustainable and thriving. I have personally seen the progress of my own children and their playmates that have benefitted from the selfless dedication of its staff and program enrichment. Once again we come before you to ask for your continued support to give the littlest of our Lanai citizens a great head start in life.

We are asking for your support to secure a line item in the amount of 100,000 for the Fiscal Year Budget 2010. These funds are approximately 42 percent of our total budget. We are also receiving funds from the Department of Education via the USDA Food Program to supply healthy and well-balanced meals for our students. We would like to thank our other funding resources, Child Care Connection, Pauahi Keiki Scholars, Head Start, and Good Beginnings for their continued support to help make preschool affordable for our parents. Because of the hard work of our parents and generous community, we secure funds through our fundraising initiatives.

Due to being an accredited school it comes with additional cost of requirements that needs to be met. This year our school will be going through the re-accreditation process. This process is comprehensive, lengthy, and expensive. Insurance requirements, conducting audits, cost of operations, and the ability to maintain qualified staff is a challenge for non-profit sectors. We have seen the Budget and know that our program has received a cut in funding. We are pleading to you, the Council, to do what you can to find additional funding for our program. We received no increase in the past three years when our economy was doing great. Now that the economy is slipping we are playing catch-up with much less funds.

The preschool experiences is...experience is needed now more than ever. Our kindergarteners are expected to do more now than in the past. There is no time for the practice of social skills and the basic tools to begin the academic requirements. I understand that these are hard economic times. However, we cannot afford to not invest in our children. Monies spent now will decrease the amount spent later. We are a no-frills organization. We consider ourselves to be very cost effective, resourceful, and frugal.

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MS. WILLENBRINK: Three minutes.

MS. PURDY: We do believe that we need to work together to continue support for our hardworking families and our worthy children. We are so honored that year after year parents have trusted us with their children. If you would ask the people of Lanai if this is a funding priority, most people would say yes. And I know in your hearts you realize they deserve no less.

I would like to acknowledge the hardworking staff, parents, and our volunteer board, of which some are here with me tonight. Without the dedication and hard work of these individuals, we could not accomplish the goals and the mission of E Malama I Na Keiki O Lanai Preschool to care for the children of Lanai in whom we know we would not have a future without. I would like to also submit letters of support from parents of the children who attend E Malama I Na Keiki O Lanai Preschool and letters of support from the Lanai High and Elementary School educators. Thank you for your time and please do what you can to assist us in this humble request.

My...I just wanted on a personal note, on the other hand, I wanted to extend that please support Women Helping Women. The victims of domestic violence it is usually confidential. They don't come out and testify. Please support Women Helping Women, the Youth Center, and our youth programs, CDFL. Our seniors – they are our treasures. We need to treasure them as long as we can. And the Tri-Isle Main Street Resource Center, please try to...do what you can to support them. They protect the genuine article. Main Street is an autonomous voice for our small towns and our communities. And thank you very much for your time.

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

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Mr. Chairman. Aloha, Ms. Purdy. Thank you for your testimony. Does your program receive or, or provide tuition assistance?

MS. PURDY: Yes.

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COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay. And is it a subsidy from Good Beginnings or from your personal funding source?

MS. PURDY: Both.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Both. Okay. So how many...how many students receive or, or benefit from the tuition assistance?

MS. PURDY: Gail Shin, our Program Administrator, please come up. How many. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: She's going to be the next testifier.

MS. PURDY: She's the next...okay.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay. She can answer.

MS. PURDY: She can answer that one.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay. And what is the cut on your budget?

MS. PURDY: It was 5 percent. The cut was... --

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: So you, you. . .

MS. PURDY: --that was from last year's funds. However, what I was trying to say that, you know, in the years prior we've been asking for some increases --

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Right.

MS. PURDY: --but we were never given any increases and now as the cost is coming up it's getting tougher and tougher for us. The past years we did not have the re-accreditation process. We didn't have our audits that need to be done every three years. All of that cost is coming in this year and we are pleading for the additional funds.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay. We'll, we'll look at your budget that's proposed by the Mayor. Thank you for your testimony.

MS. PURDY: Thank you.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Member Kaho`ohalahala.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO`OHALAHALA: Thank you, Stacey.

MS. PURDY: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO`OHALAHALA: I just wanted to be clear. You have 100,000 in your line item. What would you want to have? If you have. . .

MS. PURDY: Our line item right now is not 100,000.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO`OHALAHALA: Oh, --

MS. PURDY: That's what we're asking for.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO`OHALAHALA: --you're asking for a hundred. So right now you're at eighty. . .

MS. PURDY: Eight-seven fifty.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO`OHALAHALA: Okay. And is that hundred going to be sufficient then?

MS. PURDY: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO`OHALAHALA: Okay. Okay.

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

MS. PURDY: And I'm going to get the packets for you guys.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay.

MS. PURDY: I forgot it at the table.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Can you give it to the secretary and she'll pass it out. Thank you. Gail Shin, followed by Stacey Moniz.

MS. SHIN: Good evening, Council Members. And I would also like to say good evening to the supporters of E Malama I Na Keiki O Lanai Preschool who

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are board members, our staff members, family, parents, and members of our community. Thank you.

As the Program Administrator at E Malama I Na Keiki O Lanai Preschool, I would like to deeply express my appreciation to you, excuse me, for your past and your current support of our preschool program, Head Start program, because we have a partnership with them, and the other Lanai programs on this island for our community.

The Earth faces many challenges today. Our actions today influence the future. In preschool, young children prepare for successful academic transition and also to become responsible, knowledgeable, and caring citizens of our future. We provide a secure, loving environment for children and we encourage their development as whole beings by fostering their curiosity and their exploration in learning experiences.

Interacting with peers and adults in preschool, children realize that they are alike yet different in their actions and their thoughts. And they learn to listen to one another, to hear the other person's viewpoints and to problem solve together. They experience the joy of learning.

I would like to share a child's experience this year with you. He loves books. He loves being read aloud to and he recognized his name at the beginning of the school year. Then he began to recognize individual letters in his name and his classmates' names. He started to copy the letters in his name and progressed to copying words and books. From there he started to ask about words in the newspapers that we have on tables in our classrooms. He wanted teachers to spell the words so he could write the letters. Now, he wants to know what words mean. His face lights up with joy with each new accomplishment. These accomplishments broadened his scope of the world and prepares him for formal academics also. This child loves learning. Why? This is his statement, "I'm getting smarter," and he loves it.

Keiki O Lanai is also an inclusive environment for children with special needs who reserves...receives services through the Department of Education and other agencies such as Imua Services. And we all know that all children benefit from this type of setting. We are also a resource center where community members can access parenting and early childhood information. We collaborate with other organizations in providing training sessions for parents such as our collaboration with

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Kamehameha Schools in providing a financial workshop with Ron Kimball and the community.

We support families as they guide and encourage the children's development by encouraging them to attend community parenting workshops and participation in family strengthening events at our school

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MS. WILLENBRINK: Three minutes.

MS. SHIN: --such as with Head Start and our recent trip to Maui Ocean Center that was actually sponsored by an outside party. It's also an informal meeting place for parents to discuss and share their mutual parenting concerns and knowledge.

In closing, I ask you to consider our request for \$100,000 for Fiscal Year Budget 2010 and thank you once again for the opportunity to express myself tonight. Mahalo.

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

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: I think she was going to answer the question.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Oh.

MS. SHIN: Oh.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Yeah. Can you answer Mr. Medeiros' question?

MS. SHIN: Yes, I can answer that question. Of the 28 students that we have currently enrolled, 25 receive financial assistance through various organizations that are private organizations or State agencies, which we have worked with in...with parents in helping to secure.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Ms. Shin, Member Baisa has a question.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you, Gail. You're popular tonight.

MS. SHIN: Oh. . . .*(chuckles)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: I was wondering if you had a more definitive answer to the question about the monetary difference between what you

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needed in your budget and what your cut...maybe from last year to this year?

MS. SHIN: Well, I...I know last year we had originally asked for more and we received the same amount that we did the year before and. . .

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Do you know what that is?

MS. SHIN: What we asked for last year?

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: No.

MS. SHIN: It was 125,000 --

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: And you received?

MS. SHIN: --and received 85,000.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: You received 85.

MS. SHIN: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: And this year do you know what's in the Budget?

MS. SHIN: I believe it's eighty. . .

MS. PURDY: Eighty-seven fifty. Eighty-seven fifty.

MS. SHIN: Yeah, 80,750.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Okay. Thank you very much. That's important. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. The next testifier is Stacey Moniz, followed by Cindy Cline.

MS. MONIZ: Good evening. My name is Stacey Moniz. I'm the Executive Director at Women Helping Women. And every time I come to Lanai it amazes me how much support we have here and it's really due to Bev Zigmund who works...she's a one-woman show. I don't think you can begin to imagine how hard she works everyday. She's the...she's **the** advocate. She's our entire program on this island. So people appreciate

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her for a reason. She's incredible. And I really appreciate the County. I've said this at the Lanai...Lahaina budget hearing how we got the funding...that really her program here is funded primarily by the County and we're really, really grateful for that because it's an invaluable service here.

To answer the question about Rental Assistance Program, we run that through our transitions project which is on Maui, but we have helped several women here. In fact, I have a letter of support from a woman that I'm going to read and it...I mean housing is critical. If you're leaving a domestic violence relationship and you can't afford to live on your own, it's very easy to return to an abuser because it's much easier with two incomes. And so creating self-sufficiency, housing is a critical component. So we continue to ask for the support for the Rental Assistance Program and have actually written grants.

You know, this Recovery Act through the Federal government, we applied for what's called Rapid Re-Housing, something like that, through Hawaii Public Housing Authority in Honolulu. So, you know, we're trying to expand that program because it is so critical and because rent is so high that money just goes and goes and goes. Like we...I think we got like \$80,000 last year...or this year, 2009, for rental assistance and it goes as fast as we get the money, it's gone...and because rent is, you know, \$1,200 and deposits are high.

So we really want to encourage the County to see that as a critical need not just for Women Helping Women. There are four agencies that get that. MEO is one, Ka Hale O Ke Ola, Family Life Center, and, and us. So...and we all work very collaboratively together and make sure we're not serving the same families with the same pot of money.

Anyway, I wanted to read a letter. I really appreciated what Stacey said about it's really difficult for women to come out and say, hi, I'm a survivor of domestic violence. And yet this year and I just get chicken skin to my feet – I have been blown away by the number of women who have come to Budget hearings who have said I was helped by Women Helping Women and it...I'm just so blown away by that. Beverly has a huge...I think there's seven letters. So I just want to read one.

My name is Leyla Skeith and I broke the cycle of domestic violence. I'm a survivor. It's been a year already since I have my life back. I still remember the day I saw my angel guardian coming to save me from the

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hell I was living. I don't...I didn't know what to do or where to go after all the chaos in my life but I didn't have to worry any more because Bev...Beverly Zigmond and her organization I found the answers to all my prayers. The services that I received were great. I felt at home. It was great for my healing process.

I appreciate all the help from Women Helping Women especially from Beverly. You helped me to be stronger as an individual and realize that I can speak for myself and be independent again. This agency does a lot of great things for women and children and really need all the financial assistance to help and support other women in the same situation. I'm grateful to have had this service available to me. It has helped me grow and I would like to see how other women can become empowered and take action in their lives. I want to thank all of you for your dedication. You are a blessing for all women at such a critical time of their life. You have been a blessing for me. Sincerely, Leyla Skeith.

MS. WILLENBRINK: Three minutes.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier this evening? Seeing none, thank you again Stacey. Cindy Cline, followed by Ron McOmber.

MS. CLINE: Good evening. I'm Cindy Cline. I'm the Deputy Director of Women Helping Women. Today I'm here on behalf of Roxanne Sar-me-Chun. I'm going to read a letter of support for Women Helping Women.

Let me see – in my personal experience, Women Helping Women has been very supportive, caring, and understanding during the most difficult time in my life. About four years ago, my son and I moved from Honolulu to Lanai to leave an abusive relationship. Although I had a lot of family, love, and support on Lanai, I felt...I felt afraid and stressed. I didn't know who or where to turn to...turn to for help, then my mother remembered Beverly Zigmond who manages the Lanai of...Women Helping Women office.

Women Helping Women helped and guided me in so many ways. They placed me and my son in a safe home. Although we had...we had to travel via Expedition I didn't mind just as long as my son and I were safe. Help...she helped me with my restraining order and during the TRO hearing Beverly was there for moral support. Beverly always listened,

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encouraged, and told me that there's nothing wrong with me. Women Helping Women also suggested that my family...my son and I seek counseling in which we did through PACT – Parent and Children Together.

In my abusive relationship I lost my identity, my pride, hope, and dreams. With the help and guidance from Women Helping Women I found myself. I found pride, I found hope, and now I can dream. Without your support over the past years I wouldn't be here right now to testify. Therefore, I ask that you continue your support in Women Helping Women – Lanai Office, and the Rental Assistance Program, especially during this much challenging time. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your continuing support of Women Helping Women. Roxanne Sar-me-Chun. Thank you.

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

MS. CLINE: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Ron McOmber, followed by Jessalyn Taal. . . .*(change tape, start 2A)*. . .

MR. MCOMBER: Aloha. Welcome to Lanai again.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you.

MR. MCOMBER: You've heard a lot of people asking for...most of the things they're asking for are the great needs of this community. Support them as much as you possibly can. I know it's lean times now with the County and with the income. There's also a letter floating around talking about the swimming pool. We'll talk about that in a little bit.

The key...I support the Mayor on her looking to get full benefits of the TAT tax – Transient Accommodation Tax. Don't let up on that, folks. It's generated in Maui County. It should go to Maui County coffers. And we, we generate quite a little bit on this island 'cause we have a lot of transient accommodations stuff here.

The sewer fees is not equitable to a single person living in their house. There's no way that a little old lady or a little old man or a single person living in a house should pay the same fee as somebody that has six kids

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and their sewer bill. There's something unjust about it. These folks should not be paying that higher sewer fee.

Something that's nothing to do with Lanai but it has a lot to do with Lanai. Look into...at Lahaina Harbor when you get on the ferry boat there's a wall, a seawall, roadside...mauka side of that, there's some signs. Those are County signs. There's three signs there that says we cannot park there and discharge our goods, pick up our passengers. Cops will give you a ticket and move you off because it's more important to have the buses parked there. All we asking for is those three signs to be loading and unloading zones instead of no parking zones. Keep that in mind because it really helps the Lanai people when they bring their goods down to the...to the docks or when they're unloading. It's not fair to Lanai people they have to be pushed off in a corner somewhere.

The Community Plan – this is something that I'm intimately involved with, with the...we did the General Plan. Lanai and Molokai did theirs and they got it out on time. And then you got...Sol, what happened? It took over two years for the 25 people on Maui to get their General Plan back. We suffered from that, folks. With these times that are going on in Lanai right now we need to have our Community Plan and we need to start working on it. Because the impact that's happening with this community, and you've heard rumors about the pool closing, the theatre closing, now, I, I was telling Wayne a while ago they tore the showers down. The shower stalls down, down at Manele in the...in the...in the area that's our sand beach. There's no privacy down there any more.

MS. WILLENBRINK: Three minutes.

MR. MCOMBER: And we asked the company why they did that. They said they were rotten. We didn't want them there any more. They were un...unsafe. This is not the way to treat these people in Lanai. They didn't even come to the right affiliate and talk to us. There's a park council that, that should be addressing this. That's what we're there for. We're in partner with the company. The company...we have a guy on the island named Bumbar. This guy is sleaze number one. He has done nothing but chop this community apart and he has no like to this community.

We're at...right now we're just...we're supposed to have that Senior Center done. Guess what? They're going to hold it hostage. You know why? Because the community has asked the Cultural Resource

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Commission to present our town to the State Preservation to preserve the last remaining plantation town in this state and preserve it as, as a cultural resource...as a...as a . . .

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Historic. Historic.

MR. MCOMBER: Yeah. And we got letters from, from the company telling us that if you did that, we will stop the demolition of the Senior Center and we will not allow you to go forward. What kind of stuff is that? You know, we stood in this room...Wayne has been in this room when this is full of construction workers supporting Mr. Murdock and what he did on this island. You know why there's no construction workers in here tonight? 'Cause they have all been fired. There's no work going on over here and this is the thanks we get and this is the thanks that the community gets for supporting him and his development? This is not fair, folks. And you know me, I sit on boards and commissions. I sit on County boards. I'm on the Liquor Commission right now. This is not fair to Lanai. Lanai is not getting a fair shake on this and we need to have you folks understand that.

Whether you think the pool should be taken over by the County or not, I do not believe that Lanai Company should be put out of their obligation...let go their obligation to this community to keep that pool open. They did that because we had kids swimming in the Mississippi Pond down here and in the Reflection Pond up there and they didn't want the little brown kids up at, at Koele around all the tourist. So we'll build you a pool. They built us a pool – guess what? They built a pool at Koele – it was heated. They built this pool – it wasn't heated. We had to go through another round of arguments with them to put heaters in the pool. What kind of stuff is that? And now they're falling on hard times – everybody is. But you don't have to do this kind of manini stuff and go in and jeopardize the Senior Center because they're going to play hardball. Because we at the community want to save our community and we want it to be preserved and not torn down and not three-story buildings put in or two-story buildings or whatever Murdock wants.

We desperately, folks, we need you folks to get the Community Plan stuff going. Please do that. We need that. The one avenue that we can use to sit down as a community and speak as a voice. So I beg you to do that. If nothing else, we need to start our Community Plan asap. 'Cause that is...that would be . . .(inaudible). . . that would be the community can come out and speak what they want in their community and there's

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nothing Mr. Murdock or anybody else can do about it. Thank you very much.

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

COUNCILMEMBER NISHIKI: I have a question about the swimming pool.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay. Member Nishiki.

COUNCILMEMBER NISHIKI: This is really disturbing about what the company is doing in the name of perhaps eco...economy. You know, at the pool, wasn't that based on a condition for some of the projects that we gave them to build?

MR. MCOMBER: No, it wasn't, but what it was, was that letter of commitment from the company from one of their Vice-President's and one of their COO's that did this for the community so the community can have a pool. We have letters signed by these two executives, and I'll be glad to produce them for you, that said that they were putting that pool in, in perpetuity for this community. You know what's going to happen, Wayne? They're going to close that pool, which they have done, and if they don't open it in another six or eight months, that pool is not going to be worth anything. The equipment is going to be ruined and this is going to cost instead of \$100,000 a year to run, it's going to cost \$300,000 to get it running again. This doesn't make any sense. And you know something? It wasn't like he had ten people working in that pool. He had one man! One employee! What the hell's wrong with these people? This is frustrating! This is...this is in your face!

Remember all the years we stood here and watched them tell us we were going to do this and do this and do this and, and everybody in this community fell over backwards to get this going so we could have a luxury hotel and where we can have luxury...a golf course and we can have luxury homes and condos? What has it got us? A whole bunch of guys that were trained to be carpenters and electricians, they moved off the island or else they just don't have any jobs. This is insane!

And something else we got Saturday, I'll let you know we have Human Services coming over and we're talking about housing...the affordable housing...six...65 acres we have. They presented something to the Planning Commission one night. So that was 238 homes and some more

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multi-family units. We need multi-family units like we need another head on our shoulders. So they're going to come Saturday and listen to us and we're going to try to explain to them how we can design this for self-help program and this type of thing. It's got to work better than what they're planning. We appreciate the County doing it. But remember – that land didn't cost the County a dime. It was part of the agreement with this development. Thank you, folks.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER NISHIKI: Hey, Ron, is anybody interfacing with the company here?

MR. MCOMBER: What?

COUNCILMEMBER NISHIKI: Interfacing. Is there any committee here to deal with these decisions that. . .

MR. MCOMBER: We have one man that goes around and trying to split this community. He's meeting with people on the side, being with people and trying to convince...they're doing what they're doing on Molokai about the wind farm. They're trying to split the community. There's people meeting with this guy, Bumbar, all the time. I won't meet with him unless I...I told him I would meet with him if that man right there . . .*(pointing to the videographer – Mr. Johnson)*. . . would tape it. Guess what? Never met with him. 'Cause they don't want to know. They don't want a record of what they're talking about. This is not a...you've heard me say this before, Wayne, this is not a democracy on this island. This is a junta. And it's a shame for what's going on here.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Mr. McOmber. Member Medeiros.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Oh, he answered my question.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay. Fine. Thank you.

MR. MCOMBER: Thank you very much.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. The next testifier is Jessalyn Taal, followed by Alexandra Palumbo.

MS. TAAL: Good evening, Council Members.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Come closer.

MS. TAAL: Good evening. My name is Jessalyn Taal. I work at E Malama I Na Keiki O Lanai Preschool. I support the preschool and I would like to ask you, please, to continue to support the preschool. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you. Alexandra Palumbo, followed by John Ornellas.

MS. PALUMBO: Good evening, Council Members. I'm here in support...to support keiki – a little nervous, sorry – but I'm here in support of multiple groups in the community, one being the preschool, which my keikis [*sic*] attend. And thank you for your previous years of funding for, for them. I am a small business owner, as well as a full-time mother here on the island of Lanai. Thanks to your support and funding from the MEO and things like that. My child can go to preschool and allow me the time to focus on my business and trying to thrive in our community, rather than sending her to a babysitter that is unlicensed and all that kind of stuff where she can actually get a head start on her academic life. So thank you for that and please support the preschool in the following years.

Also, I'm here in support...testify in support of the Maui/Lanai Visitors Bureau or Destination Lanai. Again, thank you for your previous years of funding. I'm a small business owner here on Lanai. My name is Alexandra Palumbo. I am an owner of Lanai Surf School and Surf Safari. We are also members of the Hawaii Visitors Bureau or Destination Lanai. And the Hawaii Visitors Bureau has helped our business grow through advertising opportunities with magazines throughout the world to helping fund writers and different groups of people go on our surf safari. Without the opportunity...opportunities that the Destination Lanai has given us, we would not be able to reach these people and promote the island of Lanai as a great destination for visitors.

In the past...the past...the Lanai Visitors Bureau has been able to take our information to several destinations throughout the mainland in order to promote our business and Lanai as a great vacation destination. Not only has the past funding been able to promote our personal business, it has helped...it has helped the island of Lanai as a whole because we are a business...we are a business community that thrives and relies most somewhat on tourism. I thank you for your continued funding for the Maui/Lanai Visitors Bureau. Thank you.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you for your testimony. John Ornellas, followed by Butch Gima.

MR. ORNELLAS: Aloha. Welcome to Lanai, --

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you.

MR. ORNELLAS: --Chair Pontanilla and Members. You know, I've been sitting here listening to all the testimony, you know, and you guys have given a lot of support to our programs here, both for youth and seniors. But the, the key to these programs is the directors. We have Bev with Women Helping Women, Joelle with CDFL, we have Diane with the Youth Center, and these are not 8 to 5 jobs.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: I know that.

MR. ORNELLAS: Gladys, you know that. These, these people who work seven days...seven days a week, 12-14 hours a day, just to make sure that their programs get to the people that need, need them. So...and this is a small island. Bill, you being from Hana understand, you know, what it takes to, to pull a community together and these are the leaders of, of these programs and they do an excellent job, and I hope you continue...you continue to support them.

I'm a board member for CDFL and it seems like we got about two dozen of 'em running around here, but again, it's a very important...and Joelle does an excellent job as the executive director.

I'm going to go to the recreation. County of Maui has a pretty big sizable footprint here on Lanai with the gym and, and the other facilities. Last time any major work was done to the gym was when Linda Lingle was Mayor the first time. That was really the, the...they did a major renovation or they, you know, power washed it and painted it and cleaned the bathrooms because the Department of Health came and cited. You know, and, and I'm looking on the Budget and that's not scheduled for renovation for the gym until 2011. I don't think the gym can wait that long.

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For the last past eight years, twice a year, the Mayor would come with her, her Administration and talk about the Budget and then you guys would come. Everyone of those...the tennis...the Tennis Association here on Lanai would get up and say, we need to reseal our tennis courts, they're getting bad. Well, I'm here to tell you it's gone past that. You need to resurface the tennis courts. Because the County didn't do nothing it went from \$25,000 to reseal the courts to \$250,000 to resurface the courts. The courts are starting to break up. The nets are old. I'm talking about the windscreen nets. So, you know, things need to be done here. I mean we can't wait until in 2011 to start working on some of these projects here. I understand it's, it's hard to find money. But you know, Kula just got a brand new set of tennis courts. You know, and to some of these construction...in fact, the first set of tennis courts up in Kula was built the same time as these and they used the same contractors. So there's, you know, there's a light out. You know, it just needs...it just needs some TLC.

MS. WILLENBRINK: Three minutes.

MR. ORNELLAS: That's all it needed. And if they would have been resurfaced...I mean if it was resealed, we would have saved ourselves a ton of money. And every year, twice a year, the tennis people would come and say this to you guys – not only to you, but also to the Mayor.

Chief's Budget – I was very happy to see you guys very supportive of Chief Phillips when he was on April 1<sup>st</sup>. We do have a great Police Department. We have one of our officers here now. We have a very good crew here on Lanai, as well as the rest of Maui County. We cannot afford to start cutting their budget because we all know that people that sit on the...on the fence between, you know, criminal activity versus being on the...on the straight and narrow. When times are hard, people sometimes go to the other side and we need our Police Department there. And so, I, I enjoyed and I approve of your support of the Police Department and continue. So...what else? I guess that's about it. Thank you for coming. Hopefully, you guys not going back tonight.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Mr. Ornellas. Members, any questions for the testifier? Thank you. Butch Gima, followed by Christie [*sic*] Costales.

MR. GIMA: Good evening. Thank you for coming to Lanai. My name is Butch Gima. I'm a resident. I'm going to be testifying on three issues. One is

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the affordable housing that Ron mentioned, second would be on Women Helping Women, and the third our veterans cemetery.

I want to thank you for the appropriation that spearheaded what we're going to be discussing this Saturday about the affordable housing and the 65 acres that...which is part of the 115 acres that was dedicated to the County of Maui. We look forward to working with the architects on that. One of the secondary benefits of this affordable housing project has been the master plan for our school. The master plan makes up 50 of the 115 acres and so we've had joint meetings with the school and the architects and the County. And so what that has done is we've been able to save some money not duplicating a lot of the entitlement efforts for, for both entities. So thank you very much for that appropriation.

A lot of support for Women Helping Women. I want to give you a little different angle. In my job as a social worker for Adult Mental Health and also do substance abuse counseling, there's a lot of interplay with mental health, substance abuse counseling, and domestic violence. One of the things that I think a lot of people lose sight of having domestic violence type of services is that...the safety of children. There's a lot of focus – and rightly so – on the woman, but with Women Helping Women type of services, the children are taken and made...they are made sure that they are safe also. And then with the educational projects that Bev was talking about, it helps to break the cycle. So both, both parents can provide a healthy living environment for the children so they don't repeat that cycle in the future.

Lastly, about our veterans cemetery, I don't know how many of you are aware the veterans cemetery is under the jurisdiction of the Public Works. And the reason why I'm asking for your support tonight is that the vet...we have about 260 vets on Lanai and they have not been provided services for decades. The Office of Veteran Services from the State of Hawaii comes once a month. They use my office. Maui County Vet Center used to come every month and, and there was a period they did not come over and now they're coming back again and they use my office. The Veterans Administration used to send people – a doctor and a nurse – and they used the hospital. They haven't come for a while and then when Senator Akaka made his town hall meetings three...two or three years ago, the VA started coming back and they start...they send a doctor over. They use my office.

MS. WILLENBRINK: Three minutes.

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MR. ORNELLAS: And what I'm asking for the County to do is to appropriate some funds so we can outfit the veterans cemetery with some electrical power. When it was built, there was no electrical power put in there. And an electrician gave an estimate of approximately \$6,000 to \$8,000 to outfit it with four outlets and four of these two fluorescent tube lights.

In addition to that, we were going to need either a standalone generator up to about \$5,000 or a more costly way of getting electricity there is there's some cell towers couple of hundred yards from the cemetery. That's going to be a lot more money. But in the interim it would be good if we can put in the power so that the vets can meet there, and more importantly, to provide some leverage to the VA because we have been trying to get the VA to hire an on-island case manager that can serve the veterans everyday – not once a month – everyday.

And so I think if the County can kick in some money, we might be able to say, okay, maybe the County's going to kick in 6,000 for the materials and labor. Okay, VA, how's about you kick in 5,000 for the generator? Because our vets are underserved. They're having to go off island and when they come...when the VA comes here, it's hit and miss because of the weather, they don't want to fly in, or maybe they got too much stuff on Oahu to take care of. I think it's important that we provide this support to our vets and I think if we have that veterans cemetery facility outfitted with electricity, then I think they can take responsibility of doing more advocacy for our vets here on the island and also advocating for the VA to do their job for our veterans. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Thank you very much. I'd just like to recognize that your affordable housing project was started with your previous Council Member, Mr. Hokama. And I'd just like let you know that in Central Maui we have the same situation and we're trying to follow the same model. So thank you for your testimony.

MR. ORNELLAS: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Mr. Medeiros.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Mr. Chairman. I'm interested in your testimony about the vets and the cemetery here because sitting on this Council are four veterans – Nishiki, myself, Pontanilla, and Molina.

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There's no electricity at the cemetery currently and you mentioned a generator. Is that because there's no source of electricity closed to the vet...veteran cemetery?

MR. ORNELLAS: That's correct. Just down the road from the cemetery is the...is the sporting clay that's run by Castle and Cooke and they have to run all of their operations via generator.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: I see. So to...and is there a building there?

MR. ORNELLAS: At the veterans cemetery?

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Yeah.

MR. ORNELLAS: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay. So you want to put electricity in that building so the vets can meet there?

MR. ORNELLAS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay.

MR. ORNELLAS: It's an underutilized facility.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Right.

MR. ORNELLAS: I think it was dedicated back in late 1990's, early 2000's and I can think of only one or two times when they've actually used the building.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay. I have two suggestions and not to put the responsibility on the community because certainly vets should receive benefits and services for their time of service. But in Hana, we have a school program called Ma Ka Hana Ka Ike – With Work you Learn. We have students that have a teacher and they have built many things in Hana, including a bamboo house, an alternate energy lab, classrooms, arts barn, kupuna ramps at their homes, additional living space for kupuna's homes, and they recently helped us complete our dialysis home in Hana. So my suggestion is I'm sure there's a lot of talent on this island and in this community in construction. If the school has any industrial arts programs, especially like carpentry or woodwork, and if there's an instructor and you

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can form a program like we have in Hana, we've been successful to get our funding for that program which has helped the community a lot.

The second part is, yes, we need to look for funding because the vets certainly deserves at least that, you know, for the cemetery. So certainly, you know, I know I'll look into it and hopefully I can get back with some successful information for you.

MR. ORNELLAS: Thank you. I did forget to mention that there's no water service there too. There's a water tank, but there's no water service. So the spigot. . .

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: And, and who. . .

MR. ORNELLAS: So the spigot right where all the vets are buried, you can't use it. You gotta bring your own water if you want to water your flowers.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Who's water tank is that?

MR. ORNELLAS: Public Works.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Public Works?

MR. ORNELLAS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay.

MR. ORNELLAS: It's an ugly, ugly tank that sits right in front of the veterans. . .

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: So what's the source that fills the tank?

MR. ORNELLAS: I think it has to be brought in.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Oh. Oh, they tank it in...they truck it in with a tanker.

MR. ORNELLAS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay. Thank you for the information. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Member Molina.

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COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thanks for your testimony regarding the veterans. Have you had a chance to consult with Denny Schwind from the Administration?

MR. ORNELLAS: No.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: If not, he really knows...he knows veterans issues and I can, if you want, I can work with, you know, Member Kaho`ohalahala and some of my other colleagues to help put him in touch with you to make him aware of this situation as well.

MR. ORNELLAS: Out of the Mayor's office?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Out of the Mayor's office, yeah. Denny Schwind, and also we just had Brian Hashiro from the Public Works Highways Division, he met with the Committee the other day and mentioned about, you know, cemetery issues, but you know, we were not aware about this concern here on Lanai. So, you know, like Member Medeiros said, you know, we'll look into it and some little...something but it means a lot to our veterans. They deserve at least that.

MR. ORNELLAS: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Member Baisa.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Yes. I'm very interested in this. Can you kind of describe this building? Is it a roof and, and no sides or is it enclosed or how big is it or?

MR. ORNELLAS: It's a hollow tile building and it has, I think, two skylights so when you enter the building during the day that's the only way you're going to get light in the building. It must be about oh, six to eight hundred square feet and then there's about probably 200 square feet of covered like patio area.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Restrooms?

MR. ORNELLAS: I believe...well, I'm not sure. I'm not sure.

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COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: I wouldn't think so unless...if there's no water, they may have problems. But, you know, it's important to know this because if you're going to try to use it for a meeting room, you got to make sure you have some amenities.

MR. ORNELLAS: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Yeah.

MR. ORNELLAS: Most definitely.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Okay. Thank you very much.

MR. ORNELLAS: Yeah. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Member Kaho`ohalahala.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO`OHALAHALA: You know, just to put it in all of the proper perspective. When this facility was built, it was at the request of the veterans on Lanai and so the area was identified for interment for veterans. So this is a brand new building that was very needed for the time that it was asked and at the time that it was built the veterans knew that there was no source of water in that area. And so what Public Works did was put the tank there to suffice people getting some water at least. But it's a building that's aged. It's also in an area that is very, very windy. It's not a comfortable place to be sitting out in, in the pavilion that's open on one side, but at least there is a facility that was requested. So I think for the Council Members to know is that if there are improvements that need to be made and . . .*(change tape, start 2B)*. . . more attention to the building. Perhaps the Veterans Administration has to spend more time on Lanai, but just know that when it was provided for it was at the request of the veterans. It was placed at that location – they agreed to it – and our families are interned in the facility. So that we can move it in a better direction, I just want to make sure you understand the perspective.

And for Member Medeiros, your question about Ma Ka Hana Ka Ike, there's an excellent person here at the Industrial Arts Program and I have actually invited him to go to Hana to meet with Mr. Rutiz to get an idea of what the students of Hana had done and he has agreed to do so when time will allow him to do so.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

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MR. ORNELLAS: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you again. Christie [*sic*] Costales, followed by Rose Ling Simon.

MS. COSTALES: Good evening, Council Chair, Council Members. I'm Christine Costales. I work for the Lanaihale Forest and Watershed Project. I'm under the auspice of the University of Hawaii and under the direction of the State DLNR office.

Two years ago the Lanaihale Forest and Watershed Project started with the question of is there any endangered seabirds called the Hawaiian Petrel here and going out with the survey crew we found out there were a lot. I was hired part-time while I was working for Castle and Cooke and I was hired part-time to help monitor and survey the Hawaiian Petrels. At the same time we realized that the endangered species up there needed the habitat just as much as the watershed. It relied on the watershed. The watershed now is being taken over by the invasive waiawi like the Big Island in the State and it's taken up a lot of the habitat for the ua'u.

We're right now currently working with Castle and Cooke with the mitigation part for the met towers. They have provided some funding for that for us to do some habitat restoration work and that time will end in 2010...yeah. So I'm just putting a bug in your ear that we will request some funding for the watershed protection for the Lanaihale since it is our only watershed, our only source of water that holds our aquifer. I do public outreach presentation about the Watershed Project and the importance of the watershed and right now I'm also working to build a foundation of mentorship.

AmeriCorps hasn't been on Lanai for...I think since 1994. My son worked for AmeriCorps. And the reason is, is there's no supervision. You know, the responsibility of taking on an AmeriCorps worker is a big responsibility. You got to, you know, they need supervision. I have one AmeriCorps that I have through the Maui Economic Opportunity AmeriCorps Environmental Program. I am going to take on two more summer AmeriCorps workers and two of them are from Lanai. I'm trying to get my Lanai students back to Lanai. One of them right now is getting his certificate in environmental science and his mother came to ask me if there was an opening. So I'm going to open up two positions, and you

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know, try to build that foundation, but also trying to provide jobs in the conservation area.

MS. WILLENBRINK: Three minutes.

MS. COSTALES: So I'm just putting a bug in your ear that that's what we are headed for to provide jobs on the island and to also protect our watershed. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you very much. The last person to testify this evening is Rose Ling Simon. Before you testify for Ms. Simon, is there anyone that want to provide public testimony, if you could sign up and then we'll give you an opportunity to testify. Go ahead.

MS. PURDY: Hi. I'm hoping that you will let me testify for Rose. She was here with her two young children, and children being children, they were hungry and tired and asked mommy if they could go home. So thank you for letting me do this on behalf of Rose and it's Rose Ling Simon.

Good evening, Members of the Budget and Finance Committee, and Council Member Kaho`ohalahala. My name is Rose Ling Simon. I am here to support the \$100,000 funding for Keiki O Lanai Preschool for 2010. Because...I became a board member for Keiki O Lanai Preschool when my older son attended three years ago. I wanted to be involved and know how and what toddlers were learning and who and how were guiding their "sponge" age years. As a stay at home mother, substitute teacher for all grades at Lanai High and Elementary, and still a current board member for Keiki O Lanai, I see firsthand how children of Lanai are developing mentally, physically, and emotionally, and how it affects their learning spirit and growth.

I feel that we, as a community, as parents, and political leaders can always do more for our keikis [*sic*] and prepare them to be independent and goal-directed individuals. During this economic hardship when families need to choose between groceries and roof over their heads or send a child to preschool, it is an easy choice when, when families just can't afford preschool. In the long run, without preschool experience, the keikis [*sic*] are likely to be constantly behind socially and academically because they didn't get a solid foundation at a preschool when their brains were developing the most at ages three to six. On Lanai, children are not exposed to the fun learning act...opportunities such as Gymboree,

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gymnastics, music, drama, museums, and zoos that can enhance their physical, social, mental, and language development. We only have Keiki O Lanai before kindergarten.

Keiki O Lanai is a simple accredited preschool with dedicated staff and board members who work effortlessly for love and little pay. Gail Shin, the Program Administrator for the preschool, should be recognized for her daily operational challenges she faces to provide a learning haven and a hot meal for our Lanai preschoolers.

Keiki O Lanai has not been able to address or implement other quality improvements such as staff enrichment trainings, newer and more stimulating educational materials and tools, and/or discussing using environmental products that are healthier and safer for our keikis [*sic*] because we have trimmed every fat possible in our budget. The continual budget cuts will hit the vital organs of the organization and ultimately hurt the children's future and our Lanai community as a whole.

Most of us know that earlyhood...early childhood education that meets the child's early needs yields a greater rate of return in human capital, which means students with a head start in early education will gain a stronger self-esteem and confidence to become more self-reliant and become income generators. I desire that our future generation will be critical thinkers, problem solvers, community and environmental caretakers, and be productive and compassionate citizens.

I am grateful for the past funding from Maui County and hope that all of us can look at the big picture, --

MS. WILLENBRINK: Three minutes.

MS. PURDY: --which is our future generation, and not the current recession. An investment of 100,000 or more toward Lanai's children's early childhood education today so that it will be less costly later. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Rose Ling Simon.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

MS. PURDY: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you for reading that testimony. Thank you. Pat Reilly, followed by Riki Hokama.

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MR. REILLY: Pat Reilly...Pat Reilly, resident. Thank you for coming tonight. I decided to be the . . .(*inaudible*). . . tonight. So, of course I support all the programs that I've done before me. We're in a tough situation as I think you know on Lanai – lots of layoffs, hours cut – and in a small community has a significant impact. I want to touch on a few things.

I support Ron's contention about the community plan process and I tend to be more comprehensive. I think it's really important that we have a chance to deal with this wind power project that Castle and Cooke and HECO and First Wind have put forward. It's going to make a major impact on this community and will affect the County. We need to know what that project is going to do. And we're not at the table – we have lots of meetings – but we're not at the table and this community needs to be at the table.

Also, because of the recommendation for the historic preservation of the business country town area, again, that should to my...in my opinion, should be incorporated into the community plan process and not outside of Lanai. If that's done at the State level, we're going to have a hard time I think being at the table on that one.

I wanted to support broadband services and the discussion about...you may be aware that maybe 20 years ago there was a fiber optic cable that's running from Maui to Lanai, but it is down at Manele and has never been brought up the hill. Now that's private profit [*sic*] and that company went bankrupt. But my contention is and as a school counselor for 30 years here, I'm just seeing it with this class how technologically advanced these seniors are. We need broadband services in this community for Veterans Affairs, for medical services, and I believe, for private business as a...and County services. An excellent way to expand the economic power of our small community I think by somehow facilitating getting that fiber optic cable up the hill.

I'd like to talk...coffee shop talk is a lot about all the junk cars on Lanai and I know Maui County is looking at recycling and ways to do that, but it's a big challenge on Lanai. We have lots of refrigerators, cars, other things that we need to get off this island and it is not profitable for a private enterprise to do that. We need some help to think that through, through the Solid Waste Management Program.

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The company has put forward a proposal to expand a heavy industrial area around Miki Basin and the Maui Electric Company. I want to alert you. I believe that's going to come to the Council. I believe there's a fire safety issue there. Sometimes there's not water at the MECO Plant. If there was ever a fuel fire, a heavy electrical fire, and if there's heavy industrial area that's 50 percent of which is to be sold fee simple for private businesses, I didn't see anything from the Fire Department about that, but I think that will come to you and I hope you will look very closely at ensuring that the workers down there have full fire protection. Now it would be very dangerous...my understanding now the only protection would be if the Airport Fire Department went down there to fight the fire for that particular kind of a fuel fire or electrical fire.

So water is an issue. As you heard on the veterans thing, water...the old plantation pipes are now rusted. They're not maintained any more so there's only select number of water pipes that go to certain places and a lot of places on this island don't have regular water. So that's where that is.

I want to tell you a story. You had a baseball...the County did a baseball field down here. And I worked here 30 years. Sixteen years ago we had a baseball team. These gentlemen that came back and now work for the County are graduates of Lanai High School. They maintain the dream for 16 years to come back and build a baseball program on Lanai. They went out, they left this school, they graduated, they learned how to do heavy equipment, they got a job with Maui County, they got together, and just two weeks ago they held the first baseball tournament with Lanai High School baseball team in 16 years. And I call it the "Field of Dreams" because the Sanchez brothers and all their friends and their girlfriends, who were cheerleaders when they were in high school, they put this together. To me, it's a miracle. I mean all you got to do down there...and you look at that baseball field and watch them play. In your eyes, what it took to make that field work and to build a baseball team from Little League work their way up to Senior League. It's a miracle to me. So I give the Lanaians credit. You should take a look at it before you go. When you turn those lights on and you see that ball being pitched, to me that's something after 20 years of a dream, and they made it happen. Thank you very much.

**CHAIR PONTANILLA:** Thank you, Mr. Reilly. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you very much. Mr. Hokama, followed by Alberta deJetley.

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MR. HOKAMA: Chairman Pontanilla, Council Members, thank you for coming to warm Lanai. And I say warm because you can feel the close-knitness [*sic*] of this community. I think our community has spoken well of their request regarding whether it be preschool requirements, senior requirements, youth center requirements, and County operations.

I'm here because going through the Mayor's proposal I can tell you I'm very uncomfortable with the budget proposal. And I'm here because I know while you deal with a lot of the requests eventually you're going to need to deal with how you're going to pay the bill. And so, you know, my concern, Members, this evening is how does this budget prepare us for the next budget for 2011 because my prediction it's going to be worse. And you only going deal with the potentially 5 percent less valuation of property this year and next year you're going to have to deal with the remaining balance of reduced value of real property in this County – another 10 to 15 percent less value. So of course raising the rates doesn't mean more taxes. More than likely, raising the rates will be just to try and catch up to some of the revenues that we currently are enjoying.

So I'm here this evening to ask you to consider certain things. I think you really need to have the Administration explain their short-term investment program, particularly auction rate securities. The State of Hawaii has allowed the counties and itself to get into a situation where auction rate securities and for the County of Maui to use student loans that short-term is five years or less. If the County had a disaster today and you needed to cash in to get that cash back for our County, you will not get a dollar for a dollar. You would have to accept a discounted return. That is not good investment. I think you need to look at those things.

You know, I've been very fortunate. I've been traveling. I've been to Molokai last month. You know, I come home every couple of weeks. I've been to the Legislature. I've been listening to a lot of people on Maui and I can tell you with my discussions with our Senator Tsutsui, do not count on the TAT. So if I were you, already look at how you're going to cut \$18 million because Senator Kim is very hardheaded and she's either going to make a showdown for you to either deal with no TAT, but force you to consider adding up to additional 5 percent on hotel rooms. What makes a visitor want to pay the excise tax, the current TAT, then the County's additional 5 percent, whereby the visitor's going to consider 12 to 15 percent taxation for accommodations? They're not even coming on the plane. So how are you going to get the tax revenues from a visitor who may never come? You might as well tax hotel resorts and time shares

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more because you know you're going to guarantee get that revenue from the real property.

But I think one of the things that you need to consider, Members, because I consider it very frugal on our part and we worked hard for the last ten years to bring our financial situation on solid ground, is that you do not want to really go back to the bond market this calendar year. If at all, you want to defer the need of the County of Maui to go to the bond market, go back to another . . . *(inaudible)* . . . bond rating review, because potentially, every time you do that, because we have such a good bond rating doesn't mean we're going to maintain it. We can also get a down rating, which means we pay more interest for the borrowing. I would rather see you folks look at CIP, defer certain things, and defer that additional cash payment for debt service to the following year. You're going to need the cash, my friends, to take care community needs that you've heard from Lanai, you've heard from Hana, you've heard from...throughout the County.

MS. WILLENBRINK: Three minutes.

MR. HOKAMA: Thank you, Kim. You know, I, I...it's so difficult being on this side of the microphone. . . .*(laughter)*. . . I can tell you three minutes go very well.

If you allow me to share some ideas because I would like you to take into consideration because I think well-informed Members can make the better decisions. I think you need to maybe take what Mayor Tavares, as a former Council Member, suggested during the good times. Because you know, you go through the CIP quarterly reports. In the good times, she recommended CIP every other year because the departments cannot perform fast enough on how to expend the monies you give every year. What upsets me is that every year I've been supporting road resurfacing. You know how much money you folks got in encumbered funds not even put on the County roads? What is it? Four or five million dollars currently? That is the type of stimulus projects we need right now in our communities. Use those current funds that are encumbered and get it back where it needs to be – in the communities, on the contractors, pay those employees, getting the cash back into the markets, and recycling within our communities.

You know, CIP, I think the President is on a good national philosophy, but in Maui County, you guys all know. If you cannot get the building

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permits, big deal we put a lot of our money in CIP. Why not look at, you know, what Roosevelt did in the past work projects. Maybe use some of our monies, Members, take care our drainage ditches, take care our road shoulders. When I look at community work processing – paint facilities. You know, you got a community member talk about our community gym. Those things can help bring employment. You do not need tremendously special skills. You can get people paychecks. You can get them back spending within the stores. And if anything I would ask for you to consider for Lanai is how for us to maintain our dialysis service. You know, it prevents them from taking additional plane fares and additional costs that prevent them from getting the type of stretching of the very limited cash that they have.

I take that back – in my information we have \$9 million encumbered in Countywide road resurfacing. Nine million dollars. Why isn't Public Works getting off their fat duff and getting those things moving, Members? I think one of the things that I hope you would look at and I appreciate the Members that are looking it for grants, but maybe if you're going to sunset the Home...Homebuyers Fund, you may want to use those cash to help certain other areas.

'Cause what upsets me is while the State Legislature is looking at cutting the County's kneecaps off, he still have State agencies asking the County of Maui for County money. Okay. . . *(inaudible)*. . . You know, grants and operation requests from State agencies, this is not the time to come to the County. The County needs to maintain and take care its mandated requirements of fire, police, sewer, water. You know, I think we cannot afford certain things now.

I think the Mayor's \$40 million Emergency Disaster Center is not the time. We are a member of NACo. We can buy short-term solutions for hundreds of thousands of dollars than spending \$43 million for a new facility. We already projecting a brand new regional police station for South Maui. Why cannot the scope be slightly expand? Take care the dispatch requirements that they say they need, and spend just a little bit more. Why do a half a project instead of a good whole project?

You know, expansion positions, Members, if they didn't fill it this year, why keep it in the Budget? I'm talking about expansion. Okay. You need to save that cash.

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You know, I got couple of things but I think you've heard enough from me. And please, now is the time to eliminate duplication of services. We cannot afford it. So I hope that you would take some of my comments into view in how to bring the Budget back more and help this County prepare for the next year's budget cycle because it's gonna be harder. Okay. I hate to bring this up at the end of a community budget hearing meeting but I think you need to know that these are things that concerns me because it impacts this community next year as the preschool comes forward, the seniors come forward, you know.

And I'll be happy to talk to you about the swimming pool. I was the Chief Operating Officer for Land Management for Koele Company 25 years ago when we did this project. Happy to talk to you about other things regarding Lanai and community commitments made by Castle and Cooke, but that seems to be a trend because this happening on Maui, too, with the Wailuku Project District having a developer ask the County of Maui and the State of Hawaii to pay for a bridge that is a conditional zoning. You know, my memory is not failing me. Mr. Nishiki knows that. I can recall things that we have made commitments and received from that should not be a burden to the County tax payer. So I thank you very much for allowing me the extra time and I thank you for being here this evening.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Mr. Hokama. You never miss a beat. Members, any questions for the testifier? Rik, Member Medeiros has a question for you.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: You're not going to get away that easy. Now...good to see you --

MR. HOKAMA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: --and thank you for being here. I just wanted to ask some questions on...you referred to dialysis service on Lanai. Is dialysis done on Lanai or the people are taken to Maui?

MR. HOKAMA: Differently from Hana's program, yeah, Mr. Medeiros. Fresenius Service that serves Lanai is part of a larger entity. So they knew when they entered Lanai and by our good fortune, you know, we have Martha – her maiden name was Willett 'cause her father was the plantation doctor. 'Cause of her love of this community she has been able to help service and bring dialysis needs to this island. Okay. Part of the issue's is lack of space to expand the ability of utilizing the amount of

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equipment the dialysis...that the dialysis company is providing this community.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Yeah. Okay.

MR. HOKAMA: So it's an OSHA issue because of minimum square footage and privacy for each patient that goes through the dialysis requirements on, on a regular basis. The Council, about four or five years ago, supported a CIP funding for the expansion. And that's all this community asked for – not operational support. Expect CIP funds for the expansion and we went through that and unfortunately, because of the dealings with the State Health Department, HHSC, which is the State Health Corporation, run by Mr. Driskill, we had issues of intergovernmental problems whereby it never went forward. But they're still trying to move it forward and I'm here to say that if the County finds enough funds to support this community, I think we can then...can then give better service because already with her limitations she's reaching her...she's reached her capacity. There's some people that need to fly out or go to other locations. Part of the things that we had hoped for was that this could be also one way to help the resort for their clientele and be able to accept guests that need that service and then can fit...and we could assess them appropriate fees for the service to help make this a more viable operation here on the island. So that was part of the original plan, Bill, and I still think it's a reasonable working model.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay. And would you know how many patients you have on Lanai that require dialysis?

MR. HOKAMA: You know, I, I wouldn't like to speak for --

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay.

MR. HOKAMA: --Martha, but you know, maybe somebody else here knows.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay. ...*(inaudible)*... We can get that information.

MR. HOKAMA: But I know that she is pretty --

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Yeah.

MR. HOKAMA: --booked solid all the time.

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COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: So self-supported by an organization like Liberty Dialysis?

MR. HOKAMA: I believe the Lanai service provider is Fresenius.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay. Okay. Thank you. You know, I want to thank you for your support of the Hana Dialysis which will open on Saturday even though it started services. And our model is a little bit different. You know, we have the first model in the nation like we do. We have what is called Residential Communal Home Dialysis where we have a building with four bedrooms and each patient gets their own bedroom and their own machine. So I think that model is going to be followed by a lot of rural areas like Lanai and other small communities that may be considered. But thank you for your testimony.

MR. HOKAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. The next testifier is Albert deJetley, followed by Lori Kehrberg.

MS. DEJETLEY: . . .*(change tape, start 3A)*. . . Council Members. Thank you very much for having me here. I am actually here with a commercial. This is the *Lanai Today* newspaper that I started in December. What I noticed several months ago before I started the paper that we had...we did not have a record of what was occurring in the community. A lot of people don't like going to meetings so I wanted to be able to present information from public hearings and meetings in a fair and unbiased manner, and also to publicize what our non-profits are doing.

I'm a Vice...the Vice-President of Coalition for a Drug Free Lanai. And in our paper we try to...in my newspaper I try to cover all of the non-profits, the churches, the different ethnic groups that are doing different things on Lanai. So in our March issue, we have the Union Church elevator was finally dedicated and opened so we covered that. On an ongoing basis I have a page with information about the Police Department and the amount of citations that our officers are giving – speeding, traffic, you know, different things. We try to cover lot of school news and on the back page of this particular issue there's a feature on the preschool and the MEO Head Start Program.

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So I'll leave this with your clerk and I'd be happy to pass...give you your Council Services papers for all of you on a monthly basis. In this newspaper you'll notice in the front, you know, everyone thinks of Lanai as a one-horse town. We have one company. What happens to that company trickles down to all of the rest of us. My newspaper is supported by more than 50 advertisers. I have an advertiser index. So this paper is paid for by small businesses. I ask that you continue to support small businesses in Maui County in any way that you can and also to remember look at what happened to Molokai Ranch. Look at what is happening to Maui Land and Pine. What happens on Lanai to Castle and Cooke will trickle down to all of the small businesses on Lanai. So think carefully. Remember all the non-profits that need our help...your help and I hope you enjoy reading the newspaper. Thank you. Any questions?

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

MS. KEHRBERG: Aloha.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Aloha.

MS. KEHRBERG: Thank you for having me this evening. I just wanted to ask you to please reopen the community swimming pool. I have a ruptured...herniated disk and I travel off-island for water therapy in Wailuku and it's very difficult for me to travel. I have a hard time sitting for more than just a few minutes and it's very difficult for me to travel on the boat. And I just want to ask you to please reopen the swimming pool.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier?  
Member Kaho`ohalahala.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO`OHALAHALA: Thank you, Lori. I just wanted to ask, for those of you that are here, and perhaps we should have asked this earlier, but for Lanai is the pool an important facility for you that you would like the Council to give consideration for? If you...if you agree with that, would you raise your hands just so we can see? . . .*(Approximately 18 people raised their hands)*. . . So all of...all of you here think that it's important then? Okay. And I'm sorry we didn't ask the question earlier. That would have been a better time, but nonetheless it does give us a good indication. So thank you for your testimony.

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MS. KEHRBERG: Thank you for taking time for me this evening.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, Lori was the last person to testify this evening. Chair will give one more last request if anybody want to testify. You. . .

MR. ORNELLAS: Ten seconds.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay. Go ahead. John Ornellas – ten seconds testimony.

MR. ORNELLAS: Just a tidbit of information. Back in the late '90s, Castle and Cooke tried to sell the pool for \$1 to the County of Maui. Okay. Maybe you can still get that deal. Of course, the maintenance is the biggest part of, of taking care of a pool.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, John, for that information.

**...END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY...**

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Again, thank you residents of Lanai for coming out tonight. We didn't know was going be this cold. Half of us are frozen. . . .(laughter). . . I want to thank all of you for coming out tonight providing your testimony on the Mayor's 2010 Fiscal Year Budget. You know, like I said, we've gone to all of the districts – Lanai was the last one. So next week we start doing our budget proposals. And following next week we'll start doing our deliberations. So again, thank you very much and drive home safely. Thank you. The meeting of April the 9<sup>th</sup>...9 at the Lanai High and Elementary School is now adjourned. . . .(gavel). . .

**ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.**

**ADJOURN: 8:09 p.m.**

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APPROVED:

  
JOSEPH FONTANILLA, Chair  
Budget and Finance Committee

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Transcribed by: Clarita Balala