

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

**MINUTES**

**April 1, 2010**

**Lanai High and Elementary School Cafeteria**

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

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

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

**STAFF:** Gayle Revels, Legislative Analyst  
Camille Sakamoto, Committee Secretary  
Ken Fukuoka, Director of Council Services  
Denise Fernandez, Council Aide, Lanai Council Office

**ADMIN.:** Two uniformed police officers

**OTHERS:** Heidi Aiwohi, on-call Emergency Medical Technician, American Medical Response  
Ted Tengan, on-call Mobile Intensive Care Technician, American Medical Response  
Helen Tabura  
Maria Rose Santiago  
Dorothy Tan  
Lorraine Dyer  
Norraine Pascua, Executive Director, Lanai Youth Center  
Alicia Ebbing, Member, Lanai Youth Center  
Sheila Marie Gani, Member, Lanai Youth Center  
Winifred Basques  
Tom Kiely, Hotel Lanai and Lanai City Grill  
Kristi Caberto, Member, Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance  
Kenny Cabanting, Member, Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance  
Mark Corre, Member, Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance  
Alexandra Palumbo  
Gail Shin, Program Administrator, E Malama I Na Keiki O Lanai Preschool  
Alice Granito, Teacher, E Malama I Na Keiki O Lanai Preschool

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Lance Anderson, Executive Director, Lanai Art Center  
Joelle Aoki, Executive Director, Coalition for Drug Free Lanai  
C. Pua Paoa, Board Member, Coalition for Drug Free Lanai  
Kimberly Tate, Board Member, Coalition for Drug Free Lanai  
Alton Aoki  
Beverly Zigmond, Program Coordinator, Women Helping Women  
Stacey Moniz, Executive Director, Women Helping Women  
Ron McOmber  
Riki Hokama  
Onaona Maly  
Butch Gima  
Rose Ling Simon  
Laura Novell, President, Lanai Community Health Center Board of Directors  
Gail R.  
John de la Cruz  
Todd Yamaoka  
Stacey Purdy, President, E Malama I Na Keiki O Lanai Preschool  
Cruz Hernandez, Teacher, Lanai High and Elementary School  
Joan de la Cruz for Andrew de la Cruz, Vice President, Lanai Community  
Health Center Board of Directors  
Stepheny Ozoa, Emergency Medical Technician  
Renee Plunkett  
Amelia Stalker  
Candace Ariaga  
Sandy Baz, Chief Executive Officer, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.  
John Ornellas  
  
Claudette Heermance  
Colby Simon  
Christian Simon  
Tyra  
Gerald Rabaino  
Sherman Baisa  
Joycelyn Victorino  
Forty (40) additional unidentified attendees

**PRESS:** *Akaku: Maui Community Television, Inc.*

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . I'd like to call to order the Council Budget and Finance Committee meeting on, for April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 at the Lanai High and Elementary School cafeteria. Good evening, everyone.

AUDIENCE: Good evening.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you for having us here this evening. At this time, I'd like to yield the floor to your Council member, Sol Kaho'ohalahala, who will introduce the Members of the Committee, as well as the Staff that is supporting the Committee. Member Kaho'ohalahala?

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: Thank you, Chair Pontanilla.

. . . I just wanna also thank all or you for coming tonight. This one of the, the more important times of the Council coming to Lanai for you to have some input about where you want the County's budget to go. . .in terms of programs and services that we provide for. So I thank the Council members for being here. I will begin at my far left. . .and would like to introduce to you Councilmember Michael Victorino.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Aloha.

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

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: And then next to him would be Councilmember Wayne Nishiki.

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

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: And then we have Councilmember Michael Molina.

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

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: And then our Chair of the Council, from Molokai, Councilmember Danny Mateo, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: And then to my far right here, Councilmember Gladys Baisa.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Hi, everybody.

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

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: And then from the East Maui, Hana area, Councilmember Bill Kauakea Medeiros.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Aloha. Aloha.

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

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

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO‘OHALAHALA: And then I’d like to also introduce the Staff that are with us tonight. To my very far right, from our Council Services Office, Denise Fernandez.

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

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO‘OHALAHALA: And then. . .and then next to her would be our Budget. . .Analyst, yeah, Gayle Revels.

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

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO‘OHALAHALA: And then our Committee Secretary, Camille Sakamoto.

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

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO‘OHALAHALA: . . . And then I’ll hand it back again to our Budget Chair, Councilmember Joseph Pontanilla.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Member Kaho‘ohalahala.

. . . Ladies and gentlemen, tonight is your opportunity to provide testimony on the proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2011, as proposed by Mayor Tavares.

**ITEM NO. 1: PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011 FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (C.C. No. 10-27)**

CHAIR PONTANILLA: So tonight, we’re here to . . .to hear your testimony in regards to the budget proposed by Mayor Tavares. We’ve gone through several communities. I, I think Lanai is the fifth community that we’re coming to to receive testimony on, on this [*sic*] year’s Budget as proposed by the Administration. And when we go back to Maui, we’re gonna have our deliberations in about a week-and-a-half. We still got several more community meetings that are scheduled for next week. We’re presently reviewing the budget for all of the departments. We just completed four departments for the County of Maui. So we still have a lot of work to do before the Council deliberate on the Budget. We should have the Budget completed by April 30<sup>th</sup>. And April 30<sup>th</sup>. . .and the reason why April 30<sup>th</sup> is that it’s gonna be a day after. . .the State of Hawaii finalize their budget. And the reason why we kept it one day after the State budget, because, is because we don’t know the fate of the Transient Accommodation Tax. Presently, the Mayor had budgeted in her proposal, 17 million dollars. But there are two House bills that is in the State Legislature, in conference committee. One of the bills they’re talking about is to eliminate the TAT entire. . .entirely. And the other bill from the House that would have

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given the counties 94 percent of the TAT for the next five years. . .that one is also in jeopardy, meaning that the Senate Ways and Means Committee is proposing or has proposed to reduce that amount by 50 percent. What it means for Maui County is that we have budgeted in this proposal, 17 million dollars on, for TAT as part of the revenue; and if the \_\_\_\_ and the House. . .during their conference committee approve that, our take on, on the TAT would be 8. . .approximately 8.5 million dollars. That's one bill. On the other bill, 1744, if they approve that particular budget [*sic*], all of the four counties get zero. So I would encourage each of you to contact our State Legislatures [*sic*] and advocate for the TAT--don't take away the TAT for the four counties: Maui County, Kauai County, City and County of Honolulu, and Hawaii County. So I thought I'd provide you with that information because it is very important that we receive our share of the Transient Accommodation Tax. We do have a lot of people signed up for public testimony this evening. The ground rules for the public testimony will be, the Chair will allow three minutes for public testimony and will give you a minute to conclude. And if you can come up to the mic, speak directly into the mic, provide us your name, the organization that you are representing, the Committee as well as the Staff would appreciate that. But before we start with public testimony, if everyone can turn off their cell phones or put it on silent mode?

**NOTE:** *Pause.*

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . The first testifier this evening is Heidi Aiwohi . . .

. . . followed by Ted Tengan.

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

MS. AIWOHI: . . .(*inaudible*). . .

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: Aloha.

MS. AIWOHI: . . .(*inaudible*). . .

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: . . . Not working.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: See if it's on.

MS. AIWOHI: Good evening. My name is Heidi Aiwohi, and I'm here on behalf of myself. I've been a paramedic for 22 years in Maui County, and I'm here testifying for and urging you to fund the Maui medevac helicopter. I've seen it save lives and improve the outcome of patients and transport to Maui Memorial Hospital and also Queen's. So please don't cut the monies for them. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thanks.

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

. . . Seeing none, thank you very much. Ted. . .Tengan?

MR. TENGAN: Hi, my name is Ted Tengan, testifying on behalf of myself. I'm a . . .I've been a paramedic for the last 30 years, 20 years here on the island of Lanai. I really wanna press forward with keeping our helicopter service active and alive here. We don't have a CAT scan here on Lanai. We. . .we need to send patients out to Queen's or Maui Memorial. Maui Memorial has an *excellent* stroke team, as we know. . .stoke center. Uh. . .in the past year, year-and-a-half we, we, we have flown. . .patients who had neurological deficits that needed to have a CAT scan and treatment after that. Besides, you know, time is tissue, the issue of time is tissue. We'd like to have Maui medevac as a, an additional resource. About a year-and-a-half ago we had 500 guests, staff, residents, down at Manele Bay Hotel, we had that big fire. . .it cut off two of our roads down to Manele. I was doing a standby. Fortunately, the medic. . .Medic 13 was here in town, but they could not respond down to. . .to Manele Bay. I was doing a standby, working for \_\_\_\_\_ at the time as a . . .first-responder. All of sudden, I became the first respond medical personnel. We called Maui medevac as a standby to fly over. They quickly came over, but unfortunately they couldn't, they could not land down at Manele because of the swirling hot winds. But they were able to land at the airport and it gave us an added, you know, resource of extricating or transfer, transporting patients either from Lanai Community Hospital, at the airport, or we would have find a landing zone down at the. . .Manele Bay Hotel area. But we just *need* that additional resource, especially here on Lanai. We, we just have to put all the. . .teams together--Fire, Police, and EMS. Thank you for your time.

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

. . . The next testifier is Helen Tabura, followed by Rose Santiago.

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

MS. TABURA: . . . Good evening, everyone. I guess I have a troop in the back of me.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: . . .*(laughter)*. . . Wow . . .*(laughter)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Hey . . .

MS. TABURA: I don't think all of 'em gonna talk, though.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: . . .*(laughter)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Very good.

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COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: The seniors.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Right. Look at that.

MS. TABURA: . . .*(laughter)*. . . I need supporters. Hi, my name is Helen Tabura. I'm representing Maui Economics [*sic*] Opportunity. And these are my gang from. . .the senior citizen club.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: . . .*(laughter)*. . .

MS. TABURA: I am a concerned. . .Lanai. . .Lanaian and a senior citizen of Lanai. Maui Economic Opportunity has been around in, in Maui County for years and I always became a MEO. . .I just became a MEO senior citizen club member this year. I have been. . .I have seen what Maui Economic Opportunity has been doing for us here on Lanai. Please, please don't take the service that MEO is doing here for our senior citizens and our disabled. We 100 percent depend on MEO transportation every day and we love to. . .we love the convenience or the security of just knowing we have the service--especially when we have no one to call on but MEO. Lanai is always been forgotten, the forgotten island *because* we are so small. We all, we are also very limited in everything. Lanai is a very unique place, and most of, most of us just love it here. Yes, we have choices, but Lanai, like I said, is a very unique island. If you would take MEO services away, we will, we will. . .our seniors do not or without any, we won't have a wonderful service that they provide for us. Our senior citizen club has been very active and we look forward to be at our meetings and talking stories with our friends. And MEO bus always pick us up just to have fun and be with each other, play games, sing, and eat. We even have ukulele group and kupuna hula dancers. We enjoy going out. . .we joy, enjoy going knowing that we have transportation and friends that cares for us. It was also not. . .it was also not for MEO the transportation and the majority of us would just stay at home.

. . . That's why, that's what would happen if you take the transportation away from us seniors and disabled. They even take us food, food shopping and to our doctors appointments. We get to go to Maui two times a month, with MEO providing us with transportation and excursions. And that is. . .that is our out. Life is too short to just be staying at home and not enjoying life. So please, again, do not take our transportation away. Right now, we service 260-plus seniors with act, with 100 active. Just to see the seniors out and being active in the community makes me happy because they want to be active physically and mentally.

. . . Senior, the senior hula dancers and the ukulele group just love to entertaining, knowing that they have transportation to and from their destination. You take this away, it would all stop. We hope and pray you will all consider Lanai and not take our transportation away just to cut budget. Thank you so much. But there's another thing that I haven't put on, on there about our . . .

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MS. REVELS: Three minutes.

MS. TABURA: . . . um. . . I'm done, okay . . . *(laughter)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Go ahead.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: No, you have one minute to conclude.

MS. TABURA: Oh, . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Go ahead.

MS. TABURA: I'm sorry.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Please.

MS. TABURA: Okay, our chairs, transportation--I understand that they wanna charge our seniors a dollar every time we get onto the bus. And a lot of us are all on fixed income. And if that happens, then we're not gonna have no activity here on Lanai. Like I said, it's, it's such a small island, everything is taken away from us. Thank you.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Next testifier is Rose Santiago, followed by Dorothy Tan. . . and after Dorothy will be Lorraine Dyer.

MS. SANTIAGO: To all our Council members.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Oh.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Can you speak directly into the mic, please?

MS. SANTIAGO: To all our Council members, my name is Maria Rose Santiago. I ride the MEO bus almost four times a week or more, sometimes to the Clinic, post office, pick up my medication because there is no pharmacy here on Lanai. I also use the bus for shopping. I live on a fixed income and I don't have much after paying my rent and utility bills, but I thank God every day for the MEO bus because without it I would be lost and lonely. I say "lonely" because I have many friends I meet on the bus. When you have, when you live alone, it's good to see them. If I pay a dollar every time I board the MEO bus, it would mean 4 dollars a day; five times a day would mean 20 dollars a week. That money I could use to buy toilet tissue, laundry soap, or other cleaning items. I speak for

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all of the other friends who are on a fixed budget, they feel the same way. Thank you for your time and for all that you have given.

. . . Thank you for your time and for all that you have given the buses and the shopping on Maui. Remember our kupunas. Aloha and thank you, Aunty Rose Santiago.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Seeing none, Dorothy Tan?

MS. TAN: Good evening, Members of the Maui County Council. My name is Dorothy Tan, and I've been a resident of Lanai for at least 20 years now. I've been on the mainland also, so. . . anyway, as Lanai residents, we ask that you keep what is budget, budgeted for and to restore our funding for transportation here on Lanai. We belong to the MEO here on Lanai and are aware that we can use their bus services for going to the stores on certain days; get shuttled to Manele Harbor on excursion trips to Maui as a group; home pickup and drop off for other activities. For us seniors, especially who cannot drive or have walking disability, needs this kind of service. For that matter, not only MEO members should, could use this service, but anyone in the community who needs transportation assistance. Even though we are a small community, our needs are, can be just as much as the larger communities in our County. Now Lanai is just one little city and. . . not like on Maui, there's several cities that complete the County of Maui altogether. We're by ourselves and we do need this. . . budget to be. . . for us, the transportation part of it. So please take this into consideration highly. And I thank you. And. . . I'm reading this off from me and my sisters. I have a, I have a mentally challenged sister that I take care of. And I, myself, is retired. Who knows what my health will be in the next year or so? And my, I may need the service badly. So please consider this request. Thank you.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Next testifier is Lorraine Dyer.

MS. DYER: Okay, I'm Lorraine Dyer, and I'm President of our Lanai MEO Senior Club. And I strongly, this dollar a charge every time we enter the bus is gonna be horrendous for our seniors. We're all on a low income. And a trip just around Lanai is gonna add ten dollars every time they go shopping. It's gonna add ten dollars every time they go, which is two or three times a week. And then even when we go to Maui, it's gonna be the same thing on our two shopping days. It's gonna add at least ten bucks every time we go to Maui. And excursions? Well, that, that would still be a little bit, but not quite as bad. But. . . and then I also support Women Helping Women. We cannot be without that

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service here. That is the only place to help women in trouble here on the island. And then the ambulance, we have one senior that's here today because she was airvac'd out to Maui with a stroke and was able to get the medication in time. She's up, walking around, walking the streets and everything else that she would not have if she had not been airvac'd out. So we need all those services for us. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

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

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you very much for being here tonight and bringing the seniors. It's really important to us to hear from the people who use the service. You know, we see a lot of figures on a piece of paper, but it's much better hearing it from the people that use it and hearing your stories and why it's important. I wanted to ask you a question. You know this issue of the dollar every time we get on. . .we need to find a solution to that because, you know, the Mayor's Budget has proposed that all bus rides that's County-sponsored will require that dollar--

MS. DYER: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: --*every* time you board the bus.

MS. DYER: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: And like you said, if you go to four or five stops, that's four or five dollars.

MS. DYER: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: And then returning you might have to pay the same. We'd like, I, I particularly would like to get an idea--if we were to get a senior citizen pass, some kind of a ID for you that would say, okay, I'm a senior citizen and I'm entitled to some kind of discounted ridership--have you *any* idea or can you talk with your members and maybe give us? We have a, like the Chair said we have a few weeks more to make up our minds on the Budget. Is there *any* range that you can give us? Like, can you pay 5 dollars a month or 10 dollars a month or whatever it is. . .if they can pay anything? And we realize there are people who are really stuck, I mean, they're on a very, very tiny income, small Social Security, very small pension, maybe they can't pay at all. But if we could have some idea of a range? Maybe we can index it to income so the very poor who cannot, just don't pay; and those that have a little more could maybe a little bit. Because we're going to get asked to, you know, make some kind of proposal rather than saying no, we're not gonna pay anything. And that's an option, too, but I'm trying to find a compromise. And we don't wanna hurt anybody. We know that the bus is your lifeline. But you know, we're with our backs against the wall, too--as is everyone else trying to

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pay the bills. And you know drivers have to be paid, gas has to be bought, so if there's any solution, any input you can give us as far as that fare is concerned, I would really appreciate it. And I'm sure my Members, our Members would, too.

MS. DYER: Yeah, we, we can have a meeting, we can get on our phone tree and call everybody and, especially the people that ride it consistently and, and the one that go to shopping at Manele or shopping on Maui and everything, and see what we can do.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: If you'd--

MS DYER: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: --give us your suggestions? Thank you.

MS. DYER: I will. We will.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you very much.

MS. DYER: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: The next testifier is Norraine Pascua, followed by Alicia Ebding.

**NOTE:** *Very long pause while Ms. Pascua and the members of the Lanai Youth Center approached the mic.*

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Upside down.

MS. PASCUA: . . . It's upside down.

**NOTE:** *Pause.*

MS. PASCUA: . . . Good evening, Maui County Council Members. My name is Norraine Pascua, and I am the new Executive Director of the Lanai Youth Center. On behalf of the staff, board members, and parents, I would like to begin by thanking all of you for taking the time to come to Lanai and for your continued support of the Lanai Youth Center. Our current membership includes approximately 200 youth. The Lanai Youth Center is the only organization on the island that offers structured and supervised programs five days a week to youth ages 8 to 18. We provide educational, cultural, and recreational programs. We are a vital component in the lives of our youth. The County Council has always supported us, and for that we are truly grateful. We are also excited and thankful with the addition of our new portable classroom which was funded through the CDBG program and a special EDI grant through HUD. The building is used for

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programs such as homework and educational activities, arts and crafts, Girlz Club, and teen prevention. We would like to also submit signed signatures on behalf of the Lanai Youth Center, board members, teachers, community members, parents, and youth. The board members, staff, and youth would also like to enclose their letters to say “thank you” in their own words. In closing, we would like to ask that you support the following: the Lanai Community Health Center, Keiki O Lanai Preschool, Lanai Art Center, CDFL, Lanai Animal Rescue Center, and Woman Helping Woman [*sic*]. Thank you.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Next testifier is Alicia Ebding, followed by Sheila Maria Gani.

MISS EBDING: Hi, my name is Alicia Ebding. And thanks for everything you do for the Youth Center. I like going on trips and doing activities. I like coming to the Youth Center because it’s fun. I like the help and support the staff gives us. Thank you.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? If not, Sheila?

MISS GANI: Hi, my name is Sheila Gani. I will be reading a letter on behalf of Sheila Rendon because she’s not, she can’t be here. Thank you for supporting the Lanai Youth Center for all these years. We appreciate it. The Youth Center is so much fun. It doesn’t make us bored and it. . .and just staying home all day. The Youth Center supported us on our volleyball trip last year. The people that work there helps us with our homework and turns. . .tutors us. The Youth Center has so much they provide us. The Youth Center gives us a place to have fun, for homework, and a place to relax. The Youth Center is for all ages. There’s Girlz Club. . .which is meant for girls, and they even have teen night, which is awesome . . .(*laughter*). . . There’s a lot of things to do at the Youth Center. I’m so delighted to have a Youth Center on Lanai. Sincerely, Sheila Mae Rendon.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? And maybe you can come up, forward with your sign. . .the poster, yeah, so we can take a look at that . . .

MS. PASCUA: . . .(*inaudible*). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay. Thank you.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. The next testifier is Winifred Basques, follow. . .followed by Claudette . . .

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COUNCILMEMBER KAHO‘OHALAHALA: . . . Heermance.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Heermance.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER FROM THE AUDIENCE: She had to go.

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

MS. BASQUES: . . . Why, *hello* there.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Hello there.

MS. BASQUES: How’s everybody?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good, good . . . (*inaudible*). . .

MS. BASQUES: Okay. Can hear now?

AUDIENCE: Yes.

MS. BASQUES: Open the pepeau?

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

MS. BASQUES: Okay.

. . . I have two questions.

. . . The first one is . . . talking about the budget and finance, okay, why are you folks doing away with this?

*NOTE: Pause while Ms. Basques displayed a news article.*

MS. BASQUES: . . . The helicopter. Okay, *I* used to work for the . . . Lanai Community Hospital. I am a paramedic. I *retired* for 22 years, and I know *everything* about airvac out because I used to drive the ambulance at night. I pick ‘em up, I drop ‘em off, take ‘em airport, whatever. I do. . . I did everything. But *why* are you folks going do this? This is *crucial*. This is *important*. I tell you why. When the, when I pick up the people or the resident--not “patient”, it’s *resident* these you call now--and I take ‘em to the hospital, in the meantime the doctors and nurses are working on the patient. . . resident to find out if it’s really emergency to get him off the island. Okay? They have choices. They can go to Maui Memorial Hospital. They can go to Straub, Queen’s Hospital, Tripler, wherever. But the thing is that, I’m talking about there are five aircrafts. When the aircrafts are *down*. . . you know who they call? The Coast Guard come in. The Coast Guard come in, pick ‘em up and drop ‘em off. That’s all they do. They don’t have any

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attention on the Coast Guard aircraft, the helicopter. *Now* you folks going be doing, taking away this thing. . .what is this people gonna do on this island? Now remember, when they're in the emergency room, you don't know what going happen. I did CPR on patients and I took care of them. Okay? My second question is the MEO . . .

. . . why are you folks doing this kind stuff? I tell you why. The kala. That's only dollar sign, dollar sign. But this people here on this island who cannot walk to the store from where they live, who is gonna pick 'em up? The family works. Are they gonna say, how are they gonna get their medication? How are they going to the hospital? How are they going to stores to get their food? And you folks can be taking away this thing. *Aole*.

. . . Aole pilikia.

MS. REVELS: Three minutes.

MS. BASQUES: Which means "no" in Hawaiian. And *no*, you folks *don't do this*. Because, why?

MS. REVELS: Three minutes.

MS. BASQUES: This is a must. This is urgent. Yes, they need this thing. And on top of that, I hope you go back and talk to *who* when bring this thing up because this is *lives* involved. *Lives*. And I mean people who might die waiting for the aircraft to come in, to pick 'em up, and take 'em to the hospital in Hono. . .Maui. Oh, Gladys, I might have a remedy. . .for the bus. How's about, like when I go Honolulu catch the bus, there are bus pass. . .why don't you folks do that? They pay bus pass, 25 dollars a month. . .they can use it all the time, they can go off-island and use the bus pass on Maui as well as Molokai or wherever. It's so simple. And this is controlled by--

MS. REVELS: Four minutes.

MS. BASQUES: --the County.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay--

MS. BASQUES: But I hate to say this. . .please take care of this issue. It's important. And I thank you very much again. Is there any questions that I might answer--

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

MS. BASQUES: . . .(laughter). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Let me, let me find out some. . .make some clarification.

MS. BASQUES: Okay.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: The Budget proposal that we reviewing, that you saw, whatever is in the paper--

MS. BASQUES: Yeah.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --that's a proposal that is being presented by the Mayor of this County.

MS. BASQUES: Okay.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: We, the *Council members*, will be working on that Budget. So we, we're here to listen to your concerns, your testimony regarding what was proposed by the Administration . . .(end of tape, start 1B). . . and can, you know, look at whatever she had proposed and. . .I'm sure we're gonna make a lot of adjustments. In regards to the MEO, the bus pass, those are things that are being considered. . .not only the pass but looking at reducing the fees for seniors or for the youths. . .that jump on the bus. So there's lot of things that we still need to review and discuss. Hopefully when it's all said and done, that. . .the, the budget that is. . .that is prepared by *this* Committee would satisfy a majority of the needs of our community. So we have our, a tough job ahead of us trying to. . .ensure that the services that are existing continue on. We know that some of the services in regards to funding will be reduced. . .in fact, majority of 'em because we just don't have the revenues at this time because of the economic downturn. So just to let you know, the Budget that is being proposed and the budget, uh, and the newspaper article that you read are things that the Mayor had proposed for her Fiscal Year 2011 Budget. So--

MS. BASQUES: Thank you very much.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

MS. BASQUES: All right, thank you for your time--

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Uh--

MS. BASQUES: --and efforts.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Question? Member Victorino?

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Thank you. Thank. . .thank you. Aunty, I understand what you're saying. You feel that if we could figure out some kind of system for a bus that, pass that would not only be good here on Lanai but would be good on Maui or Molokai, wherever our seniors would travel, you would be in favor of something like that.

MS. BASQUES: Oh, yeah.

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COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: And especially, and then also our youth because they have the same, a similar problem, right?

MS. BASQUES: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Okay. So that's what you're trying to tell us--

MS. BASQUES: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: --like you would go Honolulu, 25 dollar you can go anywhere in the bus--

MS. BASQUES: Oh, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Okay.

MS. BASQUES: And you can transfer, too, as well.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Transfer, too, as well.

MS. BASQUES: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Yeah. Okay. So that's, that's, that's good. You know and we'll be looking into that. But thank you for your manao.

MS. BASQUES: Okay. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you, Winnie. Always good to hear from you. About the bus pass, you know, that's one of the things that we *do* have *now*. We have a monthly pass.

MS. BASQUES: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Mr. Medeiros has proposed taking that away. And he's the--

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Not this one.

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

MS. BASQUES: . . .*(laughter)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

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COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Not, not this Mr. Medeiros--

ALL: . . .(laughter). . .

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: --okay?

ALL: . . .(laughter). . .

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: That's Don Medeiros, the Transportation Director for the Mayor, who helped, I'm sure, put together the proposal that she made.

MS. BASQUES: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: So he wants take away the passes, but what we're hearing. . .at, at least what *I'm* hearing as I go these hearings is people are saying that's a good way to do this, is to get people to pay little bit, get a pass that is recognized by everybody. Also, I think for *me* it's easier to control because if you buy a pass. . .you know, it's, it's not money being handled all the time--

MS. BASQUES: No. No.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Also, I'm a, very much aware that MEO has a, is willing to *issue* the passes if the Department of Transportation and this Council, who's gonna make the final decision on this Budget, would ask them. They would be happy to do it. And that way, we'd have, you know, passes and people wouldn't have to find that dollar every time--which is gonna kill a lot of people.

MS. BASQUES: Yeah, especially if they're going from town to down Manele to catch the boat and come back again, they gotta pay another dollar again.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Yeah.

MS. BASQUES: So the bus pass would be helpful to them. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you, dear. Bye-bye.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

MS. BASQUES: Bye-bye.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Tom Keely [*sic*], followed by Kristi Caberto.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: Kiley.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Oh, Tom Kiely.

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

MR. KIELY: . . . Good evening, aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO‘OHALAHALA: Aloha.

MR. KIELY: I represent--my name is Tom Kiely, and I represent the Hotel Lanai and Lanai City Grill. And the point of my, my testimony this evening is to encourage you to support tourism marketing for this island, as well as Maui and Molokai. It's very simple that if we don't market the destination, people don't come. People don't come and revenues don't generate, nobody goes into the shops, nobody goes into the restaurants and employees lose time and hours. The Hotel Lanai employs 30 employees. We also pay for services around the island to electricians, plumbers, goods, supplies, and so on. We can tell that when this island is at 70 percent occupancy, things are okay. At 50 percent occupancy, it's heading towards bankruptcy. And I'm not talking about the hotel per se. I'm talking about how the monies flow *through* the community. One of the clothing stores just closed. The population of Lanai has decreased in the last couple of years. Whether we like it or not, tourism is what brings revenue into these islands and is what helps you balance your budget and meets your budgets. Sometimes tourism isn't popular. But the fact is that it helps keeps our island vibrant and alive. Sometimes we play a game called "What if". Imagine 30, 40, 50 years ago when the question was what if the plantation closed. And I'm sure people at that time didn't want to think about that. But indeed, the plantation closed. What if. . .these hotels and golf courses closed? What if? Where does the money come from to keep the island alive? And so I encourage you to support the tourism marketing not only of this island, but *all* islands. And while we talk about the TAT on the State level, that's really something that, that is in somebody else's hands maybe, even though we can vote on it. But it also comes back to how we support ourselves. There's an old saying that if everybody cleans their stoop, we have a beautiful city. So regardless of what happens at the State level, at the County level it's very important that we help ourselves and maintain ourselves. And by investing in tourism marketing, we help to invest in this entire community. And I thank you very, very much and. . .applaud the hard work that you do. I know it's not easy. We support you and, and thank you. And if I can ever be of any help to answer your questions or provide input, I'm happy to do that. I've done tourism marketing not only in Hawaii, but in countries around the world and, so I have quite a lot of experience with that. Council members?

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Uh, you're done with your testimony, sir?

MR. KIELY: Yes.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions?

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COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Chair?

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Chair?

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Member Victorino, followed by Member Medeiros.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Yeah. I have, I have a couple of questions. You mentioned the number of employees that work for the hotel--

MR. KIELY: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: --and then you have the auxiliary, like construction and all that. .if you were to give me, at 70 percent, let's use 70 percent because I understand we've been pretty much close to that number in the last two or three months--

MR. KIELY: Um--

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: It's been pretty stead. Well, this is coming right from the people who I drive with, you know--

MR. KIELY: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: --the, the drivers can tell you more than, than, than the managers.

MR. KIELY: . . .*(laughter)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: So let's leave that one alone. Okay?

MR. KIELY: . . .*(laughter)*. . . Okay, you're right . . .*(laughter)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: People tell me and I, that's the people I listen to.

MR. KIELY: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: But anyhow, 70 percent.

MR. KIELY: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: What kind of, what kind of payroll does the Hotel hold when you're losing about 70 percent? How many, how many. . .how many, how much is the dollar amount of payroll? Because to us, that's people working.

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MR. KIELY: Right. Uh-huh. Uh. . .the, it costs, to run the Hotel Lanai. . .about 1,200,000 dollars a year. Roughly, half of that is in payroll and related. . .related services 'cause also we have the Lanai City Grill Restaurant.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Okay. And then all these auxiliary things would be all the difference in, in the amount that you're referring to.

MR. KIELY: That's right. Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: And then the last question I have for you is if the Lodge or the Hotel was to close. . .do you see any other sustainable industry coming into this island, in your opinion?

MR. KIELY: Uh. . .in the, in the very near-term, no. And I'll point to something that's historical. And it's called the, the Miracle of Ireland. Roughly one generation ago Ireland was a third-world country. The Irish people were impoverished, poor, and they had no future. They made a decision to invest in two things. The first was education because they wanted the most educated workforce in Europe. The second was tourism. And the reason that they voted to invest in tourism was because it was a clean industry and it would bring money from other places around the world into their country. And by the end of this decade, Ireland will have the highest. . .level of, of, of living in the world.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Thank you. Thank you for that information.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Member Medeiros?

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your testimony this evening--

MR. KIELY: You're welcome

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: --and for your presence. Um. . .how long have you been with the Hotel Lanai?

MR. KIELY: We've loaned. . .owned the Hotel Lanai for two-and-a-half years. I lived in Hawaii for 30 years.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay. And. . .what kind of. . .assistance in marketing has the Maui Visitors Bureau presented to Hotel Lanai?

MR. KIELY: Well, it, it, it's not Hotel Lanai specifically. It's the entire Lanai community.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay.

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MR. KIELY: This really is about a destination. You don't market one small hotel with ten rooms, but it really is. . .the Lanai Visitors Bureau, the Maui Visitors Bureau to market the entire destination to get people to come to this island. And then we all share.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay. So in, in your estimation, has the Maui Visitors Bureau marketed Lanai as much as you think they should?

MR. KIELY: Well, you know, you, you would always like to do more. I, I do think that the Maui Visitors Bureau and their efforts for Maui, Molokai, Lanai are. . .aggressive, well-organized and, and I think that the monies are well planned. Now the budgets aren't big, and this is worldwide competition. And I do think that they do a good job with the monies that they have.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay.

MR. KIELY: It would, if they had more monies, I think that the revenues overall to these islands would be higher, too.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay. Uh, and if the Chair would allow me, I, I think that's all I have for you. But, Chair, if you'll allow me . . .*(laughter)*. . . I just wanna be sure people are clear because Member Baisa . . .*(laughter)*. . . mentioned "Medeiros was taking away the money" . . .*(laughter)*. . . and stuff . . .*(laughter)*. . .

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

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: So . . .*(laughter)*. . . I, I want you to understand there's a lot of Medeiros' that work for the County government . . .*(laughter)*. . .

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

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: There's the one in charge of GIS, one in. . .you know was in charge of--

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

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: --Housing and Human Concerns, one's a Supervisor in Parks. So I'm the one that didn't take away the money . . .*(laughter)*. . .

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

MR. KIELY: Thank you very much.

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

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Thank you . . .*(laughter)*. . .

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you . . . *(laughter)* . . .

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

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Chair, one more thing.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Excuse me--

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Uh, Tom?

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Tom?

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: One, one, one more quick question.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Member Baisa?

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: I was interested in a comment you made about the population having declined some on Lanai.

MR. KIELY: Uh-huh. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Can you give me a little bit more?

MR. KIELY: Well, I, I, I don't have the, the Census figures. But I'll give you an example. I was speaking with Doug Stephenson last weekend, who is in charge of many of the services for Castle and Cooke. And we were talking about water and the wastewater treatment facility. And that water is used to, of course, water any number of, of areas. And he said that since the population had decreased to some degree, there was less. . . less wastewater going into that facility; therefore, there was less water to use to irrigate many areas. So that's one example of the tickle down of, where real impact is felt. It's one thing to say, well, there's less people here and what does that mean. But all of sudden you have less wastewater, not just rain water. So there's a very real example of fewer people on this island and then an impact in one specific area.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you very much. That's a very important thing to know. Thank you.

MR. KIELY: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. The next set. . . set of testifiers. . . that wanna testify for Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance. . . Kristi Caberto, Mark Corre, and Kenny Cabinting. . . Cabanting.

**NOTE: *Pause while Miss Caberto, Master Cabanting, and Master Corre approached the mic.***

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MISS CABERTO: . . . Okay. Aloha, Council members. My name is Kristi Caberto. This is Kenny Cabanting and Mark Corre. And as Members of Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance, we humbly ask that you continue funding our programs. I have been part of the Alliance for three years. And Kenny and Mark have been part of the Alliance for about one year. I would like to share a few special experiences that we wouldn't have if it weren't for the Youth Alliance program.

MASTER CABANTING: . . . Good evening, Council members, I'm Kenny Cabanting. The first Youth Alliance session I went to dealt with solar energy. It was held at the Maui Ocean Center, and at the session we met the makers of a green environmentally safe invention called \_\_\_\_\_. Other things we did were talk to a number of Council members about their job and their work with Maui County. Being informed about what the changes that are happening in Maui County was great 'cause not a lot of teens know what's happening with the growth of where they live. Being shown how we can be green with hands-on work, such as creating a solar oven, give us one of many ideas on how we can spread green living through interesting ways.

MASTER CORRE: . . . Following what Kenward said, after that we went to the Wailuku Police Department. We were given a tour of the facility and shown the different agencies of police enforcement. One thing we saw was the detainment office. Officers gave us a look at the cells and the inmates and they taught us the different penalties for minors who commit crimes. Then we were shown the Crime Scene Investigation unit and how biology and other sciences help solve crimes. So I hope you consider our experiences and what we learned, and we hope you keep funding Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance.

MISS CABERTO: Also to add to that. . .I am also the CDFL Student Board Member and I would like you to continue. . .supporting our 45,000 to the Coalition for Drug Free Lanai. Thank you.

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

. . . Seeing none, thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Alexandra Palumbo, followed by Gail Shin.

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

MS. PALUMBO: Good evening, Council members. Thank you for all of the support that we do get now. And I just am here to testify on behalf of a couple of. . .of things. But MEO, number one, has definitely. . .made it possible for me to work while my daughter goes to preschool and also continue my education in going into nursing. And so I also would like to support the Lanai Community Health Center because they pretty much have a job for

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me as soon as I finish with school. So that, you know, is helping the community. And also the Drug Free. . .Coalition for the youth, I also support. And the Hawaii Visitors Bureau, as well, because I help run Lanai Surf School. And that is. . .the economy started going down, and that's when I went back to school to backup our business, small business here on Lanai. And thank you, also, for the MEO funding that is helping to fund the small businesses here that we keep hearing about. And, and so MEO is just an awesome thing, and please continue to help, have all those funds for the Lanai.

. . . The garbage trucks went down awhile ago, and that was, I would think maybe we might need a new garbage truck, too . . .*(laughter)*. . . But I think it's back. So--

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

MS. PALUMBO: that's all . . .*(laughter)*. . . Thank you.

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

MS. PALUMBO: Oh, my name is Alexandra Palumbo, or Alex.

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

. . . We'll try get a new garbage truck for you.

MS. PALUMBO: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

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

MS. PALUMBO: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Gail Shin?

**NOTE:** *Pause.*

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . Followed by Alice Granito.

MS. SHIN: . . . Good evening. . .County Council Members. My name is Gail Shin, and I'm the Program Administrator at E Malama I Na Keiki O Lanai Preschool. I want to thank you for your past and your current support of our program, MEO Headstart, and other Lanai programs. I believe that preschool is an essential step in a child's journey towards adulthood. Children's many learning experiences in our program prepare them for formal academics. But these experiences also encourage their social, emotional development. As children learn more about themselves, they learn self-discipline and social skills in interaction with peers, people of all ages, and their environment, preparing them to become responsible, compassionate, community members. In today's economy, finding employment or remaining employed is a huge challenge for many families on

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Lanai. Employment often means varied work shifts or days of the week that they work. Having a child in our program means parents are able to work, knowing their children are safe, loved, and nurtured in our program. We are an integral part of our community as we support and encourage families and their children's growth and development. So I ask you tonight to consider our community needs and E Malama I Na Keiki O Lanai's funding request. Mahalo.

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

MS. SHIN: Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Alice Granito. . .followed by Lance Anderson.

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

MS. GRANITO: . . . Aloha, County Council Members. My name is Alice Granito, and I'm a teacher at E Malama I Na Keiki O Lanai Preschool. I would like to thank you for your support of our program and MEO. Keiki O Lanai is the only licensed preschool on Lanai, and we also have a partnership with MEO Headstart for a set amount of slots determined each school year. Although we are an early childhood education center, we provide support and information to all families in our community. I would like to request your continued support for our program and MEO. Thank you.

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

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Lance Anderson, followed by . . .

. . . Jolee [sic] Aoki.

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

MR. ANDERSON: . . . Aloha, my name is Lance Anderson, I'm the Executive Director of the Lanai Art Center. And I'm here today to speak in support of the Coalition for a Drug Free Lanai and their line item budget request. The Coalition for Drug Free Lanai addresses the needs of the youth and adults on Lanai in its efforts to prevent substance abuse and addiction. As our economic recovery continues to languish, it's more important than ever that the CDFL is as active . . .is as active as possible in our community. Their supported early literacy and self-esteem building children's programs, develop academic skills, and provide an important diversion from the stresses of unemployment and

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economic uncertainty. Now more than ever the combined efforts of many in this community need the funding requested from your budget for CDFL. I urge you to continue to allow the CDFL to continue serving their important mission on Lanai and fund their budget request in full.

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

. . . Seeing none, thank you. Joelle Aoki, followed by C. Pua Paoa.

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

MS. AOKI: . . . Good evening, Council members. Thank you for coming to Lanai. My name is Joelle Aoki. I'm the Executive Director for the Coalition for Drug Free Lanai. And this evening I would like to thank you so much for supporting us all these years. We would not be able to keep our doors open without your continued support and your match monies for. . .in turn for our, our Federal dollars and our State dollars. This year, we've accomplished all of our goals once again. We've serviced over 250 youth and over 1,200 adults. And as the only prevention-based agency that serves the *entire* Lanai community, we've been able to complete our evaluation and needs assessment which started in 2008. And I've brought a copy of the report for you. Yearly, we've been able to conduct our student drug and alcohol use survey. And as of this year, we have not completed the survey for 2009. But last year, we provided a copy of the 2008 survey for you, which was done, in the past, by the State of Hawaii. And I believe the last survey that the State had done was 2003. And because they were unable to fund, continue funding or continue to complete that. . .integral work for our communities and for our State, the island of Lanai and the Coalition for Drug Free Lanai took it into our own hands to conduct the survey ourselves so that we could get the much-needed data and information needed, not only for the Coalition, but for other agencies--the school and, and the island in general. And so we're very grateful for that. Thank you very much. And this evening I'd like to ask you for your continued support of the 45,000 dollar line item in the Mayor's Budget. I understand that she has a proposed 39,600 dollars for the Coalition, which we are grateful for. However, we, in order to *continue* this work and to keep our doors open, we would like to humbly ask you for the full 45,000 dollars for our agency which will not only double your money by allowing us to have that amount because we therefore have enough, more money to leverage with the Federal government and with the State of Hawaii. Currently, we're in partnership with the State of Hawaii with the State Prevention Grant through ADAD. And they are very happy to hear that we have the County on board with, supporting us in their efforts as well. This year, we have continued our partnerships with Kamehameha Schools, Alu Like, Lanai High and Elementary School, Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration, all of our businesses here on Lanai, and our, many of our board members who are here tonight. And who could not be here tonight have also submitted written testimony on behalf of our work here. And we can't thank you enough for your support. On the personal side and on behalf of the Coalition for Drug Free Lanai, we'd also like to ask for your continued support of--

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MS. REVELS: Three minutes.

MS. AOKI: --free transportation for our disabled and also *free* access for our youth to our Youth Centers. I believe that in the proposal, they're talking about charging a dollar per youth. . .per youth to go to the Youth Centers that are funded through the County of Maui. We'd like to ask for that continued support of *free* access for our youth. And then also continued support for the Lanai Health Center, Keiki O Lanai Preschool, and Destination Lanai/Maui Visitors Bureau.

. . . Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Any questions for the testifier this evening? Uh, Joelle. . .you mentioned a lot of things in regards to leveraging funding. If you could provide us that kind data, we would appreciate that.

MS. AOKI: Yes, I believe. . .the, Mr. Chair has asked for a explanation on the salaries for nonprofit---

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Uh-huh.

MS. AOKI: --executive directors. And on that report we have also included the different funding streams we have and--

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Oh, okay. That's good.

MS. AOKI: --that should give you the information--

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Yeah.

MS. AOKI: --that you're looking for. We've also included on our report projected monies that we anticipate and are hoping and praying that we'll get as well.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you . . .*(laughter)*. . .

MS. AOKI: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: C. Pua Paoa?

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: C. Pua Paoa. . .followed by Kimberly Tate.

MS. PAOA: Good evening, Council members. I'm here. . .Pua Paoa, as a Board Member for CDFL for the past ten years. I'm also here at the school as a kupuna, which I have been

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doing for the past eight years. So I'm well-aware about the programs for children. And I just want to support Joelle, who is an outstander. . .outstanding person. She does an excellent job. I . . .just want to let you know that I really appreciate everything you've done for this island. I know we're going through hard times. And in my heart I know it's gonna take a couple of years for us to survive. And we will. And in the meantime, I hope that you can support CDFL with the funding they really need. Thank you very much.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Seeing none, thank you. Kimberly Tate, followed by Alton Aoki.

MS. TATE: Good evening, everybody. My name is Kimberly Tate. I'm the Director of--oh, sorry. I'm the Director of Human Resources for the two Four Seasons here on the island. I also am very lucky to, feel privileged to be a Board Member for the CDFL. One of the things that I have been very fortunate since I've been here--I've lived on the island for one year now--is the sense of community and the sense of family that we have here. The CDFL program, I can't say enough for how they support people, especially this past year when it has been a very tough year on the island. So I would just encourage you to support us to the maximum that you can, as I feel that we do very good work. Thank you.

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

MS. TATE: Thank you.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Alton Aoki, followed by Beverly Zigmond.

MR. AOKI: Good evening, Council members. My name is Alton Aoki, and I'm here on behalf of Coalition for a Drug Free Lanai. I am the Head Instructor for Sandokan Judo. And we are able to operate with the help of Coalition for a Drug Free Lanai. We get funding from them.

. . . I am here to request that you *continue* funding them with, for their 45,000 dollar line item because for *every* thousand dollars you *cut*. . .for *any* Lanai program, whether it be Coalition for a Drug Free Lanai, Women Helping Women, Lanai Community Health Center, the Youth Center--the devastational impact is *ten-fold*. And I say *ten-fold because* Lanai does not have the benefit of partnering with neighboring districts. Sure, we are part of. . .part of Maui County, but we can't simply drive our car to Lahaina to say, hey, can you guys partner with us for this. The *impact* for every dollar, every

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thousand dollars you *cut* from this island creates a devastational impact ten-fold. Okay, you need. . .to re, to consider this when you create your budgets. We cannot drive to Lahaina. We cannot drive to Wailuku. We have to catch a boat. Cost, additional cost. Our kupuna. . .can't jump on the MEO bus to go to Safeway.

. . . To help, possibly, an idea to help our kupuna with this MEO issue, I notice a lot of them are Medicaid clients or could possibly be Medicaid clients. Medicaid does pay for transportation.

. . . Possibly you could work something with *Medicare*. I don't know. But the bottom line is. . .with the amount of money I've seen cut from the Lanai budgets, please reconsider and. . .help keep Lanai funded. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Member Baisa? Sir?

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank--

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Question for you.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you very much, Mr. Aoki. I just wanted to respond to the suggestion about possibly getting Medicaid or Medicare to pay, to help pay.

MR. AOKI: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Last night at another hearing, we were told by a person who is a caregiver for a person in a wheelchair. . .and he informed us that if we had bus passes like Honolulu--

MR. AOKI: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: --that we could have Medicaid pay those. But because we not, we don't have, they can't do that. So that's something we can work on. Thank you very much.

MR. AOKI: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Beverly Zigmond, followed by Stacey Moniz.

MS. ZIGMOND: Good evening, Council members. And thank you for traveling to Lanai to hear our concerns tonight. My name is Beverly Zigmond, and I'm the Program Coordinator for Women Helping Women, Lanai's domestic violence program. We want

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to thank you, first of all, for your past support for Women Helping Women. And we are asking that you. . .fund us at least with the proposed line item in the draft Budget. We would always appreciate more, of course, but we understand the huge challenge that you have right now. I have provided your Staff with copies of written testimony of 13 people who could not be here in person tonight. Wanted to remind you that Women Helping Women is the only domestic violence provider on this island, as it has been for the past 18 years. I mean, 8 years, sorry, blah. . .feels like 18 years. Just a few highlights on *why* Women Helping Women is such an essential service on this island. These are comments from people in the community. As a teacher, I . . .*(end of tape, start 2A)*. . . presence in the schools in terms of education and support in a community where violence is commonplace in many households. Women Helping Women speaks for those who cannot speak for themselves.

. . . Another teacher says: as an individual who was recently touched by the effects of a tragic domestic violence situation here on Lanai, I can only say how vital this service is to our entire community. Living in such a small rural community, we are often out of the spotlight of the majority, except when something negative happens. It is programs like Women Helping Women who are thrust to the forefront in crisis situations. And with your continued presence, I hope will reduce the number of events through their workshops and presentations--both in the school and in the community.

. . . Another woman says, this is actually. . .three generations of women. Domestic violence not only affects those who are abused, but also has a substantial effect on family members, friends, coworkers, other witnesses, and the community at large. Children who grow up witnessing domestic violence are among those seriously affected by this crime.

. . . Another woman says: having used the Women Helping Women counseling services personally, I feel it is absolutely critical to the safety and well-being of *all* women and children of Maui County to have this program available at all times and at max. . .maximum service capacity.

. . . The Medical Director from the Lanai Community Health Center says: as a primary care provider, I have seen the toll intimate partner violence can take on women--physically, psychologically, and spiritually. Women Helping Women is an invaluable resource in our community which provides direct services to victims of domestic violence.

. . . And lastly, another woman says: because of your position--"you" being the Council--in safeguarding the needs and services of the County residents, I'm confident you are aware of the unfortunate ongoing need for domestic violence intervention services and shelters. Just a reminder that domestic violence is the number one cause of harm, including death, to women. And our children exposed to domestic violence are also compromised in their school performance and their general overall development. So, again, thank you for your past support. Please fund us at the minimum of what is proposed in the current Budget. And as, on a personal note if I could just also say. . .my

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support for the Community Health Center, the Cultural and Heritage Center, MEO, the Preschool. Thank you.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Stacey Moniz, followed by Ron McComber.

MS. MONIZ: . . . Good evening, Budget Chair, County Council Members. Thank you for coming to Lanai as well. I have been fortunate enough to be involved on Lanai for. . .gosh, I guess the past 13 years. And I want to tell you about the services that we used to bring over was just like coming over during the day and offering restraining order clinics and support groups once a week. And then in 2002, we got a Federal grant to hire Beverly at half time. And in 2004, we asked the County Council--because she helped over 50 families in that very first year on this island. We came to the County Council and said that's a lot of families, I think we need a fulltime position there, can the County help us by paying the other half time? And so for a few years after that, the Federal grant paid half and the County paid half of Beverly's salary. And today, we no longer have that Federal grant for the last few years. So really a lot of our, a lot of Beverly's funding comes from the County. And I think you can hear from the people that support our program, they're supporting the work that Beverly's done in the last few years here. It's made a huge, huge impact. And she's a one-woman show. She does *a lot* of work here--everything from restraining orders to housing to education in the schools to all of that. It's a very critical service here on this island. And it gets really magnified when a few years ago we had a murder-suicide happen on this island that was *really* tragic. And when we held a march in, to remember the woman that was killed, over **300** people from this community showed up to hold signs and to honor her memory. So it really says, to me, that this community really supports the work that we do. The other parts of our program that the County supports--I'm gonna come on Monday to the West Maui. . .hearing as well because it also supports our West Maui center. I wanted to mention that we certainly cannot do this work alone. And especially in this small community, I really appreciated what Alton Aoki said about the impact of, the dollar impact is so much more magnified in this small community. And we certainly can't do it alone. So I also want to. . .express my support for the island services from MEO, from CDFL, from the Preschool. We work closely with everybody, the. . .the Health Center, all really, really important partners in helping end domestic violence and support victims of domestic violence, as is the County. So we definitely consider you part of our partnership. Um. . .and thank you, again, for your support for Women Helping Women.

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

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

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: --testifier is Ron McComber. . . followed by Riki Hokama.

MR. McOMBER: . . . Good evening, Council members. Good to see you in person.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Good evening.

MR. McOMBER: Um. . . a few things. I'd like to start out, first of all, you guys need to do a resolution commending the County workers in Solid Waste. Those three months that we went through the garbage collection truck being broke was really a hassle. And if these guys hadn't pitched in and did what they did, they helped *everybody*. They collected garbage. They put out special racks. They did everything they could to make an *unbearable* situation acceptable. So they need to have some kind of resolution. I know how good you guys are at doing that kind of thing. So the County workers really need a pat on the back. They really worked hard. If they hadn't done what they did, as *fast* as they did, we'd still have garbage stacked out here on the road. So your County workers did well and they need to be commended for that.

. . . The number of seniors on Lanai--I wanna thank you for starting this new building, the senior center, over here. This is got to be done. It started, it's in its process. And if you go over, if we'd held this meeting over there, you'd understand why we have to have this. It is falling apart. And it's well used--for Christmas parties and everything else. MEO has provided essential service for our seniors. And we understand the services are going. . . are gonna be cut and seniors who have limited income will have a hard time getting to the center. That needs to be supported. It is really a very essential part of this community 'cause this community is becoming elderly as the day progresses. And, again, thank you for starting our low-income housing that we're gonna have future. . . it's down the road, but still something that we have, Castle and Cooke gave us that land, we need to use it, we need to start the process, and it's already starting. So thanks to the County for doing that.

. . . We need your support on the Community Center. It is really essential right now *because* of the layoffs with Castle and Cooke and the insurance. The Community Center has stepped in and filled a very vital section in this community. It's really important. Uh. . . my love is one of the people that started it, so I know how long, how much they've been working on it. They've been working on it for ten years. So it is. . . but the State has withheld half-a-million dollars support until the next fiscal year. So any monies we can get from you folks would really be helpful. And there'll be other people speak on that, on this later on.

. . . Support our Youth Center. You have done that. Continue to do that. Drug Free Coalition needs the continued support.

**NOTE:** *Silence.*

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MR. McOMBER: . . . Page 2.

. . . We went through this last year, folks. And I think Michael and I discussed this earlier today. The last time I was in front of you, we asked to have two or three signs replaced at Lahaina Harbor on the *County's* side of the wall so that we could part there legally to load and unload our freight, getting on and off the ferry. It still hasn't been done. I got a call from you folks and I got a call from whoever's supposed to do this in the County, and it still hasn't been done. Would somebody *please* see that those signs are changed so that we're not *violating* the law over there? It's really important to Lanai people. And lastly, but not leastly, I . . .I'd be remorse if I did not tell you this. I wanna know, I want you to know that I've been treated *horribly* and inaccurate, with inaccurate reports. I have been accused of awful things--

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Mr. McOmber--

MR. McOMBER: --which--

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Mr. McOmber--

MR. McOMBER: Let me finish, please?

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --I'm gonna stop--

MR. McOMBER: Let me finish--

CHAIR PONTANILLA: I, I'm gonna stop you right here. If . . .you wanna testify on the 2011 Budget, you can do that. But other than that. . .I'm gonna . . .recess this meeting.

MR. McOMBER: Still, it's an injustice at this, that happened to me and I'd like to have it corrected and be able to meet in front of you and speak to you and, and point by point. Thank you. I don't think it's out of order 'cause I didn't have a chance--

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you--

MR. McOMBER: --to speak.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Mr. McOmber, thank you.

MR. McOMBER: Thank you. Anything else?

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Members, any questions for the testifier?

. . . Seeing none, thank you very much.

MR. McOMBER: Thank you.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . Riki Hokama, followed by. . .Ano, oh, Ona . . .

MS. MALY, FROM THE AUDIENCE: Onaona.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . Ona. . .Ona--

MS. MALY, FROM THE AUDIENCE: Ona Maly.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Onano Maly.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO‘OHALAHALA: No.

MR. HOKAMA: Onaona Maly . . .*(laughter)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO‘OHALAHALA: Onaona Maly.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Onauna Maly.

MS. MALY, FROM THE AUDIENCE: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Call you buy your last name . . .*(laughter)*. . .

MR. HOKAMA: Budget and Finance Committee Members, Chairman Pontanilla, thank you for being on Lanai this evening. My name is Riki Hokama. I’m at 438 Fifth Street for the last 56 years. Chairman, I’d just like to ask, I, I have one straight testimony to represent from the Tri-Isle Main Street, since I’m a Board of Director; and then I have an individual testimony. . .so I would ask. . .if the three minutes would be combined or, or can it be separated?

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Um. . .I’m gonna give you the three minutes and one minute to conclude, Mr. Hokama. And if you do have written testimony, we’ll accept the written testimony. Thank you.

MR. HOKAMA: Thank you for that clarification. Well, let me just say I support the request of Tri-Isle Main Street’s 243,000 dollars. I think one of the things that I, I asking for this support is. . .the changing of attitude and perception that the current Planning Department has had as it regards to the General Plan Update. I think it is helpful to the Council to have a. . .another point of view--particularly that is grounded in local grassroots, local communities, especially the small towns of Maui County--for you to get a sense of actually those that you are hearing from that don’t show up at meetings. You know the efforts to preserve and revitalize our small towns, especially on the sister islands of Lanai and Molokai, are a true, sound investment for the County. I believe that this is a

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commitment to the preservation and revitalization of our County small towns. It is part of the vision of the updated General Plan. . .that firmly establishes the importance of *livable* small town communities that will protect and perpetuate a pono lifestyle. I think this important public-private partnership has proven to be cost-effective in the past. It is something that Mayor *Hannibal* Tavares had implemented and initiated and started. And I hope that it doesn't end with *this* Mayor Tavares. And let me know move on to my individual comments that I would like to share. I personally did not see this Budget as a game. This is about life, Members. This is . . .(laughter). . . no football game. There's no TV timeouts, there's no instant replays. You cannot make a mistake. I, for one, truly know you cannot give what you don't have to give. And it is critical time--and while I know you hear many heart-breaking stories, I would, I have faith in you to make the right fiscal decision that will help place this County in a good position to make it through, in my estimation, two. . .two more years of hard times before we can see the adjustments in the real. . .tax revenues and other areas of grant monies for the County of Maui.

. . . Definitely, I'm not happy with this proposal. I'm definitely not happy with the debt level that the proposed Budget is asking the County of Maui taxpayers to pay. We're 150,000 population County. And if you look at it, you and I both know we have better use for 43-plus million dollars of General Fund cash than to pay debt. . .especially those that you borrowed money in the past for CIP projects that cannot even move forward. And I feel for Chairman Mateo--I was one of those that supported the Molokai Fire Station *years* ago. It has yet to be started construction. So do I care that the Administration has put out 255 contracts for CIP? . . .(laughter). . . Not if it, the projects don't move forward. That doesn't provide jobs.

MS. REVELS: Three minutes.

MR. HOKAMA: You know? And why on Lanai and Molokai is there no CIP proposals? These are the two islands that need that type of economic stimulus to help bring back employment to our, to our sister islands. You know you guys talk about the TAT, you have a great opportunity, Members. I would challenge the State and say if you wanna take our TAT. . .the County of Maui and, or the other sister counties, I think you can convince them and tell 'em instead of just taking the money and having no leadership and no vision of what to do this with money except to buy six months 'til the next Legislative Session, tell them why don't you use that. . .and the good example is pay for a pension bond to take care of our obligations in retirement and Health Fund requirements for our employees, especially when this Budget is asking for furlough. Okay. You need to double check that those grant employees that are funded by special grant funds are not being paid by General Funds.

MS. REVELS: Four minutes.

MR. HOKAMA: It is their violation of your County Budget Ordinance. And I think there's many ways, other ways that I would, could recommend for you . . .

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. . . on how to look at money and cut expenses. I would ask the Council to continue to do performance audits of various departments and to include a time and management study. Because I can see certain areas, even with the furlough in the State, they're still producing the same level of work when they had five days. And my disappointment is you need to follow-up on CIP, people. We had a space study. Okay, they're starting to build at Kaohu, Waiale Street. So is now that site totally taken off additional expansion because we are committed. . . Environmental Management requirements? And I'm like Mr. McOmber--you need to thank the *County's Lanai* employees because they performed heads and shoulders above what it was required of them--

MS. REVELS: Five minutes.

MR. HOKAMA: --particularly with the lack of support--

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Mr. Hokama, can you--

MR. HOKAMA: --from their employees--

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --conclude, please?

MR. HOKAMA: --in the administration of the . . . department. So I would audit . . . *(laughter)*. . . Environmental Management, first, if I were you. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you for your comments. Members, any questions for Mr. Hokama?

. . . Thanks. Next testifier is Onaona Maly.

MS. MALY: Hi, aloha. My name is Onaona Maly. And I'm here just. . . as a community member. And. . . I'd just like to say thank you for coming to Lanai to meet with our community regarding the County's Fiscal Budget for 2010 ad 2011. I appreciate this opportunity to come before you and I humbly ask your continued support for this important program--Women Helping Women, the only provider of domestic violence victim services on Lanai. And I also wish to ask your continued support of other important programs for the people of Lanai--the Lanai senior program, our elders cared for us throughout our lives, and we should ensure their care and wellbeing in their twilight years; the Lanai Visitors Bureau and efforts to develop a sustainable visitors program and employment for Lanai residents; CDFL, which supports our families; and the Maui Fest Hawaii, Lanai Film Festival, a program which supports creative film arts in our County and brings viewing opportunities to Lanai; as well as the Lanai Community Health Center; the Youth Center. Programs like all of these are important to keep to the diversification and wellbeing of our small community. And again mahalo for letting me share. . . and I just ask to keep what is good and set aside what is bad.

. . . Mahalo.

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

MS. MALY: Mahalo.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Butch Gima. . .followed by Rose Ling Simon.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO‘OHALAHALA: Simon.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Oh, Simon.

MR. GIMA: . . . Good evening, my name is Butch Gima. I have four things to testify on and one question. The first is regarding Department of Water Supply funding. Lanai has been working on our Water Use and Development Plan for over. . .12 years. And we recognize that Lanai water system is a *non*-revenue system for the County of Maui. Nevertheless, we would ask that you ensure that there’s monies specifically for the Water Department so we can *complete* our Water Use and Development Plan.

. . . Second. . .as many others have mentioned, I would ask for your continuing support for Women. . .Women Helping Women. As, as you well know, there’s a correlation between the downturn in the economy and our recession right now and the higher incidence of, unfortunately, domestic violence. And so continuing to support Women Helping Women not only will ensure safety of not only *women*, but their children also. More importantly, you have to look at it from a big picture point of view. If you do *not* fund the different Women Helping Women programs, that will *increase*, I believe, the role of the Maui Police Department. They’re gonna have to take on a lot more without the help of the staff of Women Helping Women. Now you guys, you are getting your money’s worth with Bev on Lanai as a fulltime worker. Not only is she doing domestic violence work, but lot of the partnerships and collaboration with the other agencies really helps us with the minimal services we have here to provide better services for our, our community.

. . . Number three, my son is graduating from high school this year, and he is a graduate of the Preschool. And I think. . .not I, not “I think”, I *know* they did a wonderful job back then because when he entered Lanai High and Elementary School, he had a very positive. . .feeling about education and being in school. And it has shown over these last 12 years. And so I think you guys have made a terrific investment by supporting the Preschool. . .as evidenced by my. . .my son and his classmates that have benefited from preschool all the way up until their, their senior year.

**NOTE:** *Silence.*

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MR. GIMA: . . . Number four, as Alton Aoki mentioned. . .about the impact cuts have on, on our community, I, I ask you, as he has, that when you make your deliberations, look at it specifically for places like Molokai, Hana, and, and Lanai and think twice, maybe even three times before you make cuts. Because, as Alton says, we, we cannot partner with, with people in Lahaina, in Pukalani and, and Kihei. And so it, it does hit us a lot harder. We have *fewer* or *no* options when programs are, are cut. And especially if it's cut and we lose staff.

MS. REVELS: Three minutes.

MR. GIMA: . . . Lastly is my, my question to the Council. What discussions have you, the Council, had and what ex parte discussions have you had with Castle and Cooke regarding the *potential* tax implications of the proposed wind farm?

*NOTE: Silence.*

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . That's it?

MR. GIMA: Yes.

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

MR. GIMA: So you have, you haven't had *any* discussion?

CHAIR PONTANILLA: I haven't. I don't know about the rest of the Members. Probably not.

*NOTE: Silence.*

MR. GIMA: . . . And no, no ex parte discussions with Castle and Cooke regarding. . .the wind farm?

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Not that I know of.

*NOTE: Silence.*

MR. GIMA: . . . Okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER NISHIKI: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Sure. Member Nishiki?

COUNCILMEMBER NISHIKI: I can't believe I'm gonna be speaking.

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

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COUNCILMEMBER NISHIKI: What . . .*(laughter)* . . .

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

COUNCILMEMBER NISHIKI: What . . .what is your concern?

MR. GIMA: Well, one, one of the . . .one of the early discussions by Castle and Cooke was to have us lobby the *County* to say that if the wind farms are put up, there's gonna be a *huge* tax benefit coming . . .to the County . . .and that we should, we should lobby the County for *more* services for Lanai. I think that one of, one of the, the, the carrots. And so I was just *curious*, especially in this recession . . .with declining revenues, whether you guys saw that as a carrot *also* . . .amongst yourselves. And the second part of the question was did CCR, did Castle and Cooke come to you . . .and in a way offer that carrot.

*NOTE: Silence.*

MR. GIMA: . . . Okay, so may, may I ask if they do, will you please let the community know?

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Mr. Gima, your question, we'll surely follow-up on, on . . .your points.

MR. GIMA: Okay.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: You make good points.

MR. GIMA: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Members, any more questions?

. . . Thank you.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Rose Ling Sumon [*sic*] . . .followed by Laura Novell.

MS. SIMON, FROM THE AUDIENCE: Thank you.

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

MS. SIMON: . . .*(inaudible)* . . . your jacket . . .*(inaudible)* . . .

. . . Good evening, Council members. My name is Rose Ling Simon. And these are by boys, Colby and Christian. Say, hi.

MASTER C. SIMON: Hi.

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MASTER C. SIMON: Hello.

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

MS. SIMON: We are here to support Keiki O Lanai and hope the Council Committee can help Keiki O Lanai thrive and survive through this time of economic hardship on our Lanai community. The Lanai youth need a stronger foundation to succeed academically and socially. By having a preschool that is not constantly worrying about budget cuts, the preschool can concentrate more on providing a quality preschool to prepare Lanai preschoolers a better head start to succeed and become independent adults. Um . . .

. . . and, and less reliant on government subsidies in the future. So I hope, I hope you can look at it more as an investment and. . .and hopefully less. . .cuts. Thank you for your support.

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

MS. SIMON: Thank you.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Laura Novell, followed by Tyra.

MS. NOVELL: Good evening, Council members. My name is Laura Novell. And I am here. . .before you as the President of the Lanai Community Health Center. I would like to thank you for coming to Lanai to hear your voices, the voices of your constituents. My written testimony is to explain the manner in which the continued current funding would benefit the island ohana through the Lanai Community Health Center. As President of the Community Health Center Board, I know the County has been very supportive of our facility. We are grateful to you for the funding we have received, which enables us to continue to serve the uninsured and underinsured of the island. As you well know, there is no other option on this island for the uninsured. The majority of the residents' jobs are directly connected to the hotels and development, which in the last year continued to decrease their staff. Lanai has lost anywhere between 23 to 25 percent of their jobs. Consequently, the numbers of uninsured continue to grow. Being the only community health center which serves the growing population, we depend on funding such as the one currently provided by Maui County. We are also currently filing the gap created by the retirement of the Lanai Public Health Nurse who was here full time. The Lanai Community Health Center currently provides medical care, cancer screening, immunization, TB testing, family planning, registered dietitian, women and infant care or WIC, nutritional health services, behavioral health to children and adults, referral services to medical specialists, home visits to or medical care to our patients, marriage and family counseling, flu and H1N1 inoculations--and by the way, we were the only ones to offer

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that--outreach workers, we offer PPDs for the hotel employees, participation in community and school activities to provide information and training. We also provide dental health services for the uninsured through an MOU with our local dentist, Dr. Harmsen. We provide pharmacy services through an MOA with Molokai Drugs where patients receive medications directly to their home and access to caring pharmacists who make direct phone contact as needed and are available through a toll-free number. These medications are deeply discounted and are part of the 340 drug program, excuse me, 340B drug program which we are eligible for as a Federally qualified health center. According to the community SOVI project which is currently in project [*sic*], Lanai City is falling into the most vulnerable category when looking at the community level social vulnerability. As an individual who worked, initially, on the grant writing to help secure our designation, along with . . . first as a 501(c)(3) organization and then in addition to that as a 330E grantee which designates us as a Federally qualified health center, I know that the many hours all the women and men who worked on this were always, had the community in mind.

MS. REVELS: Three minutes.

MS. NOVELL: The dream and idea which began more than 20 years ago by two women who are local Lanaians has now reached its fruition. The impact of the Lanai Community Health Center can only be seen on a daily basis by the many patients who have their individual health needs addressed by our providers. I can only say how vital this Center is to our entire community. I ask that you continue our funding at its *current* funding rate, at the minimum of 45,000, or at an increase of 50,000 which is to support the direct services of our patients. Twenty-five percent of that increase, point-25, excuse me, of that increase will go for the nurse practitioners and appoint three of that to a psychologist; 8,000 for medical supplies and medications; and 1,600 which is only nine roundtrips to Oahu for our providers. . . which is what we have requested--as your assistance is needed now more than ever.

MS. REVELS: Four minutes.

MS. NOVELL: Our motto here is "Our community is our patient". As many of you heard, our community is a small network. Without each other, the network will be broken. We support and desperately need all of the agencies who have spoken before you--the health and human resources who we help and who help us in turn with Medicaid applications and food stamps; with Women Helping Women, which we have a direct MOU with; with Maui Medevac who help medevac our patients as they are needed to get further assistance; with our paramedics who so kindly and gently transport our people to our hospital; to the Lanai Youth Center who provides care for our youth; to the Coalition for Drug Free Lanai . . . (*end of tape, start 2B*) . . . through the drug and alcohol prevention programs; and to the Lanai Community Health Center who help educate our youth into their heritage.

MS. REVELS: Five minutes.

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MS. NOVELL: We ask for your help. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Mr. Chairman.

*NOTE: Silence.*

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: . . . I'm gonna ask you a question.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Excuse me, we, we have a question for you, if you can go back to the  
mic?

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

MS. NOVELL, FROM THE AUDIENCE: . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

*NOTE: Pause.*

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: . . . Good evening. Thank you for taking the time to be here  
this evening with many other people from the Lanai City.

MS. NOVELL: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Thank you for your testimony. I'm interested in . . . your  
Community Health Nurse position. You said that person is retiring.

MS. NOVELL: Has retired.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Oh, *has* retired.

MS. NOVELL: Our public health, our public health nurse has retired--

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Oh, public health nurse. Have, have you filled that  
position?

MS. NOVELL: No, sir.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay--

MS. NOVELL: We have, currently we have public health nurses who come over from Maui--

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Right.

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MS. NOVELL: --a couple of times a month *if* they can come over with . . . *(inaudible due to interruption)*--

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay, we have the same position in Hana.

MS. NOVELL: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: And our nurse is retiring, too. She has encouraged us to be sure we replace it or we'll lose it.

MS. NOVELL: That's right.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: So I just wanna advise you about that, too.

MS. NOVELL: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay. Thank you for bringing that to our attention.

MS. NOVELL: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Next testifier is Tyra.

MS. ZIGMOND, FROM THE AUDIENCE: She had to leave.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Gail R . . .

. . . followed by John de la Cruz.

MS. GAIL R.: Thank you for coming to Lanai and listening to our concerns and needs on the island of Lanai. I am here again to voice my support, my support for continued funding for Women Helping Women on Lanai, as well as the entire Maui County. I am also here once again to put a face and a voice to domestic violence. No one wants to talk about domestic violence, and I'm here to tell you that it's real. I'm sure that there are a lot more cases domestic violence in Maui County as well as worldwide that no one knows about. The only time domestic violence is talked about is when an incident of domestic violence turns tragic and someone is killed. And then people who hear about it, the first thing they say is why didn't they just leave. Well, I can tell you that that's not an easy thing to do. When a loved one looks you in the eye and says if you go to the police I will slit your throat, you know they mean it. Or when you're told if you kick me out of my house again I will have you killed, they mean that, too. How many people in this room have attended a domestic violence vigil? How many have stood next to family members or friends of loved ones who were victims of domestic violence, and those who have lost people due to domestic violence? Last year during the World Series, I asked my sister to

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keep my posted on how the Phillies were doing, as I were going to a domestic violence vigil. My sister said, but the game's on and the score is tied.

. . . I told her that domestic violence happens at any time. Domestic violence doesn't wait for anything. Domestic violence happens Monday through Fridays from 8 to 5, but it also happens Monday through Fridays after 5 p.m. It happens on weekends, during furlough Fridays, as well. . .as well as during World Series games. In fact, it happens seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Women Helping Women helped me when my husband assaulted me and they have helped many other people who were and are in crisis, as well as those victims of domestic violence who are children. When you sit down on Easter with family, friends, and loved ones, look around the table and think about those people whose table has empty places because their loved ones can't make it to dinner because they were victims of domestic violence. What if the seat next to you was empty this year? I understand that we all need to make sacrifices due to the tough economic situations, but in times like this Women Helping Women is needed even more. Please continue to fully support Women Helping Women so that the sacrifice made isn't a loved one's life. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you again. John de la Cruz--

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . followed by Todd Yamaoka.

*NOTE: Pause while Mr. de la Cruz approached the mic.*

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

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

MR. de la CRUZ: . . . Good evening. Thank you, Council members, for coming to Lanai for this budget meeting. My name is John de la Cruz. I'm here in support for Women Helping Women. Women Helping Women is the only provider of domestic violence victim services on the island of Lanai. That's about the fourth time it's been said. No one's counting, but. . .I hope you take notes. Maui County has been very supportive of Women Helping Women on Lanai, and we are grateful for that support which enables Women Helping Women to continue to help victims of domestic violence in our community. I am asking that *continue* the level of funding for Women Helping Women because their continued presence on Lanai is needed more than ever because of the increased financial pressures being experienced by many families. . .which often leads to domestic violence. Domestic violence severely impacts every member of the family--women, men, children, and relatives in the extended families. Families, especially children, cannot thrive if they do not feel secure in their own homes. Domestic violence undermines, even destroys, people's sense of security in their own homes and

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within their community. Women Helping Women is a valuable resource on Lanai, providing direct services to victims of domestic violence. These services include crisis intervention, preparations of temporary restraining orders, emergency shelter, counseling, and advocacy. Women Helping Women also performs community outreach, training, and other efforts to increase community awareness about domestic violence. Again, thank you for coming to Lanai and for supporting Women Helping Women.

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

MR. de la CRUZ: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Todd Yamaoka--

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --followed by Stacey Purdy.

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

MR. YAMAOKA: . . .Good evening, Council members. And thank you. My name is Todd Yamaoka. I represent the Four Seasons Resorts on Lanai. And I am the Resort Manager at The Lodge at Koele. Since the inception of tourism in Hawaii, the islands have greatly appreciated the support of the community, the Visitors Bureau to strengthen and perpetuate our message to the island visitors. The historical, cultural, and economic link between Maui and Lanai runs deeper than the channel that divides us. Now more than ever the generous funding provided by the Maui Visitors Bureau, MVB, is vital towards the sustainability of Lanai's economy. As you know, the current economy. . .challenges facing tourism industry has impacted Hawaii. . .and particularly Lanai. And just as Lanai was once the larger, largest producer of pineapple in the world during the 1980s, the island is at risk of losing critical tourism industry income without the invaluable support and funding provided by MVB. There have been multiple factors contributing to the decline in visitors' arrival over the past years, including high fuel costs, reduction of airline capacity, visitors' cancelation, and the fear of possible worldwide recession. Given these factors, MVB's continued support is required in order to preclude the worst possible developments and encourage a positive turnaround. Tourism is an integral part of Lanai's thriving economy and its primary source of employment. Without tourism industry, Lanai's economy does not exist. This directly affects the livelihood of the community--from the local fisherman to the school teacher to the grocery clerk. The Four Seasons Resort's Lanai *alone* directly employs over **635** people, which is a significant, large segment of the local community. This number does not include the supporting elements of transportation drivers, tour operators, surf instructors and many other members of the community that play an active role as ambassadors of aloha to everyone that visits our beautiful island. The funds provided by MVB have allowed Lanai to increase the quality of service and expectation of our island

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visitors, and most *importantly*, perpetuate Hawaiian culture. Over the past years with the, of the past year with the assistance of MVB, the Four Seasons Resorts Lanai has assisted more than 60 journalists who have featured, produced stories that highlight the beauty, adventure, and richness of Lanai. Recent publications and television shows include *Platinum Weddings*, *Better TV*, *Johnny Jet.com*, *Western Living*, *Forbes Traveler*, *Toronto Star*, *AAA*, *Home and Away*, and *City and Style Living*. The exposure generated from the journalist is beneficially, beneficial not only to Lanai but the entire State of Hawaii. Lanai is the only visitor's island that preserves an undeveloped Hawaii, which allows for a *truly* enriching and memorable visitor's experience. We *greatly* appreciate MVB's leadership in supporting Lanai through the years. The support and financial assistance has made a great impact on the people and the economy of Lanai. On behalf of the Four Seasons Resorts Lanai, we thank. . .we thank you for the MVB's continued support, financial assistance as we work together to market Lanai . . .

MS. REVELS: Three minutes.

MR. YAMAOKA: . . . as Hawaii's most enticing island. Thank you.

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

MR. YAMAOKA: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Stacey Purdy . . .

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . followed by Cruz Hernandez.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

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

MS. PURDY: . . . Good evening, County Budget Chair Pontanilla and fellow Council members. I'm sorry, I'm getting over a cold so please bear with me. Aloha and welcome to Lanai. My name is Stacey Purdy, and I am here tonight to testify on behalf of two worthy nonprofit organizations. First, as President of 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. Last year, the County Council appropriated a line item of 85,000 for KOL. However, the Administration did not release

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the total funds. We are going to receive approximately only 72,700 of that funding. The Administration made new changes to our grant agreement and found a way to pay us less, even though our needs have not changed and there are fixed expenses that do not change regardless of the amount of children we serve. This has been a tough year for parents, deciding if they even can afford to send their kids to preschool. Many parents have had either reduction in hours, pay, steep reduct, pay decreases or even a loss of a job. The public and you, the County Council, deemed us worthy to receive the full appropriate, appropriated amount. However, we are not going to receive it. We are afraid that this will happen again, there will be repercussions to this scenario. Please support KOL and secure the line item amount of 85,000. The second crucial and worthy organization is the Tri-Isle Main Street Resource Center. Over the past three weeks you've heard testimony about the *necessity*, the *value*, the *effectiveness* of this Main Street program. I have been involved with the program from when I was about 10 years old. Because of this program, I have seen first-hand the *significant difference* in our small towns. I grew up with the appreciation of a *genuine* article and *characters*, the character of small towns. Lanai City is no exception. This beautiful *unique* town has its own set of issues and challenges. Main Street has helped express what is needed and wanted in the town--senior center, Lanai Community Health Center, the Lanai City market center has all been reviewed and commented on the WMSA's team of professionals. The community profile done for Lanai City is a *very* useful tool and *advocates* for the needs of the community. Fiscal Year 2011 is a *lean and mean* year. This. . .this is the year you want to spend tax dollars in the most effective way possible. We already know the scrutiny on nonprofits. But it is also important to scrutinize *department* budgets. Check *their* performance measures and cost effectiveness. How are *they* treating their grantees under their administrative oversight?

MS. REVELS: Three minutes.

MS. PURDY: Do these departments have a process to communicate effectively? Is there any recourse when directives are contrary to *mission* and purpose of organizations? What is the turnaround time to request and information to *clarify* issues? In dealing with the Planning Department, they have said that furloughs were included in their budget proposal and equates to a 1.6 decrease in pay for their employees. We all don't like to see people getting a pay cut, however, freezing, cutting only one fulltime position and not filling four part-time positions is the equivalent to only three fulltime positions. The staff positions reported to you as being frozen is only an inconvenience to the department. It is not a *bleeding* situation. We would all--

MS. REVELS: Four minutes.

MS. PURDY: --like to have more staff. Wouldn't you? . . .(*cleared throat*). . . Main Street has operated on a bare bones budget for many years. We had a County grant for 20, 225,000 with only three staffers, *15* years ago. Today, we still only have three staffers with a tremendous workload to fill the request for assistance from our many towns and various

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County departments. Imagine if you had to provide the amount of services needed today with a budget from 15 years ago.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Ms. Purdy, can you conclude--

MS. PURDY: A-

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --please?

MS. PURDY: A 35 percent cut over the last two years is a substantial one for this worthy program. We understand that we must take a cut, but not this drastic. How are we going to continue to serve *nine* towns? This need, the, the need for this organization is growing daily. Our workload has increased, not decreased. The cry for assistance for our small towns is greater now more than ever. This action is a harmful one to our grassroots organization.

MS. REVELS: Five minutes.

MS. PURDY: We understand the Department needs--

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Ms. Purdy--

MS. PURDY: --to oversee the accountability--

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --please conclude.

MS. PURDY: --however. . .just one last sentence. However, there's a difference--

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

MS. PURDY: --between when they have. . .there, however there is a difference when they want to micromanage, manipulate, and control--

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

MS. PURDY: --an organization.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Chair? Chair?

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Member Victorino?

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Yeah, and, and not on the Tri-Isle, but on the other part, Ms. Purdy. Thank you very much. Um--

MS. PURDY: Thank you for letting me finish.

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COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: What was the, was there a reason given to you why you, your organization did not receive the full funding? Now, I'm not talking about the . . .

MS. PURDY: Yeah, I understand.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Yeah, okay. Yeah, just so we're clear about--

MS. PURDY: Keiki O Lanai, with, is with the Housing. . .Housing and Human Concerns.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Human Concerns, yes.

MS. PURDY: And they tried, they already wanted us to have a decrease last year and we begged you humbly to please support the 85, and you did. However, I don't, they decided to instead of give us a line item and pay us 25 percent per quarter, they decided to take the 85 and divide it among our *full* enrollment. Which at *full* enrollment is 36 children. With the economy and. . .parents pulling children out because having the decision between sending their child to school or having them stay home with the parent that is not working, our enrollment went down. Therefore, when they prorate, prorated it per child, we didn't end up getting the full funding. However, our expenses stayed the same regardless if we had 36 or 32 in the classroom.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Okay. So, so they, they used this, a change in formula, that's what you're telling me.

MS. PURDY: Exactly. And that was not told to us prior. It was sent to us in our grant agreement. And at that point, we're suffering to even survive and keep the doors open. We didn't have an avenue to fight it. If we fought it, we would be *closed*.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Okay. Okay. I just wanted to know, okay--

MS. PURDY: That's the one thing, you know, nonprofits, they, they wait so *long* for that funding. It takes so long for grant agreements to get to the grantees. By the time we get it, we're almost closing our doors. And then if they give us a grant that even if we won't agree with it or we don't, we kind of stuck to *have to* agree with it and do whatever we can and stuck, stick it out. You know what I mean? 'Cause that's the only option we had.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Okay. Thank you for that clarification.

MS. PURDY: You're welcome.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Members, any more questions regarding the testifiers--Member Kaho'ohalahala?

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COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: Stacey, I was. . .I appreciate you trying to make some of the clarification. You had a contract for your grant--

MS. PURDY: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: --by the Department of Housing and Human Concerns?

MS. PURDY: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: Okay. Did that contract now change?

MS. PURDY: It changed from previous years. Like--

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: So--

MS. PURDY: --prior to Fiscal '10--

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: Were you asked to--

MS. PURDY: --in Fiscal '09 it was exactly--

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: Were you asked to sign a new contract?

MS. PURDY: That *was* the new contract, in Fiscal '10, it *changed* that it was gonna be prorated per child.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: Okay. When the Department comes before us, we will ask about why the change in contracts, in this case. . .intended to reduce the amount of funding . . .*(inaudible due to interruption)*--

MS. PURDY: We would greatly appreciate that--

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: Okay--

MS. PURDY: --because we've tried to kind of find out and they just said--

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: Okay.

MS. PURDY: --we're gonna do it--

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: Thank you.

MS. PURDY: --per child.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Just for your information, we had lot of discussion on grant contracts and, and contracts are not signed. .there's no funding that's gonna be released. So we had lot of issues in regards to changing--

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Chair?

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --of grant contracts in midstream. Member Baisa?

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Yes, and thank you very much, Stacey, for being here tonight.

MS. PURDY: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: What is the amount that you think you're actually gonna get? I missed it. You said 85, but--

MS. PURDY: Well, we--

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: --you're gonna get less--

MS. PURDY: --you guys appropriated--

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Yes.

MS. PURDY: --85, but due to children, you know, being--

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Yeah, I understand.

MS. PURDY: It, I'm *estimating* 'cause we're only starting four--

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Right.

MS. PURDY: --you know ending. .end third quarter, only starting fourth.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Right.

MS. PURDY: We're thinking we're gonna get 72,000-some-odd-dollars. So you, anywhere between 13 to 15 thousand is being cut from us.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: I understand. Then, but it doesn't assist you because you still have to have the staff and you still pay the rent and the lights and the water regardless--

MS. PURDY: Exactly.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: I, I understand. I've been in your shoes.

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MS. PURDY: Yes . . .*(laughter)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Okay. Thank you . . .*(laughter)*. . . very much.

MS. PURDY: Thank you. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

MS. PURDY: Thank you for your time.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Members, any more questions?

MS. PURDY: And thank you for coming to Lanai.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

. . . Cruz Hernandez, followed by, by. . .Joan de la Cruz.

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

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

MR. HERNANDEZ: . . . Good evening, Council members, Maui County Council members. I don't know how you do it--sitting there for this long. . .those comfortable chairs. I am. . .coming to you on behalf of the Woman [*sic*] in Technology and the Lanai Youth Center.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MR. HERNANDEZ: I'm a teacher here at Lanai High. I think you heard something about furloughs for teachers. Um. . .our students have only one place to go after school--that's the Youth Center. Due to the cuts, not only to the teachers but to this school over the last year-and-a-half or so that I've been here--I've been here three years, actually--we have lost about 2 million dollars. Therefore, there's been a lot of cuts, after school programs within the school. . .so I beg you to. . .keep the Lanai Youth Center open. That's where our kids go during furlough time, after school for tutoring--along with some of the churches around here. As far as the Woman [*sic*] in Technology, they've been helping some of the teachers that, with courses. They pay our trip to Maui. Obviously, you know that's a cheap rate to go from here to Maui. . .and rent a car for our workshops. The Woman [*sic*] in Technology has done that. They also provide us with grants.

. . . First Lego. . .first Lego League was introduced to Lanai. I'm the coach for the first Lego team. That is what provides our kids extracurriculum [*sic*] activities. And we're looking at 5<sup>th</sup> graders. We served about 12 students this year. Without the support from the Woman [*sic*] in Technology, we would not be able to continue this. I know that you

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had nothing to do with the school board, but those cuts that are doing, that they're making for the school, they're, they're just making it worse for our students. So please consider that. Um. . .I wish I had my other students here. Ms. Purdy's son was one of them. This is the only exposure that they get--they went to Maui for the State. . .they went to State in Honolulu, the Woman [*sic*] in Technology helped us with several other grants. So they are a big part of our curriculum or extracurriculum [*sic*] activities. So I am coming to you to continue to support those groups.

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

MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Joan de la Cruz--

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --followed by Stepheny. . .Ozoa.

*NOTE: Pause while Ms. de la Cruz approached the mic.*

MS. de la CRUZ, FROM THE AUDIENCE: . . .(*inaudible*). . .

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: . . .(*laughter*). . .

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

MS. de la CRUZ: . . . Good evening. I'm gonna be reading, actually this is a testimony from my husband. So I'm just gonna read it verbatim. My name is Andrew--*my* name is Joan de la Cruz, but I'm reading for my husband. And this is it.

My name is Andrew de la Cruz. I'm a lifelong resident of Lanai, and an unemployed construction worker, a small business owner, a veteran. And tonight I am coming to you as a Board Member of the Lanai Community Health Center. The Lanai Community Health Center is a nonprofit health center which is open and fills the needs of a previously un..unserved section of our community--the uninsured and the underinsured. The Lanai Community Health Center runs primarily on grants, but does get income from our patients who have medical insurance and have the means to pay for care. The only other medical care available with health care providers on-site everyday on the island is a for-profit corporation. The Lanai Community Health Center is also a new source of employment for the island residents.

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. . . Lanai Community Health Center focus' is providing services for the uninsured and the underinsured, which Lanai has a high rate of. Lanai has the highest rate of diabetes in the State. Chronic diseases are the island's biggest concern. The Lanai Community Health. . .Center is providing preventive care to a segment of the community that has always fallen through the cracks--the uninsured--when only previously for-profit care was available and out of their reach. With the struggling economy, the health center. . .like ours across the State are going to be additionally burdened with the requirements that HDS services are passing on. Though this is being caused by the. . .the depressed economy, the people being effected [*sic*] by the lack of services are the underemployed. . .residents of Lanai, your constituents. Maui County is been a--wait, excuse me. Maui. . .Maui County is asking the community to share the pain that the poor economy has caused. I am asking the County of Maui to share our pain and help us take care of our citizens in their hours of need. I thank you for your consideration of this important need for our community. Thank you.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Stepheny Ozoa . . .

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . followed by Rene Plunkett.

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

MS. OZOA: . . .Good evening, Council members. My name is Stepheny Ozoa. I am coming to. . .before you to ask that you support the funding for the Maui Medevac helicopter. In the past years, we have had multiple uses of the helicopter and we have. . .we have helped save a lot of lives here on Lanai. As far as I've been working as an EMT on Lanai, I've been here for. . .working as, for 21 years. And throughout those years, we have, we have lost a lot of lives. And the Maui Medevac is our lifeline to getting good medical care. As we all know that we don't have all of the services on Lanai, you know that would, you for, to treat cardiac patients and stroke patients, but we've used the helicopter multiple times for stroke patients and cardiac. And the end result has always, you know, has been very good so far. There are times that we weren't able to, when the helicopter was not in service, we have lost a lot of lives and there was major disability to the, to the patients that wasn't able to be flown out soon enough. So I come before to. . .before you to ask for your support in funding the Maui Medevac. Thank you.

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

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

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Seeing none, thank you. Renee Plunkett. . .followed by Gerald. . .Rabaino.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO‘OHALAHALA: Rabaino.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Rabaino.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER, FROM THE AUDIENCE: He already left.

MS. PLUNKETT: Aloha--

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Aloha.

MS. PLUNKETT: --welcome to Lanai. Council members, my name is Renee Plunkett. I'm here tonight in. . .for your, you know, asking for your continued support for all of the community programs on Lanai. . .CDFL; MEO; Lanai Youth Center; Keiki O Lanai; of course, the air ambulance. . .that's our lifeline; and lastly, the Lanai Community Health Center.

. . . To me, you know, it would make a huge impact on all the Lanaians, kupuna, and keiki. . .all together.

. . . I'm also asking for your support on the. . .I guess it's under the. . .Department of Housing and Human Concerns. . .the Maui Keiki Kokua program. And I also ask for you to support. . .they're located on Maui. They have a. . .what is that, the Keiki Kokua Thrift Store. . .that's located in Haiku. And I personally have been taking advantage of the services there. And I think they're really awesome. And their, yeah, they're supporting a lot of the family resource caregivers within Maui County. And I think that's so important. So that's pretty much what I have to say.

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

MS. PLUNKETT: Thank you. Mahalo.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Mahalo.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: You're welcome.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Gerald Rabaino?

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UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER, FROM THE AUDIENCE: Gerald left.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Gerald?

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO‘OHALAHALA: He left.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER, FROM THE AUDIENCE: . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER, FROM THE AUDIENCE: He left.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: He left? Amelia Stalker. . . followed by Candace. . . Arioga [*sic*].

MS. STALKER: . . . Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Aloha.

MS. STALKER: My name is Amelia Stalker. I was born and raised on Lanai. And I wanted to thank you for this time to be able to . . . talk to all of you and welcome to Lanai. I’m . . . I, this is for my own personal. . . there was just a few things that I needed to ask and hopefully that you folks can. One is to help support and vote to get the Lanai Community Health Center. The reason why is because. . . when I moved back to Lanai, the health care, I can say was not as good as it is for me today. And they have actually helped me and my family--our life, you know, our medical problems that we were having. And they have actually helped me more. . . since I have gone to them. And, and I cannot say to . . . *(inaudible)*. . . because right now. . . ‘til today they are taking care of me and I am really thankful to the, for their help. If not, I didn’t think the care was gonna be given on Lanai for the past years since I been here. And since then, you know, my medical bills, are not as bad as they used to be. And too, I get, I have. . . done and still going through my health journey through the, the Lanai Community Health Center. The other one which I would like you folks to support and do it seriously is our ambulance service, like they were saying. The helicopter is, to me, is a greater idea because they seem to get here faster. My reason is, even though my mom passed away. . . the helicopter service came here at a very decent time to pick her up and take her from the island to--and I believe that is gonna save a lot of people’s lives here. And I think this is what the mistake was in the past. And you folks being the Council members. . . hopefully make the right decisions on whatever you folks decide because this is important for all of our families here. I’ve already lost my father, my mother. . . and my sister. You know, and I’ve had issues with. . . because my husband also got hurt, you know, and need to, the emergency just with the medevac to come *here*, you know, they had choices, they had to go to another island to pick up somebody before they could come *here* and pick him up. So it was known first priority, which really I didn’t think that was right because everybody . . . *(end of tape, start 3A)*. . . done right away and not be taken for--well, we don’t have. . . we

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have to wait for our services. And this is, hopefully I, you folks can change that and. . .you know, and the helicopter is a great idea. Another one is 'cause we not only pay for ambulance service on the Island of Lanai, we also pay for the air service, and we also pay for the ground service wherever they send them--either to Honolulu or Maui. You know, so that's an expense for us that you folks need to look into because we don't live on Maui, even though we under Maui County. And the same thing goes with Molokai. You know and. . .that's why I support that. My other issue is. . .the children, the school, we need to start, you know, I pray that you folks would take into consideration that the children on Lanai is not the same as the children on Molokai and the children on Maui. Maui's a bigger district than Molokai, but we need to separate 'cause the children on Lanai have their own separate. . .things important for them to grow up, for their future and for their children's future. I see that on Lanai and I, and I pray 'cause. . .my question is because the pool, I know nobody talked about the pool . . .

MS. REVELS: Three minutes.

MS. STALKER: . . . on Lanai. And this is one thing that's really important. I used to go to the pool for health reasons. Now it's closed. I trying to request that you folks put a handicap step, but seem like nobody's gonna open up that pool. And I don't want you folks not to use, you know, the help to open it up for the community 'cause it's not everyone that can go to the beach. And this is the time where it's important for our children to use a pool that's already there and it's, and we're not doing anything for it. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Sure. Thank you. You have a question from Member Kaho'ohalahala.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: I don't have a question, but I wanted to clarify that the Council did support staffing the Lanai pool--

MS. STALKER: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: --and we made an appropriation of three positions to the Parks and Recreation Department in this current Budget. I need to say that. . .after a lot of discussions and trying to get the Mayor, she had decided not to implement the pool, citing that it was costly for the County to implement it, even though the Council put aside the funding for three positions to man the, the, the Lanai pool. So just, just so you know, we have supported that--

MS. STALKER: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: --but the Administration chose not to implement it.

MS. STALKER: Well, it's a shame because the. . .we always had the Olympic, Special Olympic school that used to come. My grandson used to participate in some of that. And the pool was one of the ones that they used. So when they go off-island for competition or to

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play, they used to do that. So all of the kids kinda disappointed because it really shortened their special education. You know, and that's really sad for the kids of Lanai. So I just want you folks to know that. Thank you.

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

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

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --last testifier this evening is Candace Arioga [*sic*]. And if there's anyone that wanna provide public testimony that hasn't signed up, please see the ladies in the corner and sign up. Thank you. Candace?

MS. ARIAGA: Hello, Council. My name is Candace Ariaga, and I'm here to ask you to support the airvac. My brother has been in accident several years ago, and the airvac was the only way they saved his life. If it wasn't for the helicopter, my brother wouldn't be here today. Thank you.

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

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . Well, Mr. Baz . . .

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . followed by Mr. Ornellas.

MR. BAZ: . . . I'll be real quick. Um. . . 'cause you guys probably will hear from me even more. But just to let you know that. . . this issue of having all of the MEO riders have to pay a dollar to get on the bus is, I think is, is inappropriate. But I do. . . if, if we *have* people that are, have the ability to pay, then you know if we can work out a system to allow them to pay for it, we do accept donations and that helps to cover some of the costs of our transportation operations. It goes into the whole pot. And that. . . last year we received about 16,000 dollars in donations from--and these were like dollars or 30 dollars or 5 dollars or things like that. So we can, you know, there are, I've talked to some of the seniors and, and they are willing to, to work on that. If we work on a combined system--the Maui Bus and MEO passes--then, you know, I think that's a possibility as well. There, you know. . . we're kind of small so we can work together to, to work that out. If the County or the Maui Bus system has a problem with doing the intakes and, and management of bus passes and things--'cause that's what I heard is why they're cutting them out--MEO would be happy to do that. You know, we can work on that. The other thing is this issue that's been, I've been very intriguingly watching you guys on TV and

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sometimes when I'm sitting there, Council, the discussion you're having with, regarding contracts for nonprofits. . .what you heard from, from the Preschool over here, they went through it last year. The Administration is doing that with *our* Headstart contracts *this* year. And we still haven't gotten paid on most of our Headstart contracts. We still are waiting for two of them. They have not been executed yet. And it's something that I think deserves a stronger look as far as. . .as your legislative authority to appropriate funds and to really have. . .an initiative that you guys wanna see put forward. And if the Administration doesn't like it or, or doesn't want to have it happen or doesn't like the person that, or, or the company that's doing the services. . .for them to do what they're doing, I think, is inappropriate as well. So just those quick things as they were, came up tonight so you guys can listen.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Sandy. Next week we do have the Department of Housing and Human Services [*sic*] coming in for their budget review. I don't think none of us will forget about the grant agreements and, and how it's being administered. So, Members, any more questions for Mr. Baz?

. . . Seeing none, thank you.

MR. BAZ: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Mr. Ornellas?

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

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

MR. ORNELLAS: . . . Aloha.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Aloha.

MR. ORNELLAS: I'm John Ornellas, resident of Lanai. I'm a Board Member for the Coalition for a Drug Free Lanai. As you heard Joelle speak earlier, she has a very, very talented Director. And she's been a director for the CDFL here on Lanai for. . .for many years. And she's done a hell of a job. She is, she should get a gold star. Please. . .when you, when you go through--I know you guys got a tough job--please. . .and the Mayor gave 39.6. We're still looking for 45. . .to help us continue on with our, our work here on Lanai.

. . . Senior center, I, I don't know. . .I don't know if it's been delayed again. But I, it seems to be continually being delayed. We need that, we need our new senior center built and we need it built now.

. . . And one other thing . . .

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. . . when you do your deliberations, please. . .when you start cutting. . .I know the Police Chief has, has come in front of you last week, when you, in the, in the situation that the, the State is in now--we all know and we see it on TV every day--that crime is on the rise.

. . . When we start cutting health and safety from now, when the economy is, is bad as it is--and we've heard here that's probably gonna last another few years. We cannot afford to, to cut our Police Department or cut our Fire Department. We need these people because we're not gonna, we're not gonna call, they're not gonna call me, as a board member of CDFL to come arrest some burglar, you know, what's going on; they're gonna call the cops. And you don't want them to take forever to take there. So when you start cutting bodies, if the Police Department has to start cutting bodies, your response time is gonna start to suffer. So you know some of you guys live on, on East Maui and. . .Lahaina and. . .and, and so on, Upcountry--and if you, if you don't, you know, if you have a problem, especially the, the rural areas, it may take awhile for an officer to get there. So, please when you start thinking about cutting the Police Department, remember that one day *you* or your family might need them to respond very, very quickly. All right? Thanks.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for Mr. Ornellas? Seeing none, thank you, again. Mr. Ornellas was the last person to testify--

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: The Chair and the Members of this Committee would like to thank all of you for coming out and providing us with your testimony.

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

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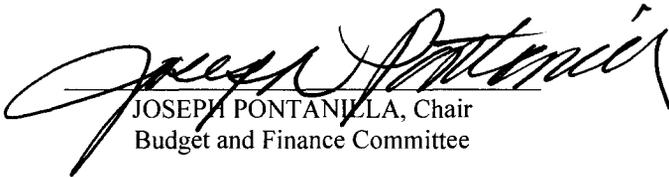
CHAIR PONTANILLA: Again, we still have another week of community visits. And two weeks from now we'll go into our deliberations to create a budget for Maui, Molokai, and Lanai. Again, on behalf of the Committee, thank you again for being here. The Budget and Finance Committee meeting at Lanai City is now adjourned . . . *(gavel)* . . .

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

**ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.**

**ADJOURN: 8:47 p.m.**

APPROVED:



JOSEPH PONTANILLA, Chair  
Budget and Finance Committee

bf:min:100401-Lanai

Transcribed by: Camille Sakamoto