

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

April 5, 2010

Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

CONVENE: 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Joseph Pontanilla, Chair
Councilmember Danny A. Mateo, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Gladys C. Baisa, Member
Councilmember Jo Anne Johnson, Member
Councilmember Sol P. Kaho`ohalahala, Member (In 6:40 p.m.)
Councilmember Bill Kauakea Medeiros, Member (In 6:35 p.m.)
Councilmember Michael J. Molina, Member
Councilmember Michael P. Victorino, Member

EXCUSED: Councilmember Wayne K. Nishiki, Member

STAFF: Michael Geers, Legislative Analyst
Jo-Ann Sato, Substitute Committee Secretary

Michele Yoshimura, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Pontanilla
Arthur Suyama, Executive Assistant to Council Chair Mateo

OTHERS: Denise Shigeta, AMR/EMT
Mark Wirtz, AMR/EMT
June Kaaihue, Vice-President, Lahaina-Honolua Senior Citizens Club
Princess Lehuanani Aquino, NaHaVas - Native Hawaiian Values
Benson Panis, Hui Malama Learning Center
Danielle Phillips, Hui Malama Learning Center
Chris Gilbert, Paramedic
Melissa Haake, MEO Youth Service
Channon Nakoa, MEO Youth Service
Dr. Stuart A. Kahan, Lahaina-Honolua Senior Citizens Club
May Fujiwara, Lahaina-Honolua Senior Citizens Club
Vivian Ichiki, MEO
Becky Vaughn, West Maui Boys & Girls Club
Calista De Lano, West Maui Boys & Girls Club
Kaleo Carbajal, Boys & Girls Club
Alicia Wintermeyer, Boys & Girls Club
Courtney Galarita, Boys & Girls Club
Daneth Arrojo, MEO BEST Program
Renee Borges-Latu, MEO BEST Program

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Hans Michel
Jade Chihara
Audrey Chihara
Virginian Angel, Hale Mahaolu Eono
Francisco Campos, MEO Lahaina Head Start Program
Brandon Waiohu, MEO HeadStart Program
Ron Kawahara, Maui Economic Development Board
Pua Kaneali`i, Big Brothers/Big Sisters
Nestor Ugale, Community Work Day
Noa Kalanihula
Zeke Kalua, Executive Director, West Maui Taxpayers Association
Paul Laub
Linda Marie Latuselu
Pam English
Mac Lowson
Jill LaBram, West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership, Natural Resource &
GIS Technician
Kelly Pearson, Director of Operations, Boys & Girls Club of Maui
Les Potts
Kainoa Casco, Board Member, Hui Malama Learning Center
Don Couch, Boys & Girls Club of Maui
Sylvia Lapiana , Maui Adult Day Care
Stacey Moniz, Women Helping Women
Fred Lacount, President, Bella Verti Gallery
Craig Anderson, Chair, Maui Visitors Bureau
Jim Whitehead
Steve Ashfield, Parks and Recreation Leader III
Chris Brosius, West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership
Shasha Aguinaldo, Lahainaluna Music Department, HOSA Club, and Boarding
Department
Butch Soares
Chris Arnold, Emergency Medical Technician for American Medical Response
Elle Cochran
Stephen Shull
Dorothy Dapitan

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . .(*gavel*). . . The Budget and Finance Committee meeting is now in session. Good evening, everyone. Thank you for having us at the Lahaina Civic Center.

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At this time, I'd like to call on your Council member from the West side to introduce the Members that are here tonight. Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Aloha. Aloha to West Maui.

AUDIENCE: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you for the great turn out. You guys always have such enthusiasm and I really appreciate your attendance as do all the rest of the Members. I'm going to start my left, your right, Councilmember Mike Molina.

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Councilmember Gladys Baisa.

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Council Chair Danny Mateo.

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Budget Chair Joe Pontanilla.

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Me, Jo Anne Johnson.

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Councilmember Mike Victorino.

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

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Aloha. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: We have the Legislative Analyst wearing the ball cap, Mr. Michael Geers.

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Jo-Ann Sato, our Committee Secretary.

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

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: And I believe, is that Arthur sitting down at the end, Arthur Suyama.

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: And Michele Yoshimura.

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So I want to thank you all for attending and I'm going to turn this back over to our Budget Chair. Oh, Councilmember Bill Medeiros, late but not forgotten.

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Usually I'm the one that's late so he's allowed. All right. And I turn this over to our capable Budget Chair, Mr. Joe Pontanilla, who has the wonderful task of introducing everyone else. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Member Johnson. Good evening, everyone.

AUDIENCE: Good evening.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Tonight is your night to provide public testimony to the Budget and Finance Committee in regards to Mayor Charmaine Tavares' Fiscal Year 2011 proposed budget for Maui County. Before we take public testimony, at this time, if every one of you that have a cell phone to put it on silent mode or if you could turn it off, the Committee would appreciate that. Thank you. For those of you that are providing public testimony tonight if you could come up to the podium here and speak directly into the mike, if you could provide us with your name, organization that you represent, the Committee would appreciate that. The Chair will provide you with three minutes of public testimony and one minute to conclude and...that's it.

Okay, we're going to start up with public testimony. First off, we have Denise Shigeta... followed by Mark Wirtz.

...BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY...

MS. SHIGETA: Hi, everyone. My name is Denise Shigeta. I work for AMR on Maui on the West side in the Napili area. I've been a medic for 18 years.

AUDIENCE: *Cannot hear.*

MS. SHIGETA: Oh, okay. You can hear?

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AUDIENCE: Yeah.

MS. SHIGETA: Okay. My name is Denise. I work for AMR on Maui for the last 18 years. I work in the Napili area, and I just wanted to ask if you were able to find in the budget to support the helicopter. It comes in a lot of use for us way out this side because a lot of our calls are in far away Honolua, the valley there or even beyond that some of the surfing spots beyond there and lots of tourists in that area visiting. We've had use for it on many occasions and we would hate to see it leave us because it's kind of like a security blanket knowing that we have use for it when we need it the most sometimes. Lives are invalid some times and it's always good to have it available. But find it in your budget somewhere 'cause we'd like to keep it. Okay.

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

MS. SHIGETA: Thank you.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Mark Wirtz...followed by June Kaaihue.

MR. WIRTZ: Hi. I'm Mark Wirtz. I'm a paramedic here on Maui. I've worked with AMR for 16 years now on Maui, and I'm here in support of Maui Medi-vac and again, like Denise was saying if there is money to be found in the budget for it I think it's a quality service. It does save lives, and if we can keep it, Maui would be better off for it. That's all.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: June Kaaihue followed by...Princess Lehuanani.

MS. KAAIHUE: Aloha! Welcome. Thank you for letting me speak tonight. I am going to read a letter from Howard Hanzawa. He's the Vice President of Kaanapali Land Management Corporation. He was unable to be here because he doesn't drive in the evening. So...

Dear County Council Budget Chair and Committee Members: My name is Howard Hanzawa, Vice President of Kaanapali Land Management Corporation. I work closely with many members of our community including our large contingent of senior citizens. The latter group in West Maui is very active in many civic and club affairs, which helps them to maintain good physical and mental health. Our Lahaina senior citizens have also

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been active in various initiatives and programs to help improve our community. Their experience and wisdom is respected by all.

We must ensure that our seniors are able to stay active and mobile. It is with this objective in mind, that I seek your help. I understand that the bus fares are proposed to be increased to \$1 per boarding. This will make a trip to Kahului from Lahaina to visit Wal-Mart, Costco, Kaahumanu Center, etc. unaffordable for many of our seniors who are on fixed incomes. A trip to Kahului will cost our seniors \$5 or more per day which they simply cannot afford on their fixed incomes. Many of them depend upon the bus to get around since they either do not have cars or are unable to drive.

Many municipalities and countries recognize the needs of their senior citizens or the disabled. For example, in England, all senior citizens can ride the bus free at any time except for early morning hours when workers are commuting to their jobs. Many states, including Illinois and the Carolinas, also provide free bus services for their seniors. Many other municipalities offer heavily discounted bus service to senior citizens. In Honolulu, The Bus charges \$5 per month or \$30 per year for those who are 65 in age or who are disabled.

We, on Maui, must also continue to recognize that our kupuna as well as the disabled have special needs. We must provide services for them including the ability to be mobile. It is extremely important that they be able to travel not only to go shopping, but also to get together in various activities and talk story with their friends. The bus is an ideal means for them to get around. Many of them do not drive either for safety reasons or because having a car is unaffordable due to insurance, gas and maintenance costs.

We, in Hawaii, due to our culture, have a special respect for our senior citizens, our kupuna. Let us continue to provide for their well being by providing a bus service that they can afford. Let us remember that they are on fixed incomes, and that any increase in fees for those on a tight budget may mean less money for food or medicine.

MR. GEERS: Three minutes.

MS. KAAIHUE: A strong and vibrant community has programs to take care of the needs of their seniors, the disabled, and their children. Let Maui continue to be No Ka Oi for our senior citizens and for all those who need our help. Mahalo.

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

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

MS. KAAIHUE: Mahalo.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Princess Lehuanani, followed by Benson Panis.

MS. AQUINO: Aloha,--

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aloha.

MS. AQUINO: --Council members. Aloha to West Maui. My name is Princess Lehuanani. I am an eha of the Village of Moku`ula. A week or two, I was invited to come and present for MEO transportation. I thank MEO transportation so much for helping me to transport me from Lahaina to the medical center on the other end. Health issues is one of our concerns here also. Beside the kupunas, which is our native Hawaiian culture, tradition or elders, and the senior citizens we all, the disabled abilities need this very important transportation. One of the issues that I have is that I just found out that I have a very low white blood where I can just faint. I've been catching the bus before catching MEO, the regular bus. Sometimes I faint I miss the bus, I miss the schedule. Sometimes because of my blood level going on the other side just to catch a ride and having somebody assist me, and this is what MEO is doing for us. They have a wonderful service for us where if they want, they come out, they take us and help us and make sure that we're safe. It's a very safe program for us. Also, I can make it to my doctor's appointment on time, and don't have to wait for a next bus, oh, miss 'em, and then I miss my appointment. So, thank you so much. I have three surgeries that may be coming up. That's why it's so important that I get to my doctors. Also, I really thank again MEO for their wonderful service for helping us. It gives me independent. I don't have to rely on anybody. I don't have to be committed to somebody picking me up. I know MEO will always be there for my service. It gives me sustainability, well, because now I'm disabled where I have SSI, it is also a monthly, we only have a set income too. So besides the kupunas, the seniors, disabled people we are also have a limited income. But because of your wonderful service of MEO, of our transportation, you are able to go and be where we need to be to be sustainable; to continue being Maui No Ka Oi. Maui No Ka Oi and independent. Independent where we can rely on ourselves to get where we need to be instead of somebody else, but thank you for you folks to help us so we know where to go...on this guidance that we need to go. But thank you so much . . .*(inaudible)* . . .

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

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

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you, Chair. And thank you, Princess, for being here this evening and thank you for your testimony. I have a question. You heard earlier in Mr. Hanzawa's testimony about the idea of having to charge a fee.

MS. AQUINO: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Can you give us your thoughts on that?

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MS. AQUINO: Well, there's another programs that I'm also connected with. I haven't gone to the _____ rest with Maui County. It's called the ADADA where they come to your door but they charge us for that. Being on an income and if you're going to the doctors three, four times during the week that's going to cost you just coming back and forth. Like a kupuna was saying, June, five dollars, ten dollars going back and forth costs us. So this program is really beneficial for those in Maui County.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you very much.

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

MS. AQUINO: Mahalo. Aloha.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Benson Panis...followed by Danielle Phillips.

MR. PANIS: Aloha. My name is Benson Panis. I'm a student from the Hui Malama Learning Center. The Hui Malama employee mentoring. The program is important to me because people help, the community help me guide and serve me as a good role model. It's nice having someone who has been who I am to help me get on going. The mentoring program helps me be connected with my community. From the employee mentoring program I have learned about future job opportunities. I've also learned how to fill out job applications and about resumes. I have learned how to play music and through the youth service program. This past month I was able to shadow a mentor while he completed an energy audit. I have learned about sustainability and the importance of alternative energy. I have learned that even though alternative energy lost in the beginning but will last in the long run to save the environment. My experience with the employee mothering program has taught me about making the world a better place and passed the knowledge on to the next generation. Mahalo for your time.

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

MR. PANIS: Right on.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Danielle Phillips followed by Chris Gilbert.

MS. PHILLIPS: Aloha. My name is Danielle Phillips and I'm a Youth Specialist from the Hui Malama Learning Center. I'm a teacher of Benson's. I'm here to talk to you about why

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Hui Malama is more than just a school. Two of our signature programs are our co-curricular youth service program as Benson mentioned, and our employer mentoring program. Our co-curricular youth service program offers preventative curriculum through video and media technology, through our pono prevention, our teen pregnancy prevention, and our career and college preparation class. Hui Malama approaches students from a holistic view, and hopes of developing the entire person not just get your education here but we really care about where they go after they leave our doors. This requires a lot of patience, persistence and compassion that is demonstrated through guidance, encouragement, and consistent but fair corrections when necessary. From the entire staff it takes the community to raise a great kid and we're doing it as a community, right? As an instructor, as a community, we need to role model what we're teaching and it takes quite a bit more effort than anyone could anticipate, and we can't do it without your support. We emphasize teamwork rather than individual success. And through the employer mentoring program we expose our students to all different kinds of work throughout the community. Benson mentioned energy auditing, all sorts of up and coming sustainability jobs that are putting Maui on the map, right? The common theme our employer mentoring program is, are businesses who support and perpetuate our values and give back to the overall health of the community. And our main problem is we need to interest and inspire our students to want to participate in our local economy. We want them to respect and honor our other leaders in our community so that they can emulate them not the other popular media images that are the most influential right now. We really, really want to help them develop a positive attitude, initiative, work ethic, and discipline so that they may take care of their own family and community in the future, right. So we really, really need your support. Without you guys we can't do it and they can't either. Thank you so much.

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

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

MS. PHILLIPS: All right. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Chris Gilbert followed by Melissa Haake.

MR. GILBERT: Hello. My name is Chris Gilbert. I've been the supervisor of the ambulance out here for over 20 years on the West side. And I just would like to ask you to put the Maui Medevac back into the budget and support us at least until we have a hospital out here that we can provide better care for our people.

AUDIENCE: Can't hear.

MR. GILBERT: Is that loud enough? Sorry.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: That's it? Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Melissa Haake followed by Channon Nakoa.

MS. HAAKE: Good evening, Chair Pontanilla and Members of the Budget Committee. My name is Melissa Haake and I am representing MEO Youth Bank. In this program, we do many things to help the community. Just last we went to the shelter to help the kids dye Easter eggs. It was a very humbling experience because we were helping people who are less fortunate to have an enjoyable Easter. I learned how to work with kids better and I would be happy to take part in an activity similar to that again. We do things like cleaning land, to cooking, even making public service announcements (PSA). There's a really wide range of things that the youth get exposed to in this program, and it's really great because we get to get involved with the community and things out there. That, you wouldn't be able to if you weren't in this program. We were lucky enough to get certifications at AKAKU and make PSA's about drunk driving, and they should be airing soon on AKAKU and, hopefully, people will get the message to not support or practice underage drinking. So I just want to thank you for the previous funding, and please continue to fund MEO Youth Bank.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for Melissa? Seeing none. Thank you.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Channon Nakoa to be followed by Dr. Stuart Kahan.

MR. NAKOA: Good evening, Chair Pontanilla, Members of the Budget Committee and everyone in this budget hearing. My name is Channon Nakoa. I'm 16, I live in Waiehu and I'm currently a junior attending Baldwin High School. I'm speaking here today to thank you for your support and also for your funding in MEO Youth Service and MEO Transportation. I'm one of the many kids that enjoy and love participating in the MEO Youth Service activities. I speak for all of us when I ask that you please not cut any of the funding toward MEO Youth Service. This MEO Youth Service is...it is my second home. I have only been in that Youth Service for one year but I can tell you that in that one year I changed _____. I improved in almost every single way. No matter how little or how big, I did change. When I first started in this program, I was pretty much a quiet to myself kind of person. But look at me now. I'm standing in front of the Budget Committee of Maui County. Meeting other kids from different schools, learning life skills, career skills, first aids, culture-based activities, community contributions, these factors are all the reasons I've changed personally and socially. I can now speak up for myself when needed, speak for my friends, take care of those younger than me. Show

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them the act of kindness, do things that I could never do before joining this program. I am proof that this program did change me and will change others and can change anyone. I am not asking for myself personally that you please not cut any of the funding. Thank you.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Next testifier is Dr. Stuart Kahan followed by May Fujiwara.

MR. KAHAN: This poor little bird. Aloha, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to Lahaina, Members of the Budget and Finance Committee. First of all, I'd like to let you know that as a member of the Lahaina-Honolua Seniors Club, we are most intent on supporting MEO and we encourage you to continue your support of MEO. *(Sure hope that bird finds that door)* Okay. Roads are really important here on the West side, and I would encourage you to take a ride down Wainee Street from say Prison Street to Papaalua, you will find that at each intersection there is major surface repair needed, I would think, given the kinds of bus traffic and large trucks that go through that area. The air ambulance is very important again because we're isolated. Buses that we use from MEO are so important for all of us here on the West side. We're seniors who attend so many functions all over this island as a result of the support of MEO. I was interested in the paper the other day where there was a fellow who mentioned speeders on the road and how it was difficult and what should be done and there should be more police out on the road to catch the speeders. What I was thinking is perhaps a better solution would be for the patrol cars that are out patrolling to turn on the patrol lights which might slow the traffic down just a little bit so that they wouldn't be speeding, there would be traffic controlling. Anyway, that's my suggestion. Thank you very much. Aloha.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for Stuart? Seeing none. Thanks again. May Fujiwara followed by Vivian Ichiki.

MS. FUJIWARA: Before I begin, may I ask our seniors to stand and be recognized.

AUDIENCE: *(applause)*

MS. FUJIWARA: Thank you. Good evening, Budget Chair Pontanilla and Members of the Budget Committee, welcome to Lahaina. Thank you for allowing me to testify. My name is May Fujiwara. I'm speaking on behalf of the many Lahaina-Honolua Senior Citizen Club Members in attendance tonight. We're deeply concerned by the cut in funding for MEO Transportation. No longer able to drive and unable to walk the distance to the Maui Bus stop, many depend on MEO Transportation as they do house-to-house pick up to go shopping, attend meetings, keep medical appointments, and participate in

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activities offered at the West Maui Senior Center. To forego these activities and remain at home would, in the long run, cost the Federal, State, and County government more in social services. Cutting funding for MEO Transportation will have a great impact on our independence and our quality of life. Charging a dollar for every boarding doesn't seem like much for some people, but for retired seniors on fixed incomes those dollars add up. A small retirement income and Social Security income out of which taxes, utility bills, medical insurance, medication, groceries have to be paid. And now paying a dollar for every boarding on a bus is a little much. The dollar charge will impact the children as well. They ride to after school youth activities would cost their parents \$10 dollars a week, \$40 a month. Imagine the cost to a family with more than one child, what a hardship this would be for the parents. Please continue to fund MEO's Ala Hou Program. I know that the County's Paratransit is also a good program and convenient for some because they do provide services on a one-to-one basis. It cost the County approximately \$42 per run on the Paratransit, and it cost MEO approximately \$22 per run. Most people don't mind sharing a ride and waiting a few minutes when the Ala Hou bus takes them to their treatments. If three people separately use the Paratransit, it would cost the County \$126.00. Whereas three people showing MEO's Ala Hou bus would cost only \$22. This, I think, is a huge difference.

During the tsunami alert, the Maui Bus was shut down. Most people needed transportation. I was in the tsunami zone. MEO's buses continue to operate to transport patients for their dialysis treatments, and MEO buses were on call to Maui Memorial Hospital to transfer patients to Hale Makua in case beds were needed at the hospital. Let's forego building the bus shelters for now and instead invest the money in MEO Transportation for our most vulnerable...our young people and our seniors. I would also like to request your support for funding the Police Department, Fire and Public Safety Department. Their mission to save property and life is of utmost importance. Please fund an additional \$90,000 to the Fire Department so they can fulfill their contract for a truck for the Kaunakakai station. A new truck would cost \$700,000 and CDBG awarded them \$610,000 so they're short a little bit. So I think this would be a very wise investment. And thank you, again, for letting me testify.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Mr. Victorino?

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Thank you. And thank you, May, for being here. Quickly May, if we were to look at bus passes, which you've heard we've discussed and go on a sliding scale where those who could pay more, pay more, those who could afford less, pay less, and even for the children, would you think that would be a better methodology because totally free may not be real palatable for everybody?

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MS. FUJIWARA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: So, I mean, just so that we get some equality. Would that be something that you guys would look at and maybe talk with your seniors and then come up with some ideas?

MS. FUJIWARA: Sure. I think so. They don't mind paying a little bit but MEO, I mean, a dollar for every boarding, for example, when they go to the senior center, that's a dollar. Participate in the nutrition program, that's \$2; participate in hula or other activities, that's another \$2. So how many classes you take would depend on how much they would have to pay. So it's come up to quite a bit.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: And even, for example, if you went from your home to Lahaina Cannery to do some shopping, then went to the doctor and then picked up something else and go home, you're talking \$5 right there, right?

MS. FUJIWARA: About.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Yeah, we gotta work on that but thank you, May. Thank you for being willing to look at that. We appreciate that.

MS. FUJIWARA: Thank you.

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

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

MS. ICHIKI: Aloha, Members of the Budget Committee. My name is Vivian Ichiki. I'm a life-long resident of West Maui and a member of the Lahaina-Honolua Senior Citizens Club. I am here to ask you to continue to fund MEO's Transportation Department, including the Ala Hou Program. The services are essential to our seniors. House-to-house pick up is a god sent. My husband is disabled and cannot walk to the Maui Bus stop to catch the Maui Bus. MEO bus drivers are always courteous. They get off the bus and lend us a helping hand to board and to help us to get off the bus if we need be . . . *(Change tape to Side 1B)* . . . our groceries into our homes. I understand the \$1.00 per boarding will not go to MEO but instead the County for the Transportation Department. Remember MEO needs to pay their drivers and pay for gas also. For those of us who participate in the nutrition program activities offered at the West Maui Senior Center we will have to cut down on the days we go and on the number of activities. It would cost too much but bus fare would be \$2.00, lunch cost - \$2.00 and up, and most of the activities like exercise, hula class, ukulele class, and so forth cost \$2.00 per class. So on a given day, it would cost us \$6.00 or more. Why wasn't MEO Transportation consulted when the County's Transportation Department made cuts in their budget? After all, MEO

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Transportation Department has been in business much...much longer than two years the County has been in business, and MEO could have offered other suggestions or areas to cut. Thank you.

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

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

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Vivian, just a quick question, please. Go to the mike, please. Vivian?

MS. ICHIKI: Hi, Gladys.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Question about the lunch. Nowadays, it's been a while since I've been around the Senior Lunch Program, they're asking for \$2.00?

MS. ICHIKI: Uh-huh, right now.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: So that's the suggested donation is \$2.00?

MS. ICHIKI: Yeah, uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: I hear all kinds of choruses. I'll ask some more.

MS. ICHIKI: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Anyway, as much as you know, it's \$2.00?

MS. ICHIKI: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you very much.

MS. ICHIKI: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Becky Vaughn followed by Calista DeLano.

MS. VAUGHN: Good evening. My name is Becky Vaughn. I'm the Director of the West Maui Club, and I just want to say thank you, again, for letting us be here once again. And first and foremost, thank you again so much for our beautiful new facility. It is being very well utilized. As of today, we have 473 members, and on an average day we have about 90 kids come through. A lot of times, I get asked about what an average day at the Club is like and it's a challenging question to answer. I'm not sure if there is any such thing as an average day at the Club, but the things that do happen every single day are children

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walking through the door, having someone meet them and greet them by name with a smile and asking them how their day was and if they have homework. It's just a sense of family, somebody being there for them when they're done with school, making sure that they get their safely and if they're taken care of. The most positive thing we have going on right now in our Club, besides the programs that we do every day, Power Hour is very powerful. It's mandatory homework time with staff to make sure that they have the attention that they need and the help that they need for their homework. Fitness is a really big thing at our Club right now. We have really, really increased our level of fitness in a lot of our kids both outdoors and indoors, we have a fantastic weight room, and then just have some staff who really care and get the little kids who can't lift the weights doing sit ups and yoga, and really great things. I just want to stress and it's nearly impossible to express how critical the service that we provide is for these kids. But in the life and development of a child, safety, trust, positive re-enforcement, role models and nourishment, physical and emotional are absolutely critical. A large percentage of our kids and our families rely on us to make sure that they get that. You know, kids are feeling the cuts everywhere. They're feeling it at home, they felt it at school, and in all reality they're going to feel it when they come to the Club too. And we do understand that everybody has to give up a little slice of their pie in these times and we're willing to do that. We just really, really pray and ask that it's not such a deep cut that it affects our level of safety, the level of programs that we're able to provide because this is a little tiny glimpse of our island's future. It's our island's youth and we let them slip through the cracks, we keep cutting and cutting and cutting and their goes our future, basically. So we just want to say, thank you again and please keep us in mind, listen to what they have to say and what the Club means to them and their families, and just keep us going. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members? Member Johnson followed by Member Victorino?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I wanted to just find out because of furlough Fridays which is taking place at the DOE you don't have any control over that. Has that actually increased the utilization of the Boys and Girls Club?

MS. VAUGHN: Absolutely. We started...when furlough Fridays began we didn't know how it would impact us. We thought we would bring more staff on and extra hours and extra expense so we actually started with a \$10.00 fee, and we were having maybe 30 kids a day and it was just a real expression of how tough times are for people. And we would have a lot of kids show up at the door and it was the most heart breaking thing to not let them come in because we had to be pretty consistent with our fee. And then we decided that we really weren't doing the service that we needed to do so we did away with the fee and our numbers have exploded. So on an average furlough Friday we have about 60 kids and we also offer project learned program where it's optional but we are wanting them to learn something. We open up the computer lab, some kids do bring homework.

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We're keeping them active and safe and it's very, very, very important that we're there for them on Fridays especially.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So on a percentage basis if you look at an average day and then you look at a furlough Friday, do you have any, you know, like 100 percent, 200 percent?

MS. VAUGHN: On an average day, we probably have about 60 percent of an average day on a furlough Friday.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: You mean your furlough Friday is not quite as many as the regular days?

MS. VAUGHN: Correct. Not quite as many but still a substantial number.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. And you don't have any idea of why that's happening?

MS. VAUGHN: Why our numbers are lower on Fridays?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MS. VAUGHN: I would guess that probably families are making other arrangements.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thanks so much. I appreciate it.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Member Victorino?

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Yes. Thank you. What I wanted to ask is how many of these children use the bus to get to your location?

MS. VAUGHN: Ninety-three percent roughly. Almost all of them.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Almost all of them. So, if we were to again, charge a dollar for each time they come, then again, now you're making it much more difficult for them to be...

MS. VAUGHN: It would be a huge challenge. You know most of our kids do come from, I shouldn't say most, but a really good percentage of our kids aren't the only kids in our families that do come to our Club.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Yeah, so multiple family members.

MS. VAUGHN: Yeah.

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COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Okay, thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Calista DeLano followed by Kaleo Carbajal.

MISS DeLANO: Hello. My name is Calista DeLano and I am a member of the West Maui Boys & Girls Club. Firstly, I would like to thank you for supporting our Club as well as the other Clubs in Maui County. I enjoy going to the Club because it is a safe environment for kids ages 9 through 18, about the age where kids begin claiming their independence, spending time on the street or start doing drugs. The Club is also a place to hang with friends. The Club has a time dedicated to getting homework done called Power Hour. The Club also has many small groups such as Smart Girls, which is a group for adolescent girls to choose the right path in life. Another is called Torch Club, which is a community service group. The staff are great and are very helpful to our parents and the local children. Becky is our Unit Director; she keeps things around the club moving. Jan is our Art and staff, Girls Club staff; Dustin is our sports; and Pastor _____ are our In-Torch Club staff. Denai is our Fitness and Island Appreciation staff; and Janelle is our Project Learn and Smart Girl staff. We would not have these amazing staff if it weren't for the funding and support that we, as a Club, receive. Thank you for allowing me to talk to you about the West Maui Boys & Girls Club, and thank you again for supporting our Club.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Kaleo Carbajal followed Alicia Wintermeyer.

MISS CARBAJAL: Hello, my name is Kaleo Carbajal and I'm here and here's how I feel about the Boys & Girls Club. Ever since I started going there, my life had a shot at a new beginning. I had friends, the good times, and a place for all the best feelings I have. It was also fun to do all the activities that the Club has to offer. For the past year at the Club, I love to do art, and my friends, the staff like Jan, Janelle, Denai, Dustin, and of course, Becky, always help. And that's my speech about how I feel about the Boys & Girls Club.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for Kaleo? Seeing none. Thank you.

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

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Alicia Wintermeyer followed by Courtney Galarita.

MISS WINTERMEYER: Hello, my name is Alicia Wintermeyer, and I think the Boys & Girls Club is important because your parents don't have to worry about you when you're home alone. And at the Boys & Girls Club you learn things that are important such as learn not to swear and not to fight. I am very grateful that my brother and I go to the Boys & Girls Club. Thank you for your support.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Courtney Galarita followed by Daneth Arrojo.

MS. GALARITA: Good evening, Council Members. My name is Courtney Galarita and I've been a member of the West Maui Boys & Girls Club for about six and a half years. This Club is the best thing that ever happened to me because I've made so many different friends and learned many different values. The Club is like my second home. Everybody including the staff and my friends are like my real family. We all care for each other and guard each other's backs. Without this wonderful brand new Club I would be doing bad things like drugs or stealing from my own friends. I am very grateful to be a member of the West Maui Boys & Girls Club, and I thank you for what you have done, and I hope you keep supporting us. Thank you so much.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Daneth Arrojo followed by Renee Borges-Latu.

MS. ARROJO: Hello, Council members. It is my privilege to be a member of the MEO B.E.S.T. Reintegration Program. Also, I have the privilege of volunteering for the MEO B.E.S.T. Program. I'd like to tell you folks a little bit about the B.E.S.T. Program. They go into the jails, prison system, and they teach prisoners how to live a better life. They give you cognitive skills, they give you criminal thinking skills, they give you parenting skills, they give you all the skills you need to while you're in prison. And then when you come out of prison you still, they still provide you with the skills that you need to become a better citizen. MEO is needed, is so needed because if there's no reintegration program in the prison, then our jail system will just continue to become a revolving door. And then our citizens will wonder, well, why is it a revolving door? Well, it's a revolving door because they're not allotting monies in order for the prisoners to get reintegration,

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and that's so, so needed. I cannot stress enough how that is needed, you know. If there wasn't MEO, I don't know where I would be today. Today, I'm a Substance Abuse Counselor. I'm an honor student at Maui Community College. I sit on the panel of Student Government. I belong to Phi Beta Kappa. I'm doing everything that they have taught me where if I didn't have that program, I don't know where I would be. I don't know if I would be homeless again living in my car or trafficking drugs from island to island. But MEO B.E.S.T. Program has been the best thing that's ever happened to not only me but a lot of inmates in the prison system today. And I also go to the panels for the prison system, the one that has to do with building a new prison on Maui, and you know, that's not what's really needed. What's really needed is monies appropriated for reintegration but not only reintegration programs but I will call them reintegration houses. So when you come out of jail you reintegrate to that house and in that house there's programming. So I want to thank you for listening. I want to thank you for...thank the Council members for allotting monies, past monies, for MEO. And I would hope that you folks would fight for a lot more monies for reintegration, otherwise, we'll have more inmates incarcerated and, yes, it will become a very revolving door because there will be nothing. There will be no reintegration at all. And I think that would be worse for our community. That's all I have to say.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Renee Borges-Latu followed by Hans Michel.

MS. BORGES-LATU: Hello, good evening, everyone. I represent, my name is Renee Borges-Latu, and I represent the B.E.S.T. Reintegration Program. I'm currently at MCCC. I'm an inmate, I'm on furlough. I work at Tasty Crust. I'm one of the best cooks there because of MEO helping me. If you guys like pancakes, you guys can come and, you know, but...anyway, I'd just like to share something like this is the third time I'm in prison and the B.E.S.T. Reintegration Program helped me believe in myself, helped me change my thinking. And you know one thing about it is that they didn't judge me for my past. They was there to help me...to help me to better my life. And you know I came to a point in my life, I'm 42 years old, and I said, Renee, if you're going to make a change in your life, you have to do it now. So, see as I was growing up in school, I represent the underdogs, you know, the people who use glasses or the people who is overweight, you know, skinny people, you know how people can be mean, so I hated school because I used to be teased a lot. So that's the reason why I could do my work but I didn't go to school because of that. I used to be depressed and stuff because the kids were so mean. And I would run home to my mom and I would tell my mom, mom, I would cry to my mom, and I'd tell my mom about this, and my mom said, you know what, you gotta pray for that kind people. I said, pray; I like hurt them the way they hurt me, you know what I mean. But now I understand. When the B.E.S.T. Program came in for culinary art boot camp, we went to MCC. Me, from MCCC I went to MCC because the B.E.S.T. Program

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came in there and believed in me enough to tell me, Renee, you can do it. You can do it, Renee. And I was afraid of failure. I have low self-esteem but they really helped me a lot. Now I'm working...they got me a job at Tasty Crust, they bought me my interview clothes, they helped me with pre-employment training, they helped me with college classes. I get four credits, I'm registering at MCC, like I said, me, I'm registered in MCC but yeah, I'm going to college and I feel so good about myself because of the MEO's B.E.S.T. Program who didn't judge me and I was there for me. And I have sisters in the prison now that really need this program because if not, they just sit and do time, do their time and they still have the same thinking patterns. I believe a positive attitude and changing your thinking is the way to be successful in life. I'm a recovering Ice addict and I want to get my. . . *(inaudible)* . . . I have a lot of years of experience so I believe I would be a good, good drug counselor and I want to make a change in people's lives today. I'm tired of being called a menace to society, I'm tired of being called who let the cat out of the bag. I want to be known as somebody...somebody who can help at least one person if I can help, I'll be happy. But because of the B.E.S.T. Program, that's why I feel the way I feel today about myself. I went to MCC and when I went into MCC I put on my culinary art uniform and I looked in the mirror and I said, oh, wow, you look good, Renee. I already had confidence. I looked real good. And when I walked into the kitchen I saw all that food I said, I belong here, you know what I mean. . . . *(laughter)* . . . And the positive attitude everybody have is so unreal. I'm so used to being in a negative, I did almost ten years of my life in prison, negative people, negative environment, but coming into a positive environment and everybody believing in you and not judging you and treating you normal is like, wow, this is how it feels to be normal, not being judged then.

MR. GEERS: Three minutes.

MS. BORGES-LATU: Yeah, so, anyway, we need the MEO B.E.S.T. program because I believe that they changed my life for the better, and without them, I would still be on my bunk and, yeah, changing my thinking. Thank you very much.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Renee.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I just want to ask you, have you ever thought about being an inspirational speaker?

MS. BORGES-LATU: That I am because I made the Captain at MCCC cry when I did a speech at MCC. So I'm a very inspirational person.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I want to thank you so much for sharing your story because I'm very proud of you and I think the community should give her a big round of applause.

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

MS. BORGES-LATU: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Mr. Victorino?

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Okay. You said this is your third time incarcerated, right?

MS. BORGES-LATU: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: The previous two times there were no programs?

MS. BORGES-LATU: No reintegration program.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Nothing available to you?

MS. BORGES-LATU: I just wanted to get out of jail. Now I want to learn how to stay out of jail.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: So in other words, was this offered to you or wasn't available?

MS. BORGES-LATU: Only this time, this third time. They came in and they signed me up for the B.E.S.T. Program and they hooked with all kinds of clothes, they took me to my interview, pre-employment training, college classes...I get four credits of college classes. I love the B.E.S.T. Program.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Okay. And the last question is, once you are released this time you have a job that you're in there already, right?

MS. BORGES-LATU: Yes. I'm the best cook at Tasty Crust.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: I know. I ate your hotcakes. I know already. I know, I know, I know. She told me that three times tonight. But most importantly, this gives you a chance because now you're established once you return, right?

MS. BORGES-LATU: Yes. And I feel so good inside. You know what I mean, I feel confident.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Okay. And then the last thing is, it's not MCC anymore. It's the University of Hawaii - Maui College.

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MS. BORGES-LATU: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Get 'em right, you know what I mean.

MS. BORGES-LATU: Okay, okay, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Thanks, eh. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Congratulations! Hans Michel followed by Jade Chihara.

MR. MICHEL: Aloha, Council members. Thank you for coming to the West side, and I hope you all seen the construction outside of Puamana. You know what it's for--for the flood channel, I believe. And I hope you make money available for continuation. I know you're in hard time but you should put it down because by the time they keep moving, money keep rolling in again unless you get a pay raise. I don't know what you're going to do next. The next question is you guys know I was a GPAC member for three years. My biggest concern is the mass transit corridor for Maui to reach the Planning people, Long Range Planning people kind of caught a short in there and when we had the meeting over here they never even put it out on the map. But I found out that the map they brought out is not what the GPAC had presented. And I hope you all have a copy of that. The next thing I would like to see Mr. Victorino take care my problem with the Water Department, which he was busy with his baseball for about six months so I hope he has time to take care our site. And for Jo Anne Johnson I don't know we talked about the sink hole by Front Street and Safeway intersection. I think that has to do something with the storm drain. I'm not too sure but please look in it before the next project because I know you have money left for the next three months. I mean, people are supposed to work, do something, you know, but that's a big problem. I no like anybody get an accident otherwise it's going to cost you more for nothing. I think that's all I have to say because the bypass is moving along good, and they poured cement two weeks ago on Lahainaluna Bridge and I think that thing should move along in no time. Anyway, thank you very much for your time. Aloha.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Jade Chihara followed by Audrey Chihara.

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MS. JADE CHIHARA: Hi. My name is Jade Chihara. I'm representing Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance. My experience as a Youth Alliance member gives me the chance to explore different ways of development that's environmentally friendly. It's important because it's a fun way to learn about different communities and new economic development strategies. It's just good because I learned that it's good to preserve local traditions and cultural history and respect for diversity and cultures, and just hope that you can continue to fund this program. Thank you.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Audrey Chihara followed by Virginian Angel.

MS. AUDREY CHIHARA: Good evening. I'm Audrey Chihara, I'm here to testify for the Maui Economic Development Board, which is also gets funding for the Focus Maui Youth Alliance. I'm Jade's older sister so I'm kind of a later stage of what your funding does. I've done two internships that were funded and networked through the Maui Economic Development Board, and they put me in touch with the company that I work for now. I majored in environmental engineering. I went to school in New York at Columbia University so I think for a lot of students it's hard to come back here and get jobs, and that's really what the Maui Economic Development Board is focused on is cultivating a diversified workforce and bringing our kamaaina home. They do a lot of really great programs that I now participate in so they have a very good full circle vision of getting the youth in the elementary, middle, high school, and then in the college and later stages. So, thank you for your past funding and I hope that you guys can continue to fund the programs that you guys have.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Member Victorino, questions?

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Quickly. Audrey, who are you working for? And is that at the Tech Park?

MS. A. CHIHARA: I don't work at the Tech Park. I work for Brown & Caldwell.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Brown & Caldwell?

MS. A. CHIHARA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Okay, thank you very much.

MS. A. CHIHARA: Thank you.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Virginian Angel followed by Francisco Campos.

MS. ANGEL: Aloha.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aloha.

MS. ANGEL: Chair Pontanilla and Council members, my name is Virginian Angel and I'm a resident of Hale Mahaolu Eono. I'm here not to say don't cut or cut. I feel as a constituent I owe you some feedback for your hard work. Anyway, seven years ago we moved into Hale Mahaolu Eono and we had no transportation. I believe it was this gentlemen, correct me if you may, his name was Victor Reyes decided to get us a bus because we had no transportation. In order for me to go to Maui Medical, it costs me \$12.00, anywhere from \$10.00 to \$12.00 two ways. And so, MEO transportation was a blessing for us. However, there has been a change with the Maui Bus, and so I'm here to say that we get a shopping bus on Wednesday and Thursday but I'm sure you know the tally of passengers cause they report to dispatch. We have sometimes only one or two people on those buses. Sometimes Wednesday there's no one because the people go to dialysis Monday, Wednesday and Fridays so they can't use the shopping bus. I feel that maybe one bus a week like Thursday maybe so the dialysis patient can go shopping also will be sufficient. And because of the Maui Bus most of the residents are like that has vehicles are like ages from 65 to mid-70s. So us over 80s are the ones that are riding the bus. And some of them have mopeds so they don't utilize the MEO shopping bus anymore. And I feel that you should know that we don't need those two buses. And then we have the shopping bus to the other side on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. And a lot of the tenants would rather take the Maui Bus because there's not time constriction. Like I have to be out there at 7:30 in the morning to catch the MEO, and so I'm up at five. And sometimes I have bad nights and good nights and by the time six o'clock comes, I'm really...I can't take the bus. I have to call in to cancel because my legs are not going where I want them to go. So I feel that maybe if you revise the time on the shopping bus more people would ride it because a lot of them don't want to go out there at 7:30. And then we go to the other side and we have to be picked up at 12:30. So we really don't have a lot of time to shop. I sometimes use the Thursday bus to shop, to do my big shopping. That way, they help us carry. I used to love the Maui Bus but they don't help the disabled at all. I have had to always bring a companion to help me with my walker. It's heavy. And Friday, I had to go to the other side and no one wants to go with me. So on the Maui Bus, I had to fold this up and walk up the steps and one of my legs have nerve damage and I couldn't handle it. And I asked the driver, could you help me, and he said, no, we're not allowed to get off our seat. But yet on other days, I have seen them help someone. But you know, I know MEO bus drivers and some of them work part-time

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I guess for Maui Bus and they would get off their seat and help me. And so I asked her, are you a MEO driver? She said, yes. I said, no wonder because she helped me.

MR. GEERS: Three minutes.

MS. ANGEL: I can tell. So, it's just this that I want you to know that you can either revise, not cut it off completely but, you know, do your revision and I thank you so much for MEO, it's terrific. . . .*(Change tape to Side 2A)* . . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Members, any questions for the testifier? Excuse me. I have a fast question for you.

MS. ANGEL: Sure.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: And Member Johnson has another one too.

MS. ANGEL: Okay.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: In regards to, I know you mentioned about dialysis...people that live at Hale Mahaolu Eono, what days do they go out to Central Maui?

MS. ANGEL: To dialysis, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: And you say if they go Thursday, you have the ability to shop.

MS. ANGEL: Yes, uh-huh, because there's a lady that says, I can never go shopping with you guys anymore and she would take the Paratransit. But she really doesn't like to take the Paratransit. She rather do the MEO.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay, thank you. Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I was just going to ask if you had called Maui Paratransit because I used to take my husband on the Paratransit and then they do assist cause I know some of those guys used to drive for MEO also.

MS. ANGEL: Well, you know, when the Paratransit used to come and pick up Lorraine the rest of the tenants were surprised. Hey, how come the Maui Bus come up there and pick up one person, I said, I have no idea. I don't ride the Paratransit. But yet, I prefer Ala Hou because I've never had any problems with them.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah, I understand. I just wondered if you had called Maui Paratransit because if there were several of you that were all disabled and you wanted to ride on the bus together.

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MS. ANGEL: I really thought it was for the dialysis people.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No, no, it's not.

MS. ANGEL: Because she told me that she got it through her social worker at dialysis.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No. If you would just call Mr. Medeiros, he may be able to give you some information.

MS. ANGEL: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you.

MS. ANGEL: Thanks a lot.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. The next testifier is Francisco Campos followed by Brandon Waiohu.

MR. CAMPOS: Good evening, everybody. My name is Francisco Campos and I'm a parent from the MEO Lahaina Head Start Program. I'm here to ask you to please continue supporting this program. This program is very important for my family. My oldest daughter has been there for seven months and I can see the way she's learning, you know, there she gets the basic skills for her education. And the program has not only helped me economically since I'm the only one working in my family but like I said, my second daughter is going to be the next one to attend over there so it really helps for me, and I just want to ask you to continue supporting this program. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you. Brandon Waiohu followed by Ron Kawahara.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Brandon Waiohu followed by Ron Kawahara.

MR. WAIOHU: I'm Brandon Waiohu. I am here to support the MEO Lahaina Head Start. I think that program is good. My oldest daughter went to that program. My middle daughter is going to that program too, and I hope my baby can go to that program too when she gets older. It's a good program...good for the families who stay on low income budget and stuff like that. And if you guys were to cut the program, then there would be like more hardship for the parents with low income families, I mean, with low income because they would have to go and spend more money on finding a babysitter or taking hours off their job or like he said, he's the only one working and if he was to stop work and go home and help his wife to take care the kids that would be hard for everybody. But yeah, it's a good program like he said, you know, the kids learn a lot. My daughter

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learns a lot from school when she goes to school. So, yeah, please continue to support that program and we really do need it, the low income families cause right now times are hard and, you know, again, we really do need it. Thank you.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Ron Kawahara followed by Pua Kaneali`i.

MR. KAWAHARA: Thank you, Member Pontanilla, Members of the County Council. My name is Ron Kawahara. I'm a Director of the Maui Economic Development Board and has been a director, a part of the MEDB since 1997. I was born in Wailuku, currently a resident of Lahaina. In fact, my resident is about two minutes away over in Wahikuli. I remember Maui as a child growing up we used to camp out at Canoe Beach when Sheraton wasn't even built. Around that time, back in the early '80s, a group of concerned citizens of Maui formed a task force and decided that they needed to diversify Maui's economy. And out of that meeting for several meetings, the Maui Economic Development Board was formed. And MEDB was originally a partner in development of the Maui Research and Technology Park. Since that time, MEDB has grown to where it is today. Now we manage over 30 programs, projects, and grants. We have over 20 full-time employees and many, many volunteers. Of the 30 programs, you know, some of the more visible ones are things like EAST, which was started on the East coast. It stands for Environmental and Spatial Technology. MEDB is now taking that program and over the coming year will be expanding it to include more high tech items for our kids in high school. That program has gone statewide and started on Maui. The first recipient of the program was Lahainaluna High School, believe it or not. And their program won the national award.

Another program you may be aware of is Women in Technology. One of the beneficiaries is Jade who just testified. And before the program was instituted only a handful of women were in the sciences. Today, I can probably say that well over a hundred probably have chosen careers already chosen at the universities to take science courses or graduate with a degree in technology. Another program is STEM, that stands for Science Technology, Engineering, and Math. This program teaches teachers how to teach science, and it's a statewide program initiated on Maui I believe, and Maui will be hosting the first STEM Conference statewide shortly. Another program is the AMOS Conference. That stands for Advanced Maui Optical Surveillance Program. Every year over 600 attendees...there are well over a hundred papers presented. It's a very high tech program, including classified presentations. But with the 600 people more than double that come because of the families, support people, the kids to enjoy the Maui lifestyle. This is a program that is now owned by MEDB and it provides significant economic input into Maui. We also have the Kealahela Program and a lot of you attend the annual fundraiser. The benefit of this fundraiser is that any profits that we make go back into the

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community through scholarships. All the high schools present projects, we fund these projects, ranging from several hundred dollars to as much as four, five thousand dollars.

MR. GEERS: Three minutes.

MR. KAWAHARA: In summary, I'd just like to say that all of you have a very difficult decision. Nobody envies you. You got limited resources during economic recession and you're hearing that everybody needs money and that their program's the best. So I want to leave you with this thought...investing in MEDB is really investing in the economic future of Maui because one of the very few organizations that focuses on the youth, training and science technology, engineering, math where you've heard speakers from the Youth Alliance, our emphasis is not just on that but on other projects. But we intend, and our goal is and our mission is to ensure the diversification of Maui's economic base. So, thank you.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Seeing none. Thank you. The next testifier is Pua Kaneali'i and when Ms. Kaneali'i is done, we're going to take a short recess.

MS. KANEALI'I: Okay. Well, hello and thank you all for giving us the opportunity to speak on behalf of our organizations. That means a lot to us. My name is Pua Kaneali'i, and I'm representing Big Brothers/Big Sisters. At Big Brothers/Big Sisters our main focus is matching bigs who are teen and adult volunteers with littles, who are community at-risk children. These matches are intended to form long lasting bonds and stable relationships for children who otherwise probably wouldn't have them. Through the big and little relationship, we're able to offer one-to-one mentoring which is the only one of its kind in the County of Maui. We do so in three different programs. The first is our community-based program which has matches meeting two to four times a month and taking part in match activities donated by local businesses. The second is the Afterschool Mentoring Program with County-wide locations. In the Afterschool Mentoring Program community children get help with their homework and receive tutoring, they eat healthy snacks, and make friends. And the third is our lunch buddies program. The lunch buddies makes it possible for bigs and littles to each lunch at the little school. And this program is really important for bigs who can only fit in one hour a week to meet with their littles. So they still have that bond. All of these programs are available in Lahaina and throughout the island. But in order to fund these programs essential in the upbringing of the children of our community, we rely on our donation center and our donation center is responsible for arranging and carrying out donation pick-ups of clothing and small household items. But in the midst of hard economic times such as now more and more people who used to be donors are holding on to those items that they normally would donate or they would just hold garage sales to benefit themselves, which is understandable but it's affecting us

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directly because we would usually take those items and, in turn, sell them blindly to Savers to fund our programs. Big Brothers/Big Sisters is being directly affected by the recession and now depends greatly on the County's continued support. Supporting Big Brothers/Big Sisters is supporting the future leaders of our County. With your support, our programs will continue to flourish. The programs are also available on Lanai and Molokai, and they will cease to be on hiatus once funding is available. Investing in the children of our community now will only make the future of Maui brighter and full of success. We thank you for your time and giving Big Brothers/Big Sisters the opportunity to thrive in times of hardship. Mahalo.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Oh, excuse me. Member Baisa?

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Yes. Thank you very much. Did I hear you say that the programs on Molokai and Lanai are on hiatus?

MS. KANEALĪI: They are. Just due to funding restrictions. We weren't able to keep it going. We still have employees over there but everything is just on hold until we have funding because we were actually in some hard times ourselves.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: How long has this been?

MS. KANEALĪI: I believe within the last couple months.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: It's sad to hear because it's tough but it's tough all over.

MS. KANEALĪI: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you very much.

MS. KANEALĪI: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay, Members. The Chair is going to call for a ten-minute recess. And we'll reconvene at 8:00 p.m. And when we get back, the testifier would be Nestor Ugale. This meeting is in recess. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

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RECESS: 7:45 P.M.

RECONVENE: 8:01 P.M.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . .*(gavel)*. . .Okay. Budget and Finance Committee meeting is now reconvened. Again, I'd just like to make this announcement if anyone of you who want to drink coffee or tea just go in the back towards the kitchen.

The next testifier is Nestor Ugale followed by Noa Kalanihūia. Nestor?

MR. UGALE: Hello, good evening. How you guys doing? My name is Nestor Ugale. I'm a community member. I'm not really representing anybody...just kind of talking about one thing in particular, Community Work Day Program. About a month ago, I took a trip down to Indonesia and I spent some time on the West Coast to Java. The parallels that I brought together with our West side and their West side you could say it was about it's like Lahaina 30 years ago, where it's a beautiful place and now hotels and tourism is starting to take over. One thing that I did take away and I brought back with me was environmental consciousness kind of a evolution, I guess you could say...something that I'm very proud of you guys and your support of the Community Work Day Program. I guess my direct connection of the Community Work Day Program is five years ago a friend of mine decided to start a Lahaina town cleanup and it was an initiative that he started but started to gain I guess support from CDW. And if it wasn't for CDW providing for the materials and the press releases and all the logistics to make that happen it probably would still be just three people cleaning up the beach. But over the last five years we've been able to successfully gather 500 plus volunteers all from the community from elementary school students to the workers at the hotels and everything and we've cleaned from, well, this past year we cleaned almost all the coastline here in Lahaina, and we even had a crew of 10-15 people going into the ocean and picking up trash from going in there. And the one thing that kind of inspires me still today is the fact that people here are growing a conscious effort to keep our streets clean, to keep our aina clean, and that's something that was not happening there that we should be very proud of here in Maui especially on the West side. You know we house and we take care of the land here. I mean with the support of the County workers and the cleaners, we do take care of our streets and the roads. We collected something like 100,000 cigarette butts in four hours. And that we keep and we've also taken all the compostable items and brought it up to Lahainaluna and they've been a partner with us to provide compost as opposed to going to Home Depot and picking up compost from a bag. So these kinds of things, these kinds of efforts are things that help us remain sustainable and even it's just teaching the youth how to be more conscious of these things, and if it wasn't for the Community Work Day Program such as that to make partnerships with regular citizens like myself, we wouldn't be able to do so. So I just wanted to come up here and thank you guys to thank you guys for your continued support. Of course, I'm taking a cut as well but it's nothing that we can't manage without. And because really it's just the support of the people and if it wasn't for that and you guys supporting none of it would happen. So, mahalo, to you

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guys and your continued support for Community Work Day Program and, hopefully, we can continue to keep our streets clean.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Noa Kalanihuia followed by Zeke Kalua.

MR. KALANIHUIA: Good evening. My name is Noa Kalanihuia. Howzit. Good enough. All right. My name is Noa Kalanihuia. I'm here to talk about the Maui Air Med. For Molokai, my parents still live there. My mom works at the hospital there. She's worked there my whole life. My dad was a firefighter. I followed his footsteps. I'm a firefighter actually right here down in Lahaina but for the last ten months I was working on Molokai for about three years and I just wanted to tell you all this so you guys know that I'm speaking from first-hand experience. I've seen the good the helicopter has done for the community there. I know it might be expensive but trust me, if it's one of your family members, one of your friends, your kid, your mom, your dad, your brother, anybody, you will pay whatever it is to get that chopper there and get them out of there. 'Cause don't get me wrong, the hospital is a great hospital there for its small size but it's not adequate for some, for the greater traumas and whatever you get, accidents and whatnot. So I'm just coming up here and asking you please find a way to fund it and get money to it. Thank you.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Zeke Kalua followed by Paul Laub.

MR. KALUA: Thank you, Chair Pontanilla, Members of the Budget and Finance Committee, my name is Ezekiala Kalua. I'm speaking on behalf of the West Maui Taxpayer's Association. We've got a lot of needs over here in West Maui but as we've been requested in the past, we're going to narrow it down to three. Top of our list is air medical. We helped author the program in 2002, and we've been strong supporters of it since. Since its inception, the cost for an ambulance has really gone up very minutely as opposed to other costs that the County has been faced with. And if you just do a simple breakdown of the residency that we have versus the cost that Maui County contributes, every person in this room pays about four to five dollars a year for that service. I think it's a fair service and I think we should continue it. I think with the showing of hands a lot of people behind me would agree with that. So please try and find a way to fund the air ambulance.

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The second one is MEO transportation. When you look at MEO as a whole, you've heard from different segments of the MEO program here tonight, the B.E.S.T. Reintegration program, Meals on Wheels, et cetera, et cetera. The thing about it is that a lot of people don't see the breakdown in MEO and when they have to cut programs, it's not what you purposely intend to cut. That's what MEO is thinking that's what they're going to try and do so that they can still make all of these programs available even though it's going to be in a smaller quantity. MEO is really a life saver in many facets. If you compare our County bus service versus the service that the driver's provide, you couldn't come close to it. So please do what you can for MEO.

The last one is the Maui Visitors Bureau. If you were to look at an acronym say in recycling our water use versus injection wells, nobody would tell you that we like injection wells. That's what we've got to work with right now. When you look at the Maui Visitors Bureau and the kind of money that they need to sell Maui tourism is, like it or not, our primary source of economic generation in Maui County. That's why the State is so attractively attacked our TAT. And the thing is, whether or not they're going to take a portion of it, at least it's capped to a point where if we can exceed a certain amount, we'll still have some of that money to work with...some of the monies that the majority of the people in the audience might have requested of you. So please do what you can to keep all of those three programs in place.

I'd also like to echo Aunty May's \$90,000 request for the fire trucks for the new Kaunakakai Fire station. Very, very much needed, much needed service there on that island. Majority of our services in the Fire and Police are based on the equipment that they have. If they don't have adequate equipment in order to do the job that they have, we can't expect more out of them than average ordinary work. And I'd like to re-enforce that air ambulance with a quick story. Five to six years ago, a 32-year old fisherman was bit by a shark in Pukoo, Molokai. Even though it took the fire helicopter 25 minutes to get him out of the water, it only took eight minutes to get him from Molokai to Maui Memorial. Now with the State, after seven years finally adding up \$3 million to put that helipad at Maui Memorial Hospital, what message in the County are we sending to them to now give up the portion of the money that we pay? And I'm not asking all of you that in particular. I'm just saying, you know, we always ask the State and the Federal to partner with us as best as we can because money doesn't grow on trees. When you look at medical services especially for communities here, on Lanai and Molokai we are isolated. So please do what you can to keep all of those in. I know it's a big wish list but like everybody else said, we don't envy you. I don't envy you but I appreciate the fact that you're willing to try, and that's all we ask. Please try. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for Mr. Kalua at this time?
Thank you.

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

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: The next testifier is Paul Laub followed by Linda Marie Latuselu.

MR. LAUB: Aloha ai ai mai ka kou. O Paul Laub ko`o noa. I have recycled bicycles and we use the B.E.S.T. Reintegration program. And I really should say that it's an honor that we have that program. Our person is really happy to work. He's really happy to be able to be reintegrated into our society and develop a skill. For us, it's an honor to be part of that. This economy problem we have may take years. And many of our citizens don't have years. They need jobs now. And they get their jobs from businesses and from small businesses, and I'm really hopeful that this County will become the most business friendly County in a State that is notorious for not being business friendly. More business failures look like they're going to be on the way and when those business failures happen that means people are going to lose jobs. No businesses, no jobs. Good business, plenty of jobs. I truly believe that we can solve many of our economic problems through loosening the restrictions that have been put in place over the years of previous legislation upon legislation, upon legislation which has made it extremely difficult for businesses to succeed here. I'm sure that you'll hear this time and time again. We need...we need these jobs. The people need these jobs. They'll lose their pride. They'll lose their sense of integrity within the community if they don't have the jobs. And with the jobs the treasury will be fulfilled, refilled. Thank you very kindly.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Linda Marie Latuselu followed by Pam English.

MS. LATUSELU: Aloha, everyone.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aloha.

MS. LATUSELU: My name is Linda Marie Latuselu and I'm not here representing any kind of program but MEO has been very, very good for me personally. Born and raised here on Maui, worked from when I was 14, and then when you get to an age when you get into a sickness that has been taken away from you. MEO is a great, great program. When you fall upon illness that is unexpected, things are taken away from you...your finances, your self esteem, but when all these different programs come together to help cause I had no idea of how vital it is. It is very vital. My finances was taken away, I couldn't work. Okay, people say disability. You work from 14 and then they tell you, oh, you're not disabled. Really? I find it hard to get up some days...physically, mentally, emotionally, got depressed, but all these different programs helped. I mean, really helped. I thank the Lord really that if it wasn't for MEO helping me I wouldn't be here. I'd be locked up some place in one corner just thinking, oh, poor pitiful me but it is not. And as for the seniors, yeah, you know, when things are taken away from you, you kind of like, wow, what happened? It's important, it's so important. Just discovering I could go shopping.

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People might take it for granted, oh, just pretend but when you're not able to go socialize and see what's out there, it's an impact on a person. It really is an impact. We cannot let our citizens go that way. I don't think it's humane of us to just like for the seniors so what, okay, they old, they did their time. No matter what, they did their time. So we cannot push them aside. Disabled people we cannot push aside. I honestly have to say that I thank the Lord that I'm continually here because if it wasn't for him, I wouldn't be here...be able to share how that sister shared how she was incarcerated, that's a big deal to a person and I feel that it is a big deal to even get out on a MEO bus that takes, like I said, people take for granted going to the supermarket. I'm thankful that they have those little carts in the supermarket because honestly walking from here to that chair it's a struggle for me. And sometimes when we take things for granted, it shouldn't be. It shouldn't be at all, you know, as we need to help each other. Yes, finances. It's always finances. But one way or another when you think about it when tragic things happen in this world, everybody for some reason has a big pocket.

MS. GEERS: Three minutes.

MS. LATUSELU: Thank you. I really, really appreciate being up here to hear the many words of the people, and that's very important. Thank you very, very much, and God Bless all of you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Mr. Chairman, and mahalo to you. I have some questions for you. Thank you for your testimony this evening, for presence here. What MEO services or programs have you, have been helpful to you? I know you mentioned transportation.

MS. LATUSELU: Yes. I am currently a dialysis patient, and without them I must say that when I first started being on dialysis they only could pick me up in the mornings. It was kind of a hard thing when you get off of the dialysis service, you're ill, so you don't want to struggle how I'm going to get home. But then when my medical could not pick up a taxi service that was helping me as well, MEO just so happened opened the door to come and pick up dialysis patients after 6 p.m., you know, because there were times when I had to be picked up at 10 o'clock. And at 10 p.m. you don't want to be like, oh, how am I going to get home?

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Do you go to Central Maui for dialysis or here in Lahaina?

MS. LATUSELU: I go to Kahana. From Lahaina go to Central . . . *(Change tape to side 2B)* . . .when I first started.

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COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Our dialysis patients in Hana benefit from MEO too. But before that, our patients drove five years back and forth three times a week from Hana so I know how you feel about coming out of dialysis in the condition you're in. So, the transportation has been beneficial to you.

MS. LATUSELU: Very much.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay. Any other programs of MEO?

MS. LATUSELU: The shopping shuttle as well.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: The shopping shuttle too.

MS. LATUSELU: I don't have a vehicle. I don't drive no longer, you know, so that is very...like I said, people take it for granted. I mean, come on now, everybody has to go shopping, people like to socialize. You don't want to be cooped up, honestly, even people with illness. You get depressed . . .

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Thank you so much for coming tonight and for sharing your experiences and needs. Mahalo.

MS. LATUSELU: Thank you. God bless.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Pam English followed by Mac Lowson.

MS. ENGLISH: Aloha, Chair and Members of the Committee. My name is Pam English. I'm here to speak for my little nephew tonight. He's a skateboarder, and I want to thank you all very much for your perseverance in keeping our West Maui skate park on your budget. I know it's been a long haul. I know we've been working on this for ten years or so, and we are so very close. And there's a lot of parks on the other side and that's a long drive for a little kid that just wants to skate. So, I want to give you a little bit of an update. I know that you helped a lot to get this on the budget in the last couple of years and there wasn't enough money to build the whole park. So we started looking for funding and I'm happy to say that we were able to get matching funding from our National Park Service for \$500,000. So we have that matching funding. We hit a little snag and once we got the funding whereby they said at the Lahaina Aquatic Center campus had previously accepted national parks funds, and there was one facility in that area that had turned from completely open to the public to having to charge a small fee. The Boys & Girls Club now is not completely considered a public facility. So because the National Park Service had given money to that land and the skate park is to be built

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on that land, they asked that we trade equal value or more for the piece of land that the Boys & Girls Club is on. So we started doing that paperwork to hold on to our grant money and it triggered an EA. So for the last six months, we've been scrambling to get an EA done. We are, within the next couple weeks I'm working with the Parks Department, in the next couple of weeks we're going to be going for our 30-day notice, and then we've been getting a great amount of help from the State who is helping us get through...hopefully a one shot application. So it's been a long haul. We're persevering and I really would hope that you can stick with us. Keep us in your budget this year and we'll get that thing built this year. Thank you so much. Aloha.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Pam, thank you for all your hard work in getting the Federal dollars. In fact, just for your information we did review the Parks Department, capital improvement project, and the park is still there, the skate park. . Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you again.

AUDIENCE: ...(applause)...

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Mac Lowson followed by Jill LaBram

MR. LOWSON: My name is Mac Lowson. Thank you for allowing me to speak. I'm a commercial property manager and owner. I'm here to ask you to adopt the budget that allows you to keep commercial rates the same or less this fiscal year. Commercial doesn't mean rich. Commercial means employment. In the recent pass, the real property tax rate has been lowered on Homeowner Class V properties, an increase on Apartments and Commercial properties. The Mayor has proposed that either no increase in rate or a slight increase in rate. I would like to see either the Mayor's proposal or preferably a drop in the rates for apartments and commercial uses.

I'd like to talk about three areas: employees, tenants, and landlords. In regard to employees, they're suffering from job and security. Lower net income to the employers is currently translated to lower-base wages to the employees, and in some cases, no job at all. Many employees and commercial places, like Front Street, Lahaina, were gone commission. Lower sales means less commissions to employees. In addition to about 150,000 square feet of commercial space, I managed about 250 long-term rental homes and apartments. Apartment rents have dropped 30 to 40 percent because employees have either lost their jobs, then forced to take cuts in salary or worried about losing their jobs tomorrow. We ask every time we lose a tenant the biggest category of answers is they're looking for a cheaper, smaller place or moving in with somebody else followed closely by going to the mainland to live with family.

In regards to tenants, these are the people who own the shops that these employees work in. The recession has caused a drop in gross revenues to tenants. In order to stay in business wages may have to be dropped or tenants have to get along with your employees. At 744 Front Street, the restaurant recently a year ago went out of business.

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The Cellar, a night club, went out of business in January of this year. All told between out of business and saving wages at this one property employment is at least 92 bodies less than before the recession began. At 744 Front Street, 2009 real property taxes for the single property were \$95,000 and that was after I got them reduced from \$125,000. For the restaurant alone, the real property taxes cost them \$3,500 a month or \$42,000 a year. Clearly this is a major blockage in an operator owning a new restaurant to hire those missing jobs.

In regard to landlords, they have already discounted rent 30 to 50 percent to keep their tenants.

MR. GEERS: Three minutes.

MR. LOWSON: Experience that vacant space has increased and to the extent it's here it is a 100 percent loss to landlord/tenant and employee. This is not the time to increase the cost of doing business. Employees are hurt every bit as much, if not more, than the business owners and landlords by increased expenses. Remember, commercial doesn't mean rich, commercial means employment. And I just learned a new word, it's not a nice phrase actually -- business repulsion, which basically means the pushing out of small businesses, all businesses by government and other organizations. Thank you.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Jill LaBram followed by Kelly Pearson.

MS. LaBRAM: Aloha. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be here. My name is Jill LaBram. I've been working for the West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership for five years and I am very proud to be a part of this organization and of the work that we do. As some of you may have already heard in prior testimony and will hear again later in the evening, the West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership is an organization made up of public and private landowners protecting almost 50,000 acres of the mauka regions of the West Maui mountains, including Puukukui, one of the wettest place in the world. Our main goal is forest protection, first by building fences to keep out feral ungulates which are hoofed animals such as pigs, goats, deer, and specifically pigs especially in West Maui. It is amazing and disheartening to see the devastation that even one pig can do to the native forest. Another component of our work is evasive plant species monitoring and control. These species are _____ native plants which disrupts our native watershed and its functions. All of these issues in turn affect the water that we depend on for many reasons but especially to drink. Many of my friends tell me all the time, wow, you have the greatest job in the world. And I agree, I definitely do. But no one knows what we do and why we do it, then it may not even matter. That's why I want to focus on another aspect but one of the most essential of the West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership

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and that is our Public Outreach Program. We have used our previous and present funding to expand our outreach program what started out as having just a little booth at a couple of events has now expanded to multiple events every year such as Earth Day and the Ag Fest this past weekend. Interpretive hikes that we've been doing six times a year which enable community members to get out on the trails to see what we do and why it's important how everyone can be stewards of the land themselves. We've had an overwhelming response to these hikes and they've been extremely effective and a lot of fun. We also just had our first volunteer day with some help brushing and repairing a fence line. People were able to get down and dirty with us and get a better appreciation of the work that we do. With future funding we will continue our outreach hikes, increase our volunteer days such as building fences, pulling evasive weeds and will also, in the future, hopefully allow us to do some school group presentations and field activities with these future environmental stewards. Education is the key to protecting our environment. We can't do it alone. I think I can speak for all of us here that a little knowledge goes a long way, and that a hands-on experience goes even longer. The native Hawaiian forest is one of the most beautiful and intricate eco-systems I have ever had the privilege of seeing, and we all play a role in protecting it. Present funding and future funding make us possible. Thank you for your continued support and we hope to see you on one of our hikes sometime. Thank you.

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

AUDIENCE: *(applause)*

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Kelly Pearson followed Les Potts.

MS. PEARSON: Good evening, Council members. My name is Kelly Pearson and I'm the Director of Operations for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Maui. As I enter my 13th year with this successful youth development organization, I would like to, once again, thank you for all of your support to keeping our Maui kids safe. We realize that you have very tough decisions when it comes to our County budget. During the past weeks, you've heard from our Haiku, our Makawao, and tonight you've heard from our West Maui youth multiply that by thousands of kids. So the young man, Kaleo, that you saw, multiply that by a thousand kids and that's where your support goes. As you can see, Boys & Girls Clubs of Maui saves lives and we impact our young people all over Maui. We provide professionally trained staff, quality programs, and thanks to you, safe and clean top of the line facilities. With budget cuts, we anticipate shorter club hours, less programs, less staff, which means less impact. And if you listen to a lot of our kids speak to you, you'll hear them mention names of people that you probably won't ever see, but those are the people that have an impact in their lives every day. And today, more than ever, you know our kids need to be around people who care. We will continue to do whatever we can. We've always years and years of trying to diversify our funding, we've leveraged County funds by bringing in other funds and will continue to do as much as we can. We ask that you do all that you can do for our youth programs and continue to

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support our Boys & Girls Club of Maui. To conclude, I just want to ask that you help us in trying to find ways, and Councilman Victorino asked the question on how we figure we can solve this problem, but if our kids get charged that dollar per trip on the bus, it's going to be really difficult, you know. We charge \$5.00 a year for membership fee, and believe it or not, a lot of the families struggle to pay that. So if they gotta pay dollar per trip that's from the school to the club, from the club back home five days a week, that's going to be hard. So I know it's a tough job and please don't ask me what I think because I'm not even sure myself. I wish I knew. But whatever you can do, we really appreciate it. Thank you.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Les Potts followed by Kainoa Casco.

MR. POTTS: Good evening, Council members. My name is Les Potts. I'm with the Honolua Advisory Council and Surfrider Foundation but I'm here in support of Community Work Day. Just in the last year, Community Work Day has removed 21,550 pounds of illegally dumped rubbish here on the West side; 231 illegally dumped appliances; 10,000 pounds of greenwaste; 68 tires; and 40 batteries just on the West side. And about half of those tires came from out here on Lipoa Point. This is the entrance to Lipoa Point right here. *(held up pictures)* Right around the corner we have a little collection station and this is where Community Work Day brings me the giant dumpster to load up. And just going north from there, we've got all the cars and refrigerators everything off of Lipoa, it's pretty clean. But heading north from there, this is the spot that was a dump site that says - Now Clean, and what works best is the kapu system. If you put a nice shiny sign up there, it gets full of bullet holes the next day. But if we put these hand painted signs like this, these "Kapu" signs then they seem to work a lot better. And then you can see a couple more curves down the road, you can see what it looks like before they're clean with refrigerators and stoves and everything just dumped over the side. We got about two miles passed the bay now and we still got about five more miles to go and about 20 more cars and things like that. I had a burning car this morning. What coupled with this also is your abandoned car vehicle division, we need a little support for that too cause two of those things is what keeps it clean over here. If you remember that Ghostbuster movie, who you're going to call? There's nobody else. Community Work Day is basically it. So, please continue your support and have a good evening. Thank you.

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

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

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Kainoa Casco followed by Don Couch.

MR. CASCO: Good evening, Council members. Thank you for coming out and staying late tonight and letting me speak. My name is Kainoa Casco. I'm here from Lahaina representing Hui Malama Learning Center as a board member. I'd first like to thank you guys for all the previous support for Hui Malama. As you guys heard from the past students, Staff at Hui Malama, they made a big commitment to sustainability, and as a board member who is in the sustainability field, I'm there to advocate for them and, you know, kind of build sustainability throughout their curriculum and programs. And so the board is excited and supports all of their sustainability efforts, and the County support allows us to leverage the academic funding that you provide to integrate all these programs. And Benson Panis was up here earlier with Daniel Phillips, who is a staff member, and they mentioned that he participates in the employer mentor program, and I'm actually his mentor and we know each other's families both being from Lahaina. And he accompanied me on the energy audit that I did throughout Hui Malama's facilities. And so through that energy audit, I provided them with recommendations on how to make their building energy efficient. And so when I provided that to Pualani Enos, the Executive Director, she...you know how everybody is talking about integrating everything into the curriculum program she was asking me how the students can be involved in the retrofits and renovations. And we talked about having the students, somebody going out and doing research into where they can get windows in the community and which local businesses can provide all these services for them. And also, I've heard about the B.E.S.T. Re...when the people come out of prison they put 'em back into the program. Really Hui Malama, you know, they serve a lot of the underprivileged youth in Maui County so it's a good way to, as a preventative measure, of having these kids talking to them about workforce development and career development. What B.E.S.T. does after people go into MCCC, you know, Hui Malama is trying to do the same thing but prior to them entering MCCC. So I just wanted to thank you guys again for all of your support of Hui Malama Learning Center. Mahalo.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Don Couch followed by Sylvia Lapiana.

MR. COUCH: Good evening, Council members. My name is Don Couch and I represent the Board of Directors of the Boys & Girls Club. I'm past president and current Treasurer. Thanks again for your support for the building which is just about to capacity already. The brand new building as you've heard from Becky we're getting 90 kids a day now, and they're packed inside that building so we really appreciate your support on that. For the past four years we've made a huge concerted effort to diversify our funding. In 1999, when we first started, we were about 98 percent funded by the County. As a result of the

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last four years, we're now to 50 percent funding from the County, and we keep trying every year to decrease that 50 percent number. Right now though we're down to the bone. Last year, we were cut 8 percent; this year so far it's 10 percent. The only area that we have left to cut is personnel, which means less programs and less services for the kids. Remember, you have essential services here on Maui. You have Police, you have Fire, you have MEO, and you have Boys & Girls Club of Maui. We save lives every day. As you've heard from one of our students or our members, that she would have been out doing drugs if she hadn't been able to go to the Boys & Girls Club.

... *(cleared throat)* ... *(excuse me)* It's about saving lives as Kelly said as I said before. When we have to close because of lack of funding, the community feels it and then they respond. Just ask Mayor Tavares a couple of years ago something happened and the community responded quite well. Please don't balance the budget on the backs of the kids and the seniors. They are the most vulnerable of our Maui citizens. Thank you.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Sylvia Lapiana followed by Stacey Moniz.

MS. LAPIANA: Good evening, Members of the Maui County Council. I'm Sylvia Lapiana, born here in Lahaina, speaking on behalf of Maui Adult Day Care Centers where I work as a Program Specialist. And I'm also speaking on behalf of MEO transportation. I was also a caregiver for my mom who attended Lahaina Day Center before her passing, and now I'm a caregiver for my father who is very frail. We would like to thank you for all the support you have provided Maui Adult Day Care Centers, which is our social day care therapeutic program for individuals who are frail, elderly individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or other related forms of dementia, and adults who are physically and mentally challenged. I remember my mother when she was in the Day Care Center in Lahaina I saw her...how she really enjoyed the music, the karaoke singing, dancing, playing bingo, and they also have those really ono hot meals. They were served snacks. Personal care services are provided such as a light shower, manicure/pedicure. I've worked six years for the Maui Adult Day Care Center and worked here in Lahaina and Kahului. Right now, I'm working in Wailuku and like every day, back and forth, I really enjoy it. And we provide more service to clients and their families by providing the song, dining program every Friday evenings at the Kahului facility, and the Saturday respite program for both Kahului and Lahaina facilities. Not only do we provide care for our clients, we also address the needs of families and caregivers by providing six monthly caregiver support groups, quarterly workshops and counseling. With this in mind, we are asking you to please support our line item with the help of the County. We're better able to keep the cost of the clients and their families affordable and provide quality care to our frail elderly.

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I would also like to thank the County of Maui and MEO transportation for all they do to support our elderly and disabled in the community. Thanks for MEO transportation for the professional way they accommodate our clients with limited capacities. MEO transportation provides a safe, efficient, and dependable transportation system in our community. MEO provides transportation to 30 percent of our clients. Clients would not be able to attend it if it were not for the bus transportation. I just wanted to share this that working at the Wailuku Day Care Center I think it's the Nissei Veterans Community Center and it's also an intergenerational and we see that the elders how they communicate with the preschool children. And I really enjoy it and I see that they always look forward in coming to the Day Care Center is because we give this...we give all of our support to them and then we...Sandy Freeman told me to come here tonight and I really deeply from my heart appreciate and really thank her for saying this to you. So thank you for all your kind and generous assistance at the Maui Adult Day Care Centers and to MEO transportation. Thank you, mahalo.

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

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

MS. LAPIANA: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Stacey Moniz followed by Fred Lacount.

MS. MONIZ: Good evening, Chair, Members of the County Council, nice to see you again. Last week...oh, I am Stacey Moniz and I'm Executive Director at Women Helping Women, and last week I was on Lanai telling you about how our program there got started, and I thought I would share a little bit about how our program in West Maui got started. About 5 or 6 years ago, we started a Domestic Violence Task Force here in Lahaina, and we gathered together different programs, organizations, different public leaders such as Jo Anne Johnson, and we had a Task Force meeting every month and they defined the needs of this community and said that what they needed out here was a center where we could help provide restraining orders, support groups, individual sessions, help with parenting, all kinds of services for victims of domestic violence without having to go to the other side. And so, we opened our West Maui center in 2006 and we have been operating pretty much at half time since then. And this year we got a...well, and our funding started as a grant-in-aid from the State of Hawaii and for the first year, our two years we operated under that grant. And then, of course, with the budget tightening they cut that grant and then we came to the County and said that we hope that you could help us support that and that's where a lot of our funding for the West Maui center has come from. We've been getting creative. We are now open five days a week using a first to work program. So we have a woman who helps with restraining orders two days a week, so now we're able to be open five days a week on this side. So really important services

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that were provided on this side. You know, we've been providing domestic shelter and services since 1977, and on Lanai since '97 so I think that the services that we provide truly do help save lives in our community. I wanted to share my agency's newsletter with you and end with a woman's memoir that she shared. And it said, the kind woman on the phone said we're sending a cab to pick you up and bring you here. When I fled the house and people I was with, it was with nothing. No ID, a little change in my pocket, no meds, no change of clothes or grooming items. I could barely get myself moving to the Police station where I sought help and protection. There was a tall, handsome, young police officer in uniform on duty. I don't even remember what I mumbled to him but he seemed to understand. He said he was going to call a woman who could help. I was immobile with fear and anxiety. Couldn't make a decision; I was in a state of confusion. My only thought that jail would be a better place than where I just come from. I heard her warm assurance through the wire. Whoever she was, she seemed to sense my withdrawal and lack of trust. She reassured me, he'll be coming up to our house that is confidential for all of us here. Do not be afraid. The cabbie works with us all the time.

This is the story of one woman and many women we help get to safety in our shelter every day. We have ten women and 15 children living in our shelter today. This is actual community members. These are not, these are my friends, my sisters, my neighbors, my aunties, and just like yours. So I want to thank you very much for the contribution from the County to help us save lives. Thank you.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Fred Lacount. Fred Lacount? Craig Anderson followed by Jim Whitehead.

MR. ANDERSON: Aloha and good evening, Budget Chair Pontanilla and Members of the Budget and Finance Committee. I'm Craig Anderson. I'm the General Manager of the Westin Maui Resort and Spa, a job that I've held for the last 8 years. I'm also Chair of the Maui Visitors Bureau and I've served on the Cost of Government Commission for the last two years, last year which I was the Chair. I'm here representing myself, the employees of my hotel, and to some extent our industry as a whole. My request and plea for you this evening is to continue the funding for MVB. I think all of us in our industry feel very fortunate that we have a County that has leadership that has wisdom and vision to fund the Visitors Bureau to the extent that we have in the past, and I think we've seen those results. I'd also like to acknowledge your effort as a business leader and having to make tough decisions over the past few years as a result of this economy. I know that what you face and there's some really tough decisions that have been made and will continue to be made. I'm not sure how many of you have seen this but this economic forecast that was published by First Hawaiian Bank and authored by Professor Leroy

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Laney really highlights some of the impact that this economy has had on our industry. And I'd like to read a couple short excerpts. . . . *(Change tape to Side 3A)* . . . Professor Laney goes on to say that although this recession has several components, the industry hardest hit is the one upon which we depend the most - tourism. Because tourism is responsible for the largest outside injections into the State economy, this is the sector that should receive the highest priority in stimulus funding. Until tourism gets well the rest of the economy cannot. As Professor Laney goes on he identifies that 40 percent of all the jobs in the State are directly related to the tourism industry. And these are numbers that I know all of you are very familiar with. He also goes on to identify that the impact of the visitor spending throughout our community touches somewhere between 74 and 80 percent of all the jobs in the State. I know many of you are old enough to remember the \$20 bill video and while I wish our industry could afford to recreate that in today's context, certainly that's reminder of the power of the visitor industry in our community. When I look at the reductions in the MVB's budget and we certainly understand that there are tough decisions facing the County, but in the last two years taking into account the proposed funding for this year MVB's budget has been cut by \$850,000. That represents a reduction and the percentage of the total County budget that has been going to MVB. Two years ago, it was about three-quarters of 1 percent, and the current proposal is about half of 1 percent going to MVB.

MR. GEERS: Three minutes.

MR. ANDERSON: Conversely, my hotel is spending 17 percent more than I did two years ago on marketing because I know that's the only way I'll get people to come here. You may have read some things in the paper about increased occupancies and I caution you that we have had to discount rates so deeply our business is in dire straits. So the world is more competitive than it's ever been before. Our industry is working together at the State, County industry and private sector level better than it ever has, and this funding is really important for the future of our industry here on Maui. So I urge you to fund it completely or give us more if you can. Thank you very much.

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

MR. ANDERSON: And it's late. Thank you.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Jim Whitehead followed by Steve Ashfield.

MR. WHITEHEAD: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, Council Members. My name is Jim Whitehead, I live here in Lahaina. I'm kind of glad the crowds gone because you're talking taking the money away from a charity you'd be beat to death by those MEO seniors. I love that agency dearly. I was on the Board for seven years. Gladys knows, I

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worked with her for a long time and I think they're the greatest operation I have ever seen in my life. They run it like a business and they make it work. I'm here to talk about the tax, property tax. If you can believe this article on Wednesday, March 31st from the previous Administration, his final budget was approximately \$363 million in fiscal 2007. The current Mayor is proposing \$530 million. That's \$170 million in three years. The population on this island hasn't gone up. I think County has got too big; I think we need to take a look at really budgeting. According to this article again and I'm only quoting from the article the budget in the Mayor's office has increased \$500,000 in three years. The OED budget has increased with salaries almost double. These are areas and all areas...I was a businessman for 30 years. We had a construction company. When times are bad, you start cutting. You cut expenses, you try to do jobs better, you try to find more efficient ways, you do what you gotta do to survive. It used to tear my heart out to lay off a man that was married and had children. But you gotta survive and that means tightening the belt. Run it like a business. I'm retired now. I'm on Social Security disability 'cause I can't work. My property tax and you all have a copy of what I passed out. If you'll look at my 2004 assessment versus the 2010, they're assessing me \$935,700 more than they did only in 2004. One year, this was shortly after this Administration took over my assessment went up \$322,500 in one year. Presently, with this new assessment, I'll be paying \$4,346.80 based on the current property tax rate. It's not a wash as this article says that the Administration that Mayor Tavares put out Tuesday, March 23rd, most homeowners will pay about the same as this year. Uh-uh This will cost me \$861.70. I'm already spending almost three months of my Social Security to pay the current tax. And now, you want more. I saved money while I worked, believe me, I had to tap it every single month just to pay the bills. You can't live off Social Security. I don't know if any of you are on it now, didn't look like, you're all so young but you can't live on Social Security. You have to have something backing you up.

MR. GEERS: Three minutes.

MR. WHITEHEAD: So all I'm asking is to please look at the existing budgets of the County. If there's a capital improvement project, it can wait another year. We've gone without, then we should be waiting. But you're not only taxing the homeowner, you're going to tax the renters that the renting from those homeowners. So it's not just us that's going to pay through the nose, it's other people that are living and renting. They're going to get their rents jacked up. You're affecting everybody. So please look at all the phases of it and I think the property tax rates should stay the same as it is today so that people like me who don't have any way to make any other income don't have to keep paying it out of our savings account because that's what we use to live on besides our Social Security. Thank you.

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

MR. WHITEHEAD: Thank you.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Steve Ashfield followed by Chris Brosius.

MR. ASHFIELD: Good evening. I'm Steve Ashfield and I'm testifying, and the bird even left before I could testify. Okay. Most people that come here talked about money that they need for their programs. But I'm going to talk about how you can get more. Unfortunately, the man in front of me just said that we shouldn't raise taxes, and I'm saying, unfortunately, we should. He should apply for the circuit breaker because if he has to pay \$4,000 that means he has to make over \$200,000 a year in order to qualify for the 2 percent circuit breaker. Okay. Just to go over that quickly, taxes, yes, property taxes needs to be raised and I ask you to do that in an election year and it's really hard. Anyone should be able to afford the 2 percent of their gross pay. If they could afford it last year, they should afford it this year. So that means my property went down. I'd be happy to pay the same amount as I did last year. I don't want to pay any more but I'll gladly pay the same amount. So, in Parks, which I work for I'd like to have the same amount of monies we had last year. We tried to get along with it as best we could and, hopefully, we'll try that. Also, just quickly, if I had a million dollar house, I get \$300,000 off of my property tax, that means I have a \$700,000 tax bill. Fourteen hundred dollars is my tax. I'd have to make \$70,000 a year in order not to qualify but a circuit breaker. I don't know many of the senior citizens may only make \$10,000 a year maybe. They only have to pay \$200 tax. That would be their top. Now, other things -- timeshares, they pay 14 percent. Eighty percent of the time they're rented. Okay. They don't have to pay the 4 percent excise tax. They don't have to pay the 8.25 TAT tax. If they didn't have their own tax line, they'd have to pay 8.75 for the hotel tax. That's 21 percent. So they're getting a deal. Somebody comes to stay where I live at a condo, they pay \$160 per night to rent the place. That's \$6,000.75 excise tax. Thirteen dollars and twenty cents tax. The owner pays \$12.00 a night whether it's rented or not. That's over \$10,000 a year for one apartment in the place where I'm at, yet I only pay about \$400.00 tax a year. Okay, another place we can raise money on is this place right here. We charge \$80.00 rental for the use of this place. It should go up. Last year, you increased the custodial deposit and the key deposit. Bring them down. It's unlimited actually because if somebody doesn't clean up the place and it costs more than \$125.00 to clean it we send them a bill. So we don't need that. All we did was take money in and give it right back. We should increase it by 50 percent. If we did that, we would get over \$18,000 just for the use of this place in one year. Okay. It costs us \$200.00 to open the door. So we're still losing money even if we charge \$120.00.

MR. GEERS: Three minutes.

MR. ASHFIELD: Okay. Thank you. We get, you get a bank for your buck. There are \$25 million we get...there's 2 million visitors come, seven days a week, three times they go to the beach, that's six million uses. You go to the beach six times a month that's another

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900,000 uses just for a month. For the people of the County that's ten million people. We get 25 million people use our beaches, parks, and things that's a dollar a person for use. So I ask you, keep our budget the same and raise the price of the community centers so that the people are using it will pay for it. Thank you.

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

MR. ASHFIELD: If I could just say one more thing. I'm sorry, I forgot about the TAT. If they take the TAT, we should get the GET. What that means is we shouldn't pay the GET tax. The State doesn't pay it, they get it back. Why should we pay tax and give it to the State on stuff we're buying? We could save over \$40,000 just in West Maui for the GET tax.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Next testifier ...*(Mr. Victorino asking the Chair to get a copy of Mr. Ashfield's written testimony)*. Oh, okay. Mr. Ashfield, can we get a copy of your testimony?

MR. ASHFIELD: Yes.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Oh, okay. Fine. Thank you. Chris Brosius.

MR. BROSIUS: Yes, thank you. Actually I'd like to thank you for the cup of Sanka at the break to keep me going. I hope you guys have a little bit more energy for the rest of us this evening. Again, my name is Chris Brosius and I am the Watershed Coordinator for the West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership. I'm going to give you an abridged version 'cause I know it's getting late. I know that you are aware that 30 billion gallons of water roughly comes from the West Maui Watershed. I know you're aware that approximately 80 percent of DWS water that quenches our thirst here on Maui or 80 percent of their customers for the Department of Water Supply get their water from West Maui. I know that you're aware that we have 18 miles of fence that zig zag across this mountain. And behind those fences, there are 21,000 acres of land under active management. I know that a lot of my staff have been up here and other people talking about our programs. We have you know that talk about education and outreach, Jill did a good job on that earlier. We're also are employing new technologies -- infrared aerial imagery to detect map and control the most invasive and water hungry invasive weeds that mar our landscape in the watershed. This is all designed again to reduce the degradation and provide for the sustainability of our island. Economically speaking, environmentally speaking, everything we need we get from the land. Albeit difficult to do any current economy. The need to maintain this management is consistent, and the need to expand or spread out our efforts from the 21,000 acres under active management to the greater 50,000 acre watershed is consistently clear. Taking one area that I visited recently was up above Launiupoko. We've been documenting great biological ridges and diversity up there. It

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was a truly functional hydrologically functional piece of the watershed that had not degraded until recently. In 2007, there was a fire that surrounded Launiupoko Subdivision shot up right to the mountain to 3,600 feet elevation. Vast watts of native forest ...(*inaudible*)... to that fire. Recently though, we just documented that, that fire may have created a pathway for which other invasive species were allowed to invade. The under story, we saw the tip of the iceberg as we were flying around the forest. This was known as one of the most pristine lands in West Maui, and we saw the tip of the iceberg, we went on the ground, and we found that the under story had been severely degraded by feral ungulates. The reason I bring this to your attention is because that means that the hydrologic function of the forest is going down. And it's just to illustrate the point that we're doing the best with want we have to control the areas that we currently are managing, but this was an area that we were kind of crossing our fingers on it. It hadn't been touched yet. But we just couldn't extend our funding to include this area.

MR. GEERS: Three minutes.

MR. BROSIUS: And we're _____ the best for it. Basically, the gist is that we have areas like this. We're doing the best with the land that we're currently managing. But what it boils down to it, next year we project a 50 percent budget shortfall and we're going down from 700,000 to 350,000. That includes the funds coming from OED and Department of Water Supply that make up that 350,000 that we plan to keep. I'm hoping to retain that for obvious reasons. I thank you for your time and your continued support. We do the best that we can with the reductions that you propose and I really thank you for your time.

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

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

MR. BROSIUS: Have a good night.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Good night. Sasha Aquinaldo followed by Butch Soares.

MS. AQUINALDO: Hi! My name is Sasha Aquinaldo, and I'm a Junior at Lahainaluna High School. I am part of the school's concert choir and I trust that you're thinking about cutting the funding we received for our Music department, which also includes our Spring concert which is held at the Maui Arts and Cultural Center. I believe that doing this will give the students, such as me and the Music department, no motivation to go to school. I know that, I myself, look forward to choir class during the week because it's the only subject where my stress can be relieved and it's where I can express myself. The reason why we have this concert is to showcase to the community what we've been working on and devoting our time to, whether if it's playing an instrument or singing.

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Being in the Music department gives students an opportunity to enhance and enrich the talent that they are blessed with. This funding means a lot to us because music is such a huge part of our lives and it is what makes the world go round. Being in the Music department has taught me several things in my life and that there are many responsibilities and challenges that we have to face but we'll surpass it just as long as we're compassionate about what we do and who we are. I am very compassionate about being and performing in the choir and when that is taken away another ambition and a goal in life is gone. Having these kinds of performances is what keeps students out of trouble and inspires each and every one of us to influence, change the world. Being in the Music department is what's helping me get through high school because even when there are so many difficult material that I have to memorize in every subject I know that there is one subject in the week where I'm actually good at. So, please, take the funding that we need for Lahainaluna High School music department to consideration because it defines each musically incline student. Secondly, I'd like to propose that some funding should be used to maintain the hygiene and sanitation of Lahainaluna High School because facilities are poorly managed, which results in students and staff getting sick, which increases the rate of absences. Most facilities are becoming filthy. Some sinks, faucets, locks in restrooms, toilets and water foundations are enabling. Also, the lack of supply that includes tissues, soap, kleenex, and hand sanitizers are at its high. Recycling bin should be provided to our school because we are a green school. Good sanitization will benefit the general population of our school believing that keeping with sanitation ever will decrease the amount of absences annually. Having a clean environment would also improve the learning environment of our student body, staff, and faculty members. Lastly, the boarding department, which exists at Lahainaluna High School for 175 years. I know that this doesn't affect you as much but the boarders have gained and earned their way in being provided the funds that you give. Though I am a day student, I believe that the boarding department has affected us all in many ways...from them cleaning, to building strong relationships and bonds with them. I believe that, instead, of completing taking out the Boarding Department funds, you can cut a portion of it. Adding to this, this is not only affect the people of Maui but our neighbor islands.

MR. GEERS: Three minutes.

MS. AQUINALDO: To conclude my message, I know that all of you Council members are trying your best to help us, and thank you for your continuous support, and thank you for taking the time to listen to what I have to say and please try to continue to help us and support us. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Uh, Sasha. Thank you for your testimony. What I would suggest is that if you could send your testimony to our State Legislators. Presently, we don't have any funding for Lahainaluna High School but what you mentioned is very important. I'm glad that we heard it tonight and you're on AKAKU, I think, and the people of this County also heard your message. So if you could send your testimony to the Senators and the Representatives that support Maui County, you know, they should

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help you and Lahainaluna High School in trying to obtain and keep programs alive at your school. So, thank you for your testimony.

MS. AQUINALDO: Thank you so much for your time.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Butch Soares followed by Chris Arnold.

MR. SOARES: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I'm going to start with a question and then I'll give you the answer at the end of three minutes or whenever he reminds me that my time is up. The question is, where is Solomon? I got a couple of issues that I'd like to address for you all to think about. First of all, I used to be on the Police Commission and the Fire Commission. And I realized that those two departments are very important for the welfare of the community. I realize that there is a request for a truck for Molokai. It's very important. I support that expenditure without any reservation. We also look at, I also look at the fact that whatever the Police Department is requesting in their budget submittal should be given very positive or favorable review. The second thing is Accounting 101. Accounting 101 when I went to school a few years ago like 50, I went to Mr. Victorino's son's alma mater, and the first thing we learned in Accounting 101 is, whatever your expenses are hopefully you have that same amount of revenue. And if you can't have that amount of revenue, then you adjust the expenses. And that's how I function in my home because I know how much money I'm going to be getting every month, and if the expenditures are a little greater, then I have to forego something to be able to make things balance. And Accounting 101 will come back to Solomon. But, basically, the challenge I see for the Council and for the Mayor is I've listened to three hours of testimony and you guys have probably listened to 50 hours of testimony and everybody is telling you what they need and what they want. I haven't heard anybody here tell me how we can get more money to appropriate all these expenditures. Okay. I heard a very eloquent or sophisticated explanation on property taxes. I want to talk to the gentleman at the end because I think he needs to represent me the next time that we go before the Tax Committee. One of the observations I have over the years is I go back and forth to Wailuku and most of the time we end up coming back at night, and the thing that annoys me the most is I see this beautiful bus with all the lights on coming back from Lahaina with four people in it. Somebody's got to be aware of what the utilization of these buses are --

MR. GEERS: Three minutes.

MR. SOARES: --and be able to say, we can't run a bus from Lahaina to Wailuku with four people. Maybe you charge 'em \$20.00 a ride you probably break even. But the point I guess is I would assume that someone on the Council is reviewing how the bus system functions revenue wise versus expenses. And for people to say, gee, a dollar more is a lot, sure it's a lot. It's a lot less than taking a cab. So I think it's all relative. You can't

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run your car over there and back for \$2.00. So I think you all need to look at the utilization of our bus service 'cause I'm paying for it. I don't use it but I pay for it. And I just cringe when I see four people riding the bus back. I almost want to cut in front of the bus and tell 'em walk the rest of the way. But getting back to where is Solomon? Solomon is here. You guys may not realize it but Solomon is here. He's represented by nine people, that's you all. You've got the toughest decisions to make. You gotta have the wisdom of Solomon and probably the luck of a guy in Vegas. So all I can say to you is the challenge is there. I think the people of Maui look for you to direction, guidance, support, consideration, all of the above. But it really is a challenging time for not only you but for me and for other people to survive on Maui. Thank you. Any questions?

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

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Not a question, Butch. But I wanted to thank you. I wanted to let you know that I have asked for that information about how the buses are utilized because I've seen what you see, and maybe we can kind of take a look and see if they can be shifted around because we also have requests from outlying areas for more buses or they don't have bus service. And so we may want to take a look at that. We get totals but totals don't tell you anything. Thank you.

MR. SOARES: Well, the only concern that I have is and I don't know how true it is because I hear different things from different people, um, I'm under the impression that people that ride the bus service within Central Maui ride free. And I know why, and I know what the mentality behind it but that mentality is gone because all of a sudden that mentality doesn't justify the expenses. You can increase the ridership all you want, your expenses are going to be the same, if not greater. So what are you proving? We're providing a great service and it's in the red.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: It also costs the same to run the bus whether one person rides or ten rides. It's something we have to take a look at and we'll be doing that. Thank you.

MR. SOARES: You're welcome. Thank you.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Chris Arnold followed by Elle Cochran.

MR. ARNOLD: Aloha, everybody on the Council, everybody that made here and stayed tonight. My name is Chris Arnold. I've been a resident of Lahaina town for going on the better part of 20 years. My grandmother moved here from the Big Island in the 1960s. I've seen a lot of growth in this community and I've seen a lot of wealth in this community. I'm raising my family in this community and I don't plan on going anywhere. I'm proud to be a part of living in Lahaina. I feel very blessed to be in Lahaina. Some of you may recognize me in your own homes or with your loved ones. I work on the ambulance in

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Lahaina. I'm very privileged I think to be on that ambulance and to be allowed to come into your homes and take care of you. I've also worked...I work Medic 4 here in Lahaina, I've worked Medic 10 in Central Kahului, I'm very familiar with what it takes with Air Med Hawaii and the dispatching the helicopter. I also worked the helicopter in Kula station for a year. I've had 12 flights on the Medevac. It saves lives. And I totally understand that right now we're in time in this community and the nation where we're penny pitching. We need to decide what works and what doesn't work. I'm asking you to be very creative with how we come up with the money. And I think that there's money here, it's a matter of how we go about it. We need to really exercise our creative ability to where we're going to be...whether it's putting a dollar on some sort of service but residents and visitors alike need to pitch in. We all, it's all going to start with all of us as an ohana to make this happen. I realize that it's going to cost lots and lots of money to make this happen. We may not have money for everything that's been talked about tonight although in my hearts of hearts I've seen the growth, I've seen the money, it's here, we just need to exercise our creative thinking on how we're going to harness it. We need to tighten the holes in the net. We need transparency. We need to see where the checkbook is, balance everything, and I really think we could make it happen. Whether it's the schools, the buses, these boys need to be in school on Fridays as much as anybody in the nation needs to be educated. I don't mind picking up the slack where I can but I really feel that we can do this. I just don't want anybody to be afraid of coming up with new ideas for funding. Things that have been talked about in the past are shut down, needs to be brought back to the table. We pay 4 percent tax in Hawaii where most of the people in the rest of the nation pay double that. I don't think we need to stigmata on taxes that we've had. I, for one, I'm not afraid to chip in my fair share to be allowed (*choto mate kudasai*) I'm not afraid to kick in and be a part of this community financially as well as responsibly. I feel very lucky to be here and I'll do whatever I can to make all the things that were brought up tonight in this community, I think are valid essential services, let alone the helicopter. The helicopter when most of you know that when two air med planes or two planes that take care the fixed wing plane crashed, that helicopter was used every day, multiple times a day. And God forbid something like that happens again with one of these other new fixed wing aircraft whether it's Air Med Hawaii or Hawaii Air Ambulance but we can't rely on military or Coast Guard, it doesn't happen in this nation. That's civilian stuff that we need to do on our own.

MR. GEERS: Three minutes.

MR. ARNOLD: Thank you. Once this goes away, we're not going to get it back. All of you, I appreciate how you all tried to make it happen . . . (*change tape to Side 3b*) . . . just please exercise all your creative thinking and energy and don't be afraid what stigmata's have been put on raising or adding fees, we're all on the same team and I think we can make this happen. And on a lighter note, I want to just kind of leave you something to think about and play along if you will -- knock, knock.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Who's there?

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MR. ARNOLD: Critically ill patient. Thank you very much.

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

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

MR. ARNOLD: Okay, good night.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Elle Cochran followed by Stephen Shull.

MS. COCHRAN: Aloha, thank you, Council members for being here. My name is Elle Cochran. So today there's so much great testimony here and very supportive of all the groups that spoke out. I was at MEO today at the town hall meeting and, you know, I agree with their mantra about not balancing the budget on the backs of our youth and the needy and, you know, vulnerable community members. You've heard lot of testimony from the disabled, the seniors, and everything. You know the homeless that is included also. And I understand the nonprofits across the board are being cut 10 to 12 percent. I don't, again, don't envy the predicament. We're all in here to try and balance this budget, but hopefully, it's not upon you know the mantra that most people were saying today. As a mentor with the MEO B.E.S.T. program, and you heard the testimony from that wonderful lady that her life just would not have taken a turn for the better if it wasn't for this program. I mentor a young lady from Honokohau Valley, and you know, it's really, really devastating to know that, that program is being cut in June. Quite a few of case managers have already left, and you know, it's really...for me, that revolving door happens way too much here on our island. And also today, at the MEO building there was this talk about underage drinking, prevention of underage drinking. Today, the Mayor did proclaim April as alcohol awareness month and it's very, very important that you know we educate our youth. I understand that there's \$146 million in Liquor Revenue. If there's some way to tap into or tax that Liquor, that amount of money and use it for education and prevention purposes. I mean, that's a lot of money out there. Another devastating number is that there's been 15 alcohol-related deaths at Baldwin High School alone within the last few years. I was afraid to ask about all the other but that right there was just traumatic to hear. And I highly recommend keep your eyes peeled to watch AKAKU for those PSAs that the children had created. Because I saw them all today, they're extremely, extremely intelligent. They're very gut-wrenching and eye opening. And to think that these middle age school kids, high school kids are creating them themselves is just incredible. And that was done 30 of the students had been gone through the producer's program with AKAKU and funded. You know, there's many, many programs that I'm involved with for mediation to the MEO, to Na ho'aloa Inter-faith Caregivers, you know, Community Work Day, Maui Hui Malama, Help me get my GED, I mean, the list goes on and on, and I know you're hearing all the testimonies from all these particular nonprofits. They're all so important. I think the foreclosure issue is a

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big thing here, which I haven't heard much about housing. That foreclosure, that's less property tax in our County budget.

MR. GEERS: Three minutes.

MS. COCHRAN: And if we can get somehow and from there that neighborhood where you have derelict homes, abandoned homes, vandalized homes, the property value now goes down, less money again in our County's budget. So, I think that's a good look into. I did speak, real quickly, I did speak to one of the fireman and I understand that their medical benefits could be cut. To me, these people who are involved in public safety for our community should not be lacking anything. You know of all things, they should be getting more. And I was glad to see the girl come up here and talk about the cut of the MACC Center Spring Concert. There's a girl who takes Taekwondo from my husband's class who asked me as a favor to mention it. So I was glad that there was a young woman here to mention the program that I think is going to be cut with the MACC Center of their Spring Concert Program. So, with that, I just want to thank all of you for being here and aloha and have a good evening. Thanks for hanging in there.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Steven Shull followed by Dorothy Dapitan.

MR. SHULL: Good evening. How you're doing? My name is Stephen Shull and I live in Lahaina. I'm a helicopter pilot and I'm here on behalf of, well, air ambulance Hawaii. Unfortunately, I was in an accident and just this last December, lift threatening, and I'm just glad to be here today. It's very difficult to talk about so very great people. People that really just want to help and save lives. It really affects everybody, not just the people working, but the patients, the families. It's very small here on Maui. Most of my family is on the mainland but a lot of friends here rallied around and helped. And because of air ambulance I'm here. I wouldn't probably be here if it wasn't for that. If I had to take the road to Hana home from my accident, I probably wouldn't have made it. So, Maui being a very isolated island, 90 percent is not accessible by car so it's something that needs to be really addressed that we keep this service for people because I've also had another friend that has actually had a serious accident and was flown out of the Seven Pools many years ago but he was bleeding and he was saved too. So that's two people. And that's just a very small number that they've saved over the many years that they've been here so with your continued support we'd like to keep people alive because that's...it's very, very hard for me to be here and talk about it. I just want to let you guys know that I'm happy to be here and because of them, I am. So, for me, please keep that going. Aloha and mahalo.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Dorothy Dapitan. Members, Dorothy is the last person to sign up for public testimony. Is there anyone out there that hadn't signed up that would like to provide public testimony?

MS. DAPITAN: Aloha. My name is Dorothy Dapitan and I wouldn't want to have to make your decisions for all the money in the world. But I'm here to speak for the air ambulance. I've had to be air vac'd out of here twice with a chronic illness, and they've saved my life. I'm just going to make this short and sweet. I just hope you find the money to fund them. Thank you.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you. Members, again, Ms. Dapitan was the last person to testify. I'll make one more announcement. Is there anyone that want to provide public testimony at this time? Okay. Seeing none. The Chair is going to close public testimony.

...END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY...

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: At this time, the Chair would like to thank all of the members of this community for coming out and testifying on the Fiscal Year 2011 proposed budget, as proposed by Mayor Tavares. We're going to be meeting tomorrow, Members. I'm sorry. There's a Council meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday we'll reconvene, not reconvene but we'll have our Budget meeting starting at 9 o'clock Wednesday morning. So the meeting at the Lahaina Civic Center for the Budget and Finance Committee is now adjourned. . . .(gavel). . .

ADJOURN: 9:30 p.m.

APPROVED:



JOSEPH PONTANILLA, Chair
Budget and Finance Committee

bf:min:100405-Lahaina:jcs

Transcribed by: Jo-Ann C. Sato