

# INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

## MINUTES

July 12, 2010

Council Chamber, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor

**CONVENE:** 9:01 a.m.

**PRESENT:** VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Bill Kauakea Medeiros, Chair  
Councilmember Joseph Pontanilla, Vice-Chair (In 9:15 a.m.; Out 11:38 a.m.)  
Councilmember Gladys C. Baisa (In 9:02 a.m.; Out 11:45 a.m.)  
Councilmember Sol P. Kaho'ohalahala (In 9:12 a.m.)  
Councilmember Danny A. Mateo (Out 11:38 a.m.)  
Councilmember Michael J. Molina  
Councilmember Michael P. Victorino

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Wayne K. Nishiki

**STAFF:** Michael J. Geers, Legislative Analyst  
Camille Sakamoto, Committee Secretary

Leinaala Kihm, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Bill Kauakea Medeiros  
Lance Taguchi, Deputy County Clerk, Office of the County Clerk  
Troy Shishido, Volunteer, Office of the County Clerk  
Ty Shishido, Volunteer, Office of the County Clerk

**ADMIN.:** Milton M. Arakawa, Director, Department of Public Works (Item Nos. 9 and 38)  
Wendy Kobashigawa, Civil Engineer, Department of Public Works (Item No. 9)  
Don Medeiros, Director, Department of Transportation (Item No. 38)  
Zachary Helm, Deputy Director, Department of Parks and Recreation (Item No. 38)  
Tara Sabado, Recreation Specialist, Department of Parks and Recreation (Item No. 38)  
Robert Halvorson, Capital Improvement Projects Coordinator, Department of  
Parks and Recreation (Item No. 38)  
David A. Galazin, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation  
Counsel

*Seated in the gallery:*

Darren Konno, County Transportation Specialist, Department of  
Transportation (Item No. 38)  
Floyd Miyazono, Chief of Recreation, Department of Parks and Recreation  
(Item No. 38)

**OTHERS:** Jocelyn Perreira, Executive Director, Wailuku Main Street Association; and  
Program Coordinator, Tri-Isle Main Street Resource Center (Item No. 38)

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Andrew Valentine, Chair, Maui County Commission on Persons with Disabilities (Item No. 38)  
Agnes Groff, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. (Item No. 38)  
Karen Hue Sing (Item No. 38)  
Sandy Baz, Chief Executive Officer, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. (Item No. 38)  
Lyn McNeff, Chief Programs Officer, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.  
Four (4) additional unidentified attendees

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

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CHAIR MEDEIROS: ...*(gavel)*... Aloha and good morning. I'm Councilmember Bill Medeiros, and I am the Chair of the Infrastructure Management Committee. And observing our quorum present, I will call this meeting to order of July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 9:01 a.m. At this time, I'd like to introduce the Voting Members first and then the non-voting Members that are present this morning at our Committee meeting, and I'll just start from my left. Here with us this morning...and I thank all of you, Members, for being here bright and early after the long weekend and a big fire last night to be here early in the morning. So to my far left is Council Vice-Chair, Mr. Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Good morning, Chairman.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: And next we have Committee Member Gladys Baisa.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Good morning, Chair.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Aloha. Good morning. Next we have our Council Chair and Committee Member, Mr. Mateo.

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: Good morning, Mr. Chair.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Good morning. Aloha. And on the far...my far right we have Member Victorino.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Good morning, Chair, and aloha.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Good morning and aloha. And we have Non-Voting Member, Mr. Wayne Nishiki joining us this morning.

COUNCILMEMBER NISHIKI: Morning.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Thank you, Members, for being here so bright and early, appreciate your attendance. Also continuing with the introductions, we have from the Department of Corporation Counsel, Mr. David Galazin. Morning. And from our Administrative

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representatives sitting forward, we have from the Department of Public Works we have Director Milton Arakawa. And, Milton, will you introduce the position of your associate and name, please?

MR. ARAKAWA: Morning, Mr. Chair. I have with me this morning Wendy Kobashigawa from our Engineering Division.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Thank you. Good morning, Wendy. And to my far left, the, the nucleus of our Committee that makes things run, to my far left, Camille Sakamoto, our Committee Secretary, and to my near left, Mr. Mike Geers, our Legislative Analyst. So good morning, everyone, and those of you in the gallery, and those of you observing this proceedings on Akaku. We welcome all of you this morning, the beginning of a new week, and we'll continue with our meeting procedures. We have two items on our agenda, Members, this morning if you look at your agendas. We have IM-9, REPAIR OF POLIPOLI BRIDGE AND CULVERT AND MIDDLE ROAD DUE TO STORM DAMAGE, and this is in Kula. The second item is IM-38, QUALITY OF SERVICES AVAILABLE TO PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED PERSONS. So this morning, the first thing that the Chair will allow is our public testimony, and before I accept public testimony, I'll set the ground rules for testifying. Those wishing to testify should sign up at the table set up in the lobby. Testimony shall be limited to three minutes. The yellow light will indicate that you have 30 seconds remaining and should begin to conclude. Testifiers are requested to state their name for the record and to indicate if they are representing any particular organization or group. At this time, Members, along with people in the gallery, I would ask all of you to check your cell phones and pagers, to put them on the silent mode or to turn them off so that this proceeding will be...will not be interrupted by any noise-making devices. We have, at this time, one testifier signed up to testify, and without objections, the Chair will proceed with testimony.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: No objection.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Thank you. So ordered. We have Ms. Jocelyn Perreira, she'll be testifying on IM-38. She represents the Wailuku Main Street/Tri-Isle Main Street Resource Center, and at this time she's the Executive Director of the Tri-Isle Main Street, Program Coordinator. So, Ms. Perreira, good morning, and thank you for being here early, too.

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

MS. PERREIRA: Good morning. Aloha.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Aloha. Proceed with your testimony.

MS. PERREIRA: Committee Chair Medeiros and Council Members, I am here this morning in support of and to testify in support of Item No. IM-38, QUALITY OF SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THE PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED PERSONS. Our organization

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has a long history of supporting any ways and means of making the quality of life for persons...physically challenged persons better. One of our most obvious projects was the one that we conducted with the persons of disability, Linda Rink and I don't...I'm sure some of you remember Smalley, who was on the wheelchair, and he helped us do a lot of accessibility. We did a comprehensive accessibility study that led to curb cuts and how to get access into the small town of Wailuku, resulting in much improved access and safety in that respect. So today, we are supporting the prioritization of quality services to the physically challenged persons in County of Maui and ask you to create opportunities for ADA pedestrian-friendly safety compliance and accessibility in small towns. And this would be, of course, without jeopardizing any of the historic buildings--which is something that we would be...of, of concern to us also. But we ask that you look at sidewalks, curb cuts, sufficient ADA parking, public amenities that will assist them, public restrooms, street furniture, and transportation that will get them to and from so that they can be fully participating persons in our community. And we encourage utilizing Community Development Block Grant funds and Federal Stimulus funding that may be available to meet these goals and objectives. Thank you very much for the opportunity to be here to express that concern for those that we advocate for. Aloha.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Aloha and mahalo, Ms. Perreira. Members, any questions for the testifier? Ms. Baisa?

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Yes. Thank you, Chair. And thank you, Ms. Perreira, for being here this morning. You mentioned that you had done a study.

MS. PERREIRA: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Can you give us just a very brief idea of, you know, the recommendations in that study? I mean where are we at? Is there a lot of work to do, or are we doing better, or can you help?

MS. PERREIRA: Well, some, some communities are...have made great strides in getting handicapped accessibility and safety standards improved and upgraded. We'd like to see that in all of our towns. I would say that Wailuku took the lead role. And the County of Maui--and maybe some of you sitting here, Council Members, were responsible for asking that...of the CDBG funding, that a priority was to use some of that CDBG funding to meet the compliance of the County for ADA accessibility. Having seen these improvements in some of our towns, we would like to be able to see these in all of the towns so that persons with...that are physically challenged can enjoy and be a fully participating member of the community and also have the County of Maui in full compliance of Federal rules and regulations to provide this access. I would say that the County of Maui is, is, is making progress, definitely.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you very much.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Are you done, Ms. Baisa?

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COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: For now. Thank you.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Thank you. Ms. Perreira, let me ask you. The study that was done by your organization, would that be available to our Committee as information and reference?

MS. PERREIRA: Oh, yes --

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Okay.

MS. PERREIRA: --and we also have project boards that go along with that as well.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Okay. I'd, I'd appreciate it if you could provide us with a copy of that. And the other questions I have is that in your daily work and daily planning as you look at our small towns and main streets, what part does it play in your planning to be sure we can accommodate and make accessible, you know, our towns and our main streets for people that are physically challenged and disabled?

MS. PERREIRA: Thank you for that question. We believe that our small towns are not just museum pieces to be enjoyed by just a select group of visitors or clients that are fully able to navigate. You know, these towns are smaller towns and they have some challenges that you wouldn't have if they...you were following...like if you had a shopping mall that had the Codes that had like very wide, broad sidewalks, and so on and so forth, and very easy to get access...gain access in and out of the town or the, or the shops, so on and so forth. When we are planning, when our professionals review projects, they...one of the things that they have on their checklist, that they look for, is if we're, we're talking about renovating, we're trying to make sure that handicap accessibility is included in that. If a new project comes on-line, we're hoping that they are incorporating those kinds of issues. And if a Capital Improvement Project is being undertaken by the County or the State, that likewise, that these...and they normally are looked at by the, the government as, as necessities. And we just look at that and, and incorporate that as part of our planning.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Okay. Thank you. And maybe one final question. And I know you were deeply participating and involved during our General Plan process, and in, in your attendance of meetings like that in the planning stages, did you see discussions regarding accessibility for our disabled people?

MS. PERREIRA: Yes. I, I must say and I must commend the GPAC members as being very sensitive to understanding the needs of the, the persons with physical challenges and trying to incorporate that. They also had us, you know, reminding them right alongside that, but I do think that they were very conscientious in trying to incorporate that in their deliberations.

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CHAIR MEDEIROS: Thank you, Ms. Perreira, for keeping the physically challenged in mind during your planning, and I appreciate your attendance and testimony this morning.

MS. PERREIRA: Thank you.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Aloha.

MS. PERREIRA: Aloha.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Members, any other questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you once again. Okay. Do we have, Ms. Sakamoto, any more testifiers?

MS. SAKAMOTO: No, Mr. Chair.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Okay. I see Mr. Valentine up there, and I was going to hold testimony open anyway, because, you know, he catches the bus and...to get to places. So we want to be sure we gave him time to do that. So he's coming down and he's going to be testifying.

MR. VALENTINE: Do I have to?

CHAIR MEDEIROS: ...*(Laughter)*...

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: No.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: ... Mike, can we assist him in any way with the microphone, please?

MR. VALENTINE: ...*(inaudible)*...

COUNCIL MEMBERS: ...*(inaudible)*...

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Yeah.

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

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Take off--

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Mike, remove the--

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Remove the--

CHAIR MEDEIROS: --barrier. . .thing, yeah.

**NOTE: Pause.**

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CHAIR MEDEIROS: . . . And while Mr. Valentine's getting ready, I want to recognize two more Members to our proceedings this morning. Member Kaho'ohalahala, good morning, aloha; and Member Pontanilla, our Vice-Chair.

VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: Good morning.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Mahalo. Okay. At this time we do have another testifier and I was pretty sure he was on his way, so he would have been here. So at this time, Reverend Andrew Valentine will be testifying on IM-38. He belongs to the Maui Commission on Persons with Disabilities. He is the Chairperson of that Commission, and I welcome you here this morning, Mr. Valentine. Thank you for being here. Aloha and good morning.

MR. VALENTINE: Aloha and mahalo. Thank you, Councilman. I'm very glad you're having this, this hearing today, because there is a grave concern about the quality of services that are provided to our disabled community. Not that Maui isn't making an effort, but it's, in my opinion, slightly below what can really be done to be most effective. I am a member of the Maui Commission on Persons with Disabilities, which you guys approved me to be on . . . *(laughter)* . . . for a period of time, and I'm currently the Chair. And in our discussions, we have talked quite often about the quality of the paratransit system and the ability to get in and around the community. With the paratransit, there's been some recent changes there in that they've hired a new operations manager, Mr. Harry Johnson, who had been with MEO for a number of years. So we anticipate that it's going to be a great step up in the quality of service there. There's still some needs in that the concern with transportation, there's not enough communication to the disabled ridership on what to expect and how best to use the system. We don't advertise from Maui County to persons with disabilities what services are available. You provide services and it's on the website, but the majority of our constituents do not use the internet. They have a lot of concerns about other things that, you know, for daily life, they're more concerned am I going to be able to get up this morning, am I going to get fed, can I get my medication? The other things are important but they're second, subliminal to everything else. If we provide better awareness, communication to the community they have a better understanding on how best to be prepared when--the concerns that we have discussed at our Commission is that disaster preparedness, you have handbooks but we've had community members come in to testify at the last tsunami warning, they didn't know what to do. When they made phone calls, nobody knew what to do with them. There are guidelines and protocols, but nothing has been communicated, I say again, to the disabled community. When you look at my constituents, we are best prepared to help anybody anytime because we live it daily. We live on a tight budget 24/7. So we know about cutting corners and saving money, but we also know about survival and the best way to use what resources that are there, and nobody talks to us. We may have the solution to your budget problems if you talk to us . . . *(laughter)* . . . because we, we, we know these things. One...another thing that was a concern is that there's not enough communication, it seems like, between departments. So if I call--I'm gonna use Ms. Baisa--if I call Baisa's department she says well there's an office that does that, you gotta call

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Victorino's office. You call Victorino, he says oh wait no, that's Molina's office  
...*(laughter)*...

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: ...*(laughter)*...

MR. VALENTINE: There's no communication, so they, there's a sharing of information with that person with disability. They'll make one or two calls, ah forget it, nobody knows anything, they're gone. They won't do anything. It's not that nothing there, it's the lower level of communication. One of the things that I'm going to be recommending to Roberts of Hawaii--now they have a new operations manager--that they establish a paratransit riders advisory committee. This will help them provide better training to their drivers so that we are strapped down securely and appropriately no matter how frequently the staff changes. The staff changes, drivers don't know what to do, they don't know, they don't...they just don't know. So and that's our primary safety. One accident puts this County in a bad situation. So it's a very little thing to increase the quality of transport...the quality of training. I belong to a group that's the Maui Wheelers. We volunteered to be guinea pigs, to practice on us. So you get to practice on our chairs before you get on the road, so when the drivers go out, they know that like Karen up here has a, has a power chair, it's a little bit slightly different to secure her chair than my chair. But if you practice...if they practice on it off the road, when they get on the road they can secure a chair in three-to-five minutes. The way it is now some...like today I had a new driver, didn't know, knew very little, but sometimes with new drivers it takes as long as ten minutes to secure a chair--whether they're on a fixed route bus or the paratransit. On the fixed route bus, they're blocking traffic. Ideally in three-to-five minutes you can secure any mobility device if you've got proper training off the road.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Okay. Mr. Valentine, Reverend Valentine, if you could conclude?

MR. VALENTINE: Yes.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Yeah.

MR. VALENTINE: The other thing that I would ask that you all consider is that in setting up fee...fare structures that you look at other communities around the country in how they provide fare structures for paratransit and, and disability ridership. But among the departments--one last thing--the departments in the County should come to the Commission on Disabilities for assistance. That's what we're there for, that's what we took an oath for. Nobody talks to us. I'm asking, as Chairperson, use us, that's why you appointed us. But nobody comes to us. Thank you.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Reverend Valentine. Stay there and hold on to that mic, and before I open the floor for questions, as you see in your binders, Members, the County communication which I made to Council Chair Mateo and it got assigned to my Committee. . .that was initiated from my discussion with Reverend Valentine to bring this forward and make the awareness. As he's tried to explain in a short three minutes, which

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certainly isn't enough time to do so, he was explaining some of the things that they have to contend with, and that they don't have--in his estimation--you know, good support from government at different levels. So it's the intent of the Chair to continue this item and to have a panel discussion where they'll have more time to answer questions. So at this time, Members, I'll open the floor for questions for Reverend Valentine. Any questions? Member Baisa?

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Yes. Thank you, Chair. And thank you, Reverend Valentine, for being here today. I'm very glad you made it. I was kind of worried when I saw --

MR. VALENTINE: . . .*(Inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: --when I saw you weren't here, because I know that you probably are the most...one of the most knowledgeable and articulate members of the persons with disabilities community here on Maui, and it's important that people like you speak up. You know, having spent a few months in a wheelchair myself, I have a little bit of empathy for what it's like, although I can't imagine how it is to do that all the time. You mentioned this morning that you had a new driver. How did you come?

MR. VALENTINE: Say again?

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: How did you come today? Did you come on...

MR. VALENTINE: I came on the Maui Bus, Paratransit bus.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: I see. I wanted to ask you, do the members of the Persons on...Commission on Persons with Disabilities, at your meetings, do you regularly discuss transportation?

MR. VALENTINE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: And is there always someone from the County Transportation or from Roberts there to work with you?

MR. VALENTINE: No.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: . . . No?

MR. VALENTINE: No.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: So they don't routinely attend your meetings --

MR. VALENTINE: No.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: --so that you have dialogue?

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MR. VALENTINE: No.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Is there anybody from...and anybody--

MR. VALENTINE: ...*(laughter)*...

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: --from anyplace else? ...*(laughter)*... Is anybody listening?  
...*(laughter)*...

MR. VALENTINE: Routinely...now we...normally we just have our Corporate [*sic*] Counsel, which is Kim Sloper, and Jan Roberson, who is the clerical person from Department of Housing and Human Concerns. Occasionally other people stop in, but there's not a routine. Denny Schwind used to attend regularly, but I guess he has...having scheduling conflicts and can't make it now. But we do not have members of other departments that routinely come. To find out what the department's doing is by happenstance. Either we hear about it from some other third source or we see it on the internet or something ...*(inaudible)*... oh, they're doing this in Public Works, or they're doing this in whatever. Now I apologize, one person from the County does come. Tara Sabado of the Parks Department routinely comes. She is the Inclusion Specialist with the Parks Department, has a lot of things going on. They help our community. She's the *only* one that routinely comes. If she doesn't come that means there was a conflict somewhere.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Well, you know, I...being that the provision of accommodations for those persons with disabilities in all facets of our lives here on Maui, it would seem to me that the Commission is the appropriate place to have this, this dialogue. 'Cause you're elected [*sic*] representatives, and you, as the Chair, would have agenda items to deal with the members' concerns. You know, I used to serve as Chair of the State Commission on Persons with Disabilities, so I'm very aware of the depth of involvement. That could lend to, you know, commenting on buildings. I'm glad to see Parks there, because parks and, you know, all of the amenities that we have in our community need to accessible under ADA law. Comments?

MR. VALENTINE: You're right, and that's what, that's what chagrins us most--that we, we were appointed to provide a service to the County, and the only way that anything gets out is if we *initiate* some communication, and we have great difficulty in that. We sent one letter to the department bringing up an issue and the letter...response we got was very terse and just doubted our concern about what we were asking about. There's...they don't, they don't make it easy for us to say oh, by the way, have you noticed this or this can be done. They're in a, they come back in an adversarial-type aspect. One thing ...*(inaudible)*... is that we see the...budget change for fees on the bus service. It's great. They missed one little bubble. There should have been...had a ...*(inaudible)*... bring up a bus pass of a person with disabilities. Everywhere around the country they have that, but that wasn't there. So that needs to be...because persons with disabilities are like seniors and students--limited income, we love to travel.

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COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you very much, Reverend. I think that you've...you made us aware of something, and I want to thank the Chair for bringing this up today. This is a very important matter, and I think this meeting will led, lead hopefully to more sensitivity. Thank you.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Member Baisa. Member Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you, Chairman. Good morning, Reverend.

MR. VALENTINE: Good morning, sir.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Just to clarify your testimony, so typically your major topics have to do with transportation, and how often do you meet? Is it twice a month?

MR. VALENTINE: We meet monthly, 'cause the curfew...I mean the furlough Friday program, we're going back to the second Thursday of every month, and we meet at the Hale Mahaolu Elima Community Room. So we meet monthly. Transportation is a major issue because most of our members use the transportation so we're most knowledgeable about that, and the community comes in. But our agenda items cover the gamut just like you guys. You know, if an issue comes up we want to address it, but all we want is an opportunity to *share* what we come up with, and there has been no venue or a protocol established where we can easily get to the departments and say consider this, have you thought about this, or what about this?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay.

MR. VALENTINE: There's no bridge for us, and we have to really work hard to get, you know, information out.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay.

MR. VALENTINE: And I don't think that's fair.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. And just, just a quick follow-up, and with regards to when you do have your transportation matters on the agenda, you've extended invitations out to our Maui DOT --

MR. VALENTINE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: --and they...

MR. VALENTINE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Have they responded via letter or anything?

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MR. VALENTINE: No.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Nothing?

MR. VALENTINE: They, they...no, what I mean, this, this time we had at our meeting, Darren Pono [*sic*] came, first time he's been there in quite a while. But then they also...there were representatives from MEO there, Sandy Baz and Gladys were there. The new operations manager at, at Roberts was there. Harry had been with MEO before so it was kind of a routine deal, he just showed up. But that's the way it happens, nobody comes routinely. If they did, they would know what our conversations are about. Our agendas, like yours, are posted on the internet on the County website.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay.

MR. VALENTINE: They can see what our agenda items are, and they...they're free to come in and suggest things, but like I said they just don't use us.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah. Okay. Well, I think it's good that you're sending this message out, and hopefully, you know, the Mayor's listening in and maybe the Mayor can get the word out.

MR. VALENTINE: She was there Friday, and she was...she...in one of her statements, she says oh, I see that you guys aren't...there's some concerns that I need to be looking at, I wasn't aware of. So somebody has not been feeding things even to the Mayor, unfortunately, because we do make communication.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Member Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Chair?

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Other questions? Member Victorino?

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Thank you, Reverend, for being here. My question will be a little bit different. You mentioned earlier about looking at other communities and other transportation systems in the methodology that they have for ridership for the disabled. And do you have a list of which ones that you would recommend us to take a look at? Instead of looking all over the place, is there maybe five or ten municipalities sized like ours or even larger ones that --

MR. VALENTINE: Oh, yes.

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COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: --yeah, that you could recommend to us so that we could look at studies that . . .*(inaudible)* . . .

MR. VALENTINE: Off the top off my head, I would say Indianapolis, Indiana; and Austin, Texas.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Okay.

MR. VALENTINE: That's off the top...and also comparable communities, I would think Peoria, Illinois; and San Diego, California. They are comparable in general population.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: I see. Okay.

MR. VALENTINE: And there not...there's not much places like Maui . . .*(laughter)* . . . unfortunately, but they get you an idea of, of how they provide the service. I think Austin might be the best because it has a similar...in their set of configuration of suburbs and, and pocket communities as Maui does. That's why I mentioned them. But they're one of the leaders across the nation.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Okay. Thank you. And, and I'll have my staff look into that one. And the last question I have, I have for you, we've talked about transportation but we haven't talked about...or a lot of discussion has been on accessibility into. And I know we talked a little bit about Wailuku Town, but in general throughout the County of Maui, how would you rate the County of Maui as far as what they've been able to accomplish to this point? You know, if you say "1" being the best and "10" being the worst, where would you rate us overall?

MR. VALENTINE: Whoops.

**NOTE:** *Pause while Mr. Valentine reconnected the microphone's cord.*

MR. VALENTINE: . . .*(Inaudible)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: That's okay.

MR. VALENTINE: I didn't . . .*(inaudible)* . . .

MR. VALENTINE: We're good.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: . . .*(Laughter)* . . .

MR. VALENTINE: I would think that Maui, on a scale of one-to-ten, one being the highest, Maui probably gets around about a 7.5 right now.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Well, that's not too bad.

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MR. VALENTINE: And that's because even though the, the head has a good concept the body doesn't really understand how to apply that, and they say oh, that looks okay, but they don't ask somebody, "Does this really work?" And that's the key involving disabled persons--so you can see if it really works for them to get in and out or whatever. They . . . *(inaudible)* . . . diagrams, oh, they look like it'll work, it meets the specifications, but there are times when it's...doesn't work because of other concerns and other matters right there. So about a 7.5 on an upward scale, though; it's not going down . . . *(laughter)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Okay. Well, that, that...that's good news. And, Chair, thank you. And I think, Reverend Valentine, I'd like to say, you know, we've had our talks and we're going to meet still yet on the, the protocol, yeah. I've committed to do that --

MR. VALENTINE: Yes, sir.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: --Mr. Chair, as far as working with the protocol issue for emergency services, and I'm trying to set up a meeting with all, all the parties involved. But more importantly, Mr. Chair and the rest of the community, we've got to understand these people have special needs and we must work hard to make sure that they have the same accessibility as us everyday citizens, yeah. So thank you, Mr. Valentine. Thank you, Chair, for allowing me that moment.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Okay. Mahalo, Member Victorino. And, and, and that's the purpose of this meeting, awareness and the first step in a, in a journey to try and get things done. Member Pontanilla, and I believe Member Baisa will follow.

VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Chairman. Good morning, Reverend.

MR. VALENTINE: Good morning, sir.

VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: Nice to see you here.

MR. VALENTINE: Oh, yes . . . *(laughter)* . . .

VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: You talk about the Commission itself, and what puzzles me is that, you know, you're talking about Persons with Disabilities Commission, and transportation is very important for you guys. My question to you is that has anybody made any suggestion in regards to having somebody from transportation--either Roberts, MEO, or whoever provide transportation to this County--to sit on your Commission?

MR. VALENTINE: I don't know that that has been specifically done, though as critical as transportation is in the...in my dealings back in the Midwest, it is wise if somebody from transportation is always there. Like anybody else, if, without transportation we can't get

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there, and since that is a major function of the County, transportation should routinely be at our meetings. A lot of things could be avoided or improved if they were there and heard the discussions that come in from the community. They could take that back and implement it in their departments without a formal written request. Thank you, sir.

VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. And--

MR. VALENTINE: That's why Parks Department comes.

VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. And, and, you know, I...it, it would solve a lot of problems rather than you coming over here all the time and, and, you know, telling us what is wrong with the County's transportation system. I believe in that somebody that's an expert in transportation that can work with the Commission, you know, for betterment of transportation for people with disabilities. So it's one thing, you know, we'll be looking at, trying to have probably somebody in the transportation area sit on your Commission.

MR. VALENTINE: They have a person that's, that staffs, Darren Pono [*sic*], I think it's, Pono [*sic*] is how you pronounce his name, that's responsible for certification of paratransit riders and oversight of the paratransit operation. It says that on the website and that's part of his duties. To me it seems like he should be routinely required to attend our meetings.

VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: Exactly. So thank you for your testimony this morning. Appreciate it.

MR. VALENTINE: Yes, sir.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Member Pontanilla. Member Baisa?

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Yes. Thank you very much, Chair. Just, Reverend Valentine, I wanted to get the record straight. You know, this happens all the time, people mix me and Agnes Groff up all the time. I think *Agnes* was at that meeting...(*inaudible*)...

MR. VALENTINE: It was Agnes, I'm sorry...(*laughter*)...

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Don't feel bad, everybody does it. I guess we...we're cousins so there must be a similarity

MR. VALENTINE: You're Maui beauty queens, what can I say?

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: ...(*Laughter*)... Thank you very much. That, that was all I wanted to say, Chair.

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CHAIR MEDEIROS: . . .*(laughter)*. . . Thank you for clearing up those identities, Member Baisa.

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

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: It happens all the time.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: . . .*(laughter)*. . . Member Kaho'ohalahala, please.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: Thank you, Chair. Reverend Valentine, you talked about the, the fact that we're not getting the kind of participation you would like, but you have a nine-member commission?

MR. VALENTINE: Yes, sir.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: Okay. And are your Commission members active participants in the process as well?

MR. VALENTINE: Yes, yes, they are, sir.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: So you're, you're saying that aside from the Commission members then you're not getting participation?

MR. VALENTINE: We're not getting participation from outside those appointed members of our Commission. No, sir.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: Okay. That's sad to hear.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: Yeah. So I...I'm hoping that by, by this process we will come to some better way of trying to make sure that we're going to either initiate or help to support your Commission so that we can get the, the best out of the Commission.

MR. VALENTINE: Thank you, sir.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: Yeah. Okay. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Member Kaho'ohalahala. Any other questions? Member Pontanilla?

VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Other than transportation, what else is discussed in, in your Commission? I know the County's working real hard in trying to get our facilities to be ADA compliant, and, you know, as long as I've been here--eight

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years--we've been...it's like an ongoing project for us to get everything done. So, comments?

MR. VALENTINE: The only other thing that has come up frequently is the disaster preparedness protocol. Even though there are things in place, even we don't know **what** Civil Defense has in place, and we don't know what the County has in place. So when the next warning comes up, we don't know what to do. I know things because of my background experience, but the majority of the community has no idea. They hear that there are things that are supposed to be done from the national level on down. These things are in writing at FEMA, et cetera, but nothing has gotten out to the community. So when they hear that alarm go off, what do I do? Who do I call? And that brings to the point with transportation. Transportation, normal...public transportation normally is utilized to pick up those persons who cannot drive themselves and take them to the disaster shelters. We have no idea if there is a plan like that in place. There was a lot of confusion this last time. One of our members had to call...had to have the lady from CIL call the bus . . . *(inaudible)*. . . pick up Elsie and bring her to my place, because she lives in the, in the, in the swamp zone, you know, if a tsunami had hit. But if that hadn't had happened, Elsie Santos, one of our members, would have been at her home when the tsunami hit down there by Safeway. And they had to go through extra steps just to get her out of the...out of danger, 'cause there was no other way.

VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. And, and I, I think it's something that we need to talk to Civil Defense if, you know, in our disaster preparedness plan we, we have something that covers, you know, persons with disabilities in case of any emergency.

MR. VALENTINE: I think they've got it; they just haven't communicated it to us.

VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay. Maybe you should sit on the board, I don't know.

MR. VALENTINE: I'd do that.

VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Member Pontanilla. Before I go to the next Member, right, and, and this is why I generated this item in our meeting, because just in a few minutes we've heard of things that we never considered. And we need to bring that awareness and, and implement changes that will address all of this issues. So, Members, any other questions? Chair Pontanilla...sorry, Chair Mateo? . . . *(laughter)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Reverend Valentine, good morning.

MR. VALENTINE: Good morning, sir.

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: Your Commission, you do have minutes, yeah?

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MR. VALENTINE: Yes, sir.

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: And could those minutes be circulated to the Members as well?

MR. VALENTINE: They're posted on the website, but it's, it's like any other County communication--because of the Sunshine Law, our minutes are posted on the website.

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: Yeah. Posted on the website--

MR. VALENTINE: Yes, sir.

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: It's, it's a lot easier for us to get a hard...

MR. VALENTINE: Yeah. It's on the website.

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: No. You're not listening.

MR. VALENTINE: Oh, I'm sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: It's *easier* for us to get a *hard copy*, because we have a gazillion things on websites --

MR. VALENTINE: Oh, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: --that we don't have time to get to.

MR. VALENTINE: I can request of our secretary --

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: So if you can send it to us --

MR. VALENTINE: --to get one to you.

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: --it would help *us* help *you*.

MR. VALENTINE: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: And also do, do your Commission come up with an annual report?

MR. VALENTINE: We haven't in the past. That's one of my dreams for this next...this upcoming year. You're reading my notebook, but that's what I planned to have them do on, on an annual basis. But I will ask Jan Roberson to routinely mail or . . . *(inaudible)* . . . to transmit to the, the County, the County Council a copy of our minutes of all our meetings.

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COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: Yeah. Thank you. And also --

MR. VALENTINE: I'll do that.

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: --and also as you formulate your process for the annual report, that might be something that we may, you know, really want to take a look at--especially as we look forward at budget...during budget sessions.

MR. VALENTINE: Right. That's one of the things I start talking about when you had this past budget hearings--you know we need to do an annual thing so that it's already in writing. So I think it will happen before the end of the year, so it'll be ready to send out in, by March.

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: That will be great. Thank you very much, Reverend.

MR. VALENTINE: Thank you, sir.

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: Thank you, Chairman.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Chair Mateo. Members, any other questions? Member Baisa?

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Yes. Thank you very much, Chair. And thank you so much, Reverend Valentine. I think this is really good for everyone. Does your Commission do an evaluation? Are you, are you given a survey that you can put out to the people you represent? 'Cause I'm assuming that your nine members come from different providers or different members or different groups of organized persons with disabilities. Do you have an opportunity to do like a survey so that you can provide recommendations to the Department of Transportation or to the Council or whoever it is that, you know, the area in which you feel that we need improvements? Do you ever do that?

MR. VALENTINE: This hasn't been done, but like once again you guys are in my notebook 'cause these are things I want to see happen. So what you're bringing up now--and one of my members being here--we'll, we'll be able to do that, because that's one of the things I've said, we need to find out what people need.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Right.

MR. VALENTINE: 'Cause one of the things I've asked for is why don't we take our meetings on a random basis to other points in the County? As long as we meet in a County building, we can have the meeting, and so that we can be more accessible to the community. Your comments now reinforces that position, and maybe *now* we will be *allowed* to go out places. It hasn't been very supportive in us doing very much, to be honest. We don't...not even from our sponsoring Department--hasn't been very encouraging to initiate things--just do the status quo and let, leave the rest of it alone is the kind of attitude that's being presented to us.

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COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Well, I think that, you know, if you take a proactive stance, you will find that the results will be a lot better. You know, everyone is very, very busy, and so the squeaking wheel gets dealt with today. So if you become a squeaking wheel, then we're going to have to stop and say hey, there's something here we need to pay attention to. So I would suggest you might want to do that. Be, be proactive, it's important. I also think that...you know, this is my suggestion, I don't run the show, but I *really* think that you ought to have representatives of your providers at every single meeting. I think that is imperative so that there's good communication, and that people know what they're doing well and where there can be improvements. And that way we design a better service to meet the needs of the people we need to help. And, you know, this is ADA *law*; there is...this is not discretionary, this is ADA law, American with Disabilities Act law--that we take care of persons with disabilities. Thank you.

MR. VALENTINE: Thank you, ma'am.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Anything to say about that?

MR. VALENTINE: We'll follow up on it. I, I concur with what you're saying and so we haven't been very supported in getting that kind of message out, but now with you saying this I'll go back to the Department of Housing and Concerns [*sic*] Director and ask her if she would help us to initiate a communication to the various departments inviting...re-informing them of our meeting dates and inviting them to come out.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: You know, you have the power to initiate correspondence as a chair and with the backing of your group. So, you know, use it. Thank you.

MR. VALENTINE: We have a problem there, but I'll talk to you off to the side. We have a problem in getting communications out.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Okay. Mahalo, Member Baisa.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: ...(*Inaudible*)...

CHAIR MEDEIROS: And yeah, I just want to remind the Members that, you know, this is to clarify his, his testimony. We will have a period to discuss and...this. And certainly we all want to use the resource of Reverend Valentine in questions and answers. Members, any other questions?

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: Just some clarification--

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Member Kaho'ohalahala?

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COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: Yeah, just some clarification. I am looking on the, the website and I am looking at your most current minutes of your last meeting. And you had mentioned that the, the Mayor was present at, at your last meeting.

MR. VALENTINE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: And in the minutes it says that she was there to attend to read a proclamation.

MR. VALENTINE: Recognizing the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act which is July 26<sup>th</sup>.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: Okay.

MR. VALENTINE: So the County did a proclamation recognizing that...this, this anniversary.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: So did she read you a proclamation?

MR. VALENTINE: Yes. I don't have it with me. I'm sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: Okay. 'Cause it's not attached to the minutes then.

MR. VALENTINE: It'll be with the next one. There's something coming up. One of our members took it so that she can have it at the ADA celebration which is...in next week. So it wasn't available to the secretary to put on there, but it will be attached.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: Okay. Just because your comments earlier you said that the Mayor was in attendance at your meeting, but she was not aware of the, the issues and the problems that you are raising.

MR. VALENTINE: There is a letter of one of our outgoing members wrote in March when she...her term ended, and we submitted a concurring document endorsing the fact that what Commissioner Roland had said--and her observations, we felt were accurate, that there was some communication problems, there was some service provision problems, and a lot of things...protocol that were not being available to persons with disabilities and it made us feel like that our time on the Commission was worthless. And the Mayor wasn't aware that we were frustrated by the lack of communication that's going on, the kind of things we're here for today. And she wasn't aware of that until just recently, for some reason, because of those two letters.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: Okay. Thank...and thank you for the...that clarification.

MR. VALENTINE: Yes, sir.

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CHAIR MEDEIROS: Okay. Mahalo, Member...

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: I would like to, to --

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Oh, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: --actually get a copy of the proclamation though if, if... *(inaudible)*...

MR. VALENTINE: I'll, I'll make sure you get it, sir. I'll make sure that it gets to the Chair and it can be disseminated.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Member Kaho'ohalahala. Any other questions, Members? Seeing none...

VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: Chairman?

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Member Pontanilla?

VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: I...I'd just like to make a comment. Is it okay?

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Yeah, proceed.

VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Sometimes, you know, when department heads attend meetings like that, yeah, sometimes that communication doesn't go to the Mayor herself. And I think it would be the responsible [*sic*] for every department head or person that attend that meeting provide that kind of information to the Mayor or whoever, you know, their bosses. That way at least, you know, that would be part of the communication. You know, and I'm not advocating, you know, for this present Mayor, but I'm just advocating for the position itself--for anybody to be aware of anything, it would be the incumbent and the responsibility of every department head to provide that kind information so that that person that sits as Mayor would understand the problems that we have in this community. Thank you.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Member Pontanilla. And I will say I did invite representatives of the Administration other than Department of Public Works that sits before you. In the gallery, we have the Department of Parks and Recreation, and we have the Department of Transportation available during the discussion period as resources for your questions at that time. So, Members, any other questions for Reverend Valentine? Seeing none, thank you, sir, for being here.

MR. VALENTINE: Aloha. Thank you.

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CHAIR MEDEIROS: And we'll, we'll keep track of your website.

MR. VALENTINE: Thank you.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Yeah?

MR. VALENTINE: It's the County's website. Thank you, sir.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: What, what also is available to people that want information about any board or commission--

MR. VALENTINE: Right.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: --meeting is that they can get on the list and be sent a copy of the agenda prior to the meeting. So that's also available.

MR. VALENTINE: We do that if we know about it.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Right. And that's your committee, you know, staff who, who would take care of that for you. Yeah. Thank you for being here this morning.

MR. VALENTINE: Thank you, sir.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Okay. Okay. While we have Reverend Valentine exiting, the Chair going take a short two-minute recess at this time. Meeting in recess. . . .(gavel). . .

**RECESS: 9:46 a.m.**

**RECONVENE: 9:49 a.m.**

CHAIR MEDEIROS: . . .(gavel). . . The meeting of the Infrastructure Management Committee is now convened...reconvened after the short recess. Thank you, Members, for that. We'll continue with our testimony. At this time, we have Ms. Agnes Groff, and she'll be followed by Karen Hue Sing. Ms. Groff will be testifying on IM-38, and she is representing MEO. Ms. Groff, good morning, and thank you for being here.

MS. GROFF: Good morning. Good morning, Council Chair and Council Members. It's an honor and pleasure to be here today. I wanted to let you folks know that many years ago I was a Commission member, and at one time I even chaired the Commission on Persons with Disabilities. And I do attend meetings maybe other every month when can, yeah. But I'm here today in, in a case of a senior that lives in Kihei, and on June 28<sup>th</sup>, I went out to do outreach to help him with his electric bill in the MEO LIHEAP program. And what I ran into was an elderly gentleman who was on a wheelchair and needed to go to the doctor, and I called MEO transportation and they said I'm sorry, June...July 7<sup>th</sup> we

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not longer have the Ala Hou program, you have to call Roberts. So I did, I called Roberts and they said I'm sorry, we can't help you, you need to do an application, you have to call the County [*sic*] of Transportation. So I called the County [*sic*] of Transportation, they were very nice, and I said can you fax me an application--I'm gonna call him, for Mr. Aloha. And they said well we don't usually fax, and I was very persistent and they did fax me out the application. The application consisted of 14 pages, seven which was rules and regulations and the other seven was the application itself. Now this gentleman is not someone like Mr. Valentine that can come up and speak and fight for himself. He couldn't, he couldn't call, he couldn't do the application so I did it for him. So when I finally was reading the rules and regs to him in the application, it did say that it would take 21 days for someone to get back to this man. So when I call and I, I talk to them, I said, you know, he needs to go by July 7<sup>th</sup>, and they said I'm sorry, we can't help you. And he looked at me and he said well, more better die. I felt so bad. How many other people out there that don't know about this big turnaround? How many other people that don't go to Kaunoa and get the information? There is a lot of people out there that don't know of this transact...trans...this, this changeover right now. Also the difference between Paratransit and Ala Hou. This man, if Roberts was to come, would they go to the door and wheel him down and into the bus? I don't think so. That's not what Paratransit does. So he was one of several people in the last couple weeks that I've been running into. People see me and they call me and it's like I'm Miss Transportation. I am, I've done it for a lot of years but there's a big spot missing here, and I can't help them so I'm telling them call you. We have to address this, you know, for people like...I say like Mr. Valentine that can speak for himself and speak for his rights, they're fine. But there's many, many out there that don't have families or families are working and don't know where the answers are.

... So I just thought I'd let you know.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: ... Are you done? ... (*Laughter*)... Thank you very much for your testimony, and for sharing that with us, because a lot of times unless somebody shares it with us we're not aware of it. So I'm, I'm gonna let the Members ask you some questions --

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Chair?

CHAIR MEDEIROS: --if they have any. Member Victorino?

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Thank you. And, Agnes, thank you for being here.

MS. GROFF: You're welcome.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: I'm curious, you...and, Chair, maybe we have to check into this, but I, I was under the assumption we had put some money together for Ala Hou to continue running 'till September until the contract was to be renegotiated. I thought that was all part of the process with budget. Am I wrong in, in my assumption?

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MS. GROFF: I think you need to check on it. I think it's wrong, 'cause this...like I said this gentleman lives in Kihei --

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Right.

MS. GROFF: --and the Hale Mahaolu residence is where he's at. They're not getting service, and we have some...I believe seven or eight wheelchair bound people there.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Right. And, and, and you're saying that now there is no service from anybody?

MS. GROFF: There is no service from...no, there is service, but it takes 21 days before you even know you'll get the service. You may not get the service --

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Uh-huh.

MS. GROFF: --is what I'm saying.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Okay. And that's the, the Paratransit system?

MS. GROFF: That is correct.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Okay. And so right now Ala Hou does not exist anymore?

MS. GROFF: Not in those areas, no, sir.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Okay. So it, it still exists in the outlying districts, the rural districts like that?

MS. GROFF: . . . Upcountry, I believe MEO is still doing it. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Okay. So--

MS. GROFF: But Kihei was taken out.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: It's not part of the rural district?

MS. GROFF: No, it's not.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Okay. Okay. Mr. Chair, we may have to look into that if, if at all possible to find out what's, what's, what's transpiring. I'll make that request to you, Chair. Thank you.

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CHAIR MEDEIROS: And, and, and as I mentioned, we do have representatives during our discussion --

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Okay.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: --period, yeah, from Department of Transportation that may be able to shed some light on that. Member Baisa?

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Yes. Couple of questions, Ms. Groff. Thank you for being here, *Agnes*.

MS. GROFF: Yes, *Gladys*.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: . . .*(Laughter)*. . .

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

MS. GROFF: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Let's kind of get that straight. Okay. You mentioned that you were in Kihei working on LIHEAP. What is that?

MS. GROFF: LIHEAP is a grant that MEO gets from the Federal government to help low-income people pay for their electric bill. So being that Hale Mahaolu is still under construction, we...the...they don't have an accessible area. So I took the time that day to volunteer and go out and do outreach and LIHEAP, and basically it's a two-, three-page application where we sign up...get all the information down on the individual client and if they qualify, submit it, and they'll get credits on their electric bill for the following year.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you very much. I thought it was important for you to say that, because this is a program for low-income home energy assistance, and other people may not know about it. So good opportunity for them to hear about it. If they need it they can call MEO. My question in regards to your testimony today was you mentioned that you ran into this 14-page application--which is amazing--and then 21 days of a wait before this person would know whether he was eligible or not. What happened to him in the meantime? I'm curious.

MS. GROFF: Gladys, right after here I'm going to Kihei and do a follow-up after my Kihei senior meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: So you don't know if this man got his doctor appointment or not?

MS. GROFF: I don't know. I--

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COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Was this, was this for a doctor appointment?

MS. GROFF: It was actually he had open heart surgery and this was his first follow-up after his surgery from Oahu.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: So this was a *medical* appointment?

MS. GROFF: This was a very *important* appointment, and what was, what was really sad for me, this man have no, no-one to help him, he's got no family.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: We've come a long way from "yes, we can". Thank you.

MS. GROFF: You're welcome.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Member Baisa. Member Pontanilla?

VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Chairman. I know communication big issue, yeah, for anybody including transportation. And, you know, the wait period of 21 days is, to me, unacceptable, but I don't know if the Department had made any attempt to communicate with those people with disability that utilize the Paratransit or MEO Ala Hou program Upcountry. But, you know, this past budget. . .we had allocated--and we're looking at the minutes right now--to MEO Opportunity, Inc., for transportation services, \$4.5 million, and that included the Ala Hou program. And if Ala Hou is going to be only for Upcountry then, you know, my, my feeling is that you have \$4.5 million sitting in transportation at MEO to provide services to Central Maui or any part of Maui. I'm sure accommodations could be, could be made, because when you talk about \$4.532 million, that's a lot of money. So I thought I'd just provide you with that comment in regards to the transportation that is provided by Maui Economic Opportunity. And they provide good service--

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: --you know, there's no doubt. But when you look at the way we had set up this budget, probably there's opportunities. So thank you, Chair, for allowing me to make that comment.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Member Pontanilla. And, and thank you for doing that research. . .being that, you know, all of that comes under your Budget and Finance Committee. Thank you for that information. I just wanted to ask the testifier . . .

. . . did this gentleman have a caretaker or a caseworker--

MS. GROFF: No.

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CHAIR MEDEIROS: --available to him?

MS. GROFF: No, he doesn't.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: No? And in the application you mentioned, 14 pages long, I think you did allude to that some of the pages were about the criteria of qualifying or the rules and stuff. So actually the application itself that you fill up and submit, how many pages was it?

MS. GROFF: Seven.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Seven, so half of the 14.

MS. GROFF: Half of the 14.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Okay. And ...

. . . okay. And I, I think Member Pontanilla shed some light on us looking into the transportation availability to people in Kihei as well as Upcountry and other portions of the Maui island. So, Members, any other questions for Ms. Agnes. . .at this time, Groff? Seeing none, thank you. And now on *Akaku* you have been identified as Agnes Groff.

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

MS. GROFF: Thank you. Remember the face.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: . . .*(laughter)*. . . Okay. Thank you. . .*(laughter)*. . . Okay. Next we have Ms. Karen Hue Sing. Ms. Hue Sing, if you would come forward, please? And she is testifying item...under Item 38. And. . .Staff, if we could accommodate Ms. Hue Sing, please?

*NOTE: Pause while Ms. Hue Sing approached the podium.*

CHAIR MEDEIROS: . . . Ms. Hue Sing, thank you for being here this morning. Aloha --

MS. HUE SING: Aloha.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: --and proceed with your testimony.

MS. HUE SING: Aloha, Council Chair and Council Members. My name is Karen Hue Sing and I've had a disability since 1982. And so I live, you know, I've lived as *challenged* or so for many years. I'm also associated...I'm a Commission member on the Persons with Disabilities. I also facilitate a support group called the Maui Wheelers. I associate with the Center for Independent Living. And so I'm here to, first of all, tell you about all the positives that I've experienced with the County, especially the Department of Parks and

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Recreation. They've hired a Inclusion Recreation Specialist, Tara Sabado, and she has really made a difference in many of our lives by holding some of the services that we now get to participate in--is wheelchair tennis, basketball. Later today I'll be participating in the swimming program, and I haven't swam for two years so this is really, you know, for me it's been an exciting opportunity that we're supported by other volunteers in the community. And we're out there, you know, we...we're active community members, and only by having others to support us we can do this. Because when we come out--especially someone like myself that uses a wheelchair--if the access aisle or ramp is blocked, there's no way we can go around. And so I'd like to commend the Parks and Recreation for really opening up so many activities and avenues for us, and even the...our group, the Maui Wheelers, we attended the Kalama Park dedication, and that was really nice. You know, we can go there now and we can enjoy the...have picnics with our families, we can use that boardwalk, and we can actually see the water, because a lot of beaches don't have access to the shoreline. You know, we can go to the hotels, you know, that's one place and everything there is nice and paved, and they have nice bathrooms for us, and yet with our County system, some bathrooms...there's many parks that we cannot access because of accessibility. So I really commend the Parks for stepping up and, and including us in the community. Another positive is the transportation with Paratransit. It's, it's allowed many of us to get out and get to places and, you know, really feel...again, you know, community is so important so I'll use that word again, to be a part of the community. You know, we're able to come out and attend meetings and advocate and be activists and, you know, do all that we need to. Because once we relax, you know, there, then again...I mean the access aisles are there, but if the community is not aware of how important it is to leave those access aisles open and even disabled parking stalls. .they don't realize that we're, we're, you know, we're struck. We have drivers, we have a friend that drives, and she couldn't get out of her vehicle because somebody was blocking the area where she's supposed to be able to get out. So awareness is really important.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Ms. Hue Sing, will you be able to conclude?

MS. HUE SING: Yes.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Thank you.

MS. HUE SING: And so I do want to say that as a Commission member what we are lacking is advisory, you know, being included for a lot of the *decisions* that are made. Unfortunately, we always hear about something after the fact, and then it's hard to correct it. And so as a Commission member, a lot of us have been frustrated because we are not looked upon as what our title says, an advisory committee. And so I ask that we can...we've asked to have our responsibilities looked at. We've asked to maybe perhaps change it, because we *want* to be included in the planning stages.

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CHAIR MEDEIROS: Okay. Mahalo, Ms. Hue Sing. Thank you very much, but remain there if the Members have any questions for you. Members, any questions for Ms. Hue Sing? Member Kaho'ohalahala?

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: Yeah. Thank you, Chair. And thank you for coming forward. You know, what I hear you asking is that you want to be able to as a Commission member to be able to make decisions on issues that are directly affecting your community of, of people. And I'm looking at the Maui County Code right now and looking at the powers, duties, and the functions of your Commission. And have you had a chance to review the, the County Code so you understand that?

MS. HUE SING: Yes. We've been looking at it every couple of meetings, and we've had our Corporation Counsel come to explain things to us, and so we've asked to make changes in it, but we haven't gone further. And I will reiterate what Mr. Valentine said, is sometimes we have certain...different people come but it's not...it hasn't been consistent in representation, and so sometimes we...and of course everything has to be put on the agenda. But we've asked for certain officials--the Mayor to come and meet with us and other...the Maui County Fair Director, other people. Unfortunately, it takes maybe like six months before we finally get someone to appear before our Commission, and so sometimes we feel like maybe we're...we don't have the respect that we would like.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: Uh-huh. I, I think your, your power, your powers and duties are real clear in the Code, and I, I think that you should be empowered to, to implement them. And you need to have, have advocacy so that you can get those items...just a real quick question. For your agenda items, are these issues that coming to you that are placed on your agenda issues that you initiate, or are these issues that are presented to you because they have just come to, to your attention?

MS. HUE SING: Each Commission member is affiliated with other organizations, so at our meetings we try and follow up. So a lot of the agenda items are from the Commission itself or from public testimony, from the citizens that come and attend our meeting. We have the public hearing, and so we, we, we go from there.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: Okay. If, if you want to propose changes I think to the County Code, that would be a whole other process--that means coming before the Council to make those changes. But as an agenda item if you want to take that up to review that then I would say that you should start doing that, because if it requires change that process will be lengthy. . .and it's the Council being involved in, in that as well. But if that's what you need to do, then I think you should move in that direction as, as quickly as you can. But otherwise implement some of your powers and your duties within your, your *current* Code so that you get the best out of what is currently in the law. Okay? So thank you for your --

MS. HUE SING: Yes.

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COUNCILMEMBER KAHO‘OHALAHALA: --your comments, yeah.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Member Kaho‘ohalahala. Members, any further questions? Seeing none, Ms. Hue Sing, I want to thank you not only for being here this morning and for your testimony, but for you and Reverend Valentine serving on the Commission and giving up your time for that. All of us appreciate that, and thank you once again for being here.

MS. HUE SING: Thank you. I enjoy the pleasure of, of serving.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Thank you. Okay. We have another person signed up to testify, Mr. Sandy Baz, testifying on Item 38, and he represents Maui Economic Opportunity, and he is the CEO for that organization. Mr. Baz?

. . . Good morning. Thank you for being here. Proceed.

MR. BAZ: Good morning, Committee Chair and Committee Members. My name is Sandy Baz, and I am the CEO for Maui Economic Opportunity. And I'm very pleased. . .we found out about this agenda item late Thursday afternoon, and very happy that this is something that the Committee is reviewing, and we hope that it continues. We hope that you do follow up with a panel including people like Mary Matsukawa from DCAB as well as Nani Watanabe from the Hawaii Center for Independent Living that work on these issues on a very regular basis. They're very important members of, of the community that services people with disabilities. MEO's been servicing persons with disabilities for a very long time. Our transportation program has been around since 1969, and, you know, there was no disability transportation services before we started. And we have pictures back in our annual report, many years ago from doing some fundraising to be able to even get a lift so that we could provide those transportation services. You know, we've been challenged over the last few years with some cuts and, and reorganization of our services to transportation with disabilities, and this past budget cycle what happened was the County...the Administration had proposed a reduction of our transportation services through our Ala Hou program down to about \$88,000. And that was to provide the continued transportation services to our Molokai persons with disability through Ala Hou as well as Upcountry, and it doubled that arena. We are currently going through our contract and proposing...going to be proposing to the County Department of Transportation our desires of how to operate this new year. And one of the things that we're working on is providing increased services to the persons in the Upcountry area. We want to be more available to them in providing access, and so we're going to be doing this. Of course, you know, it has to go to the Department for approval, but we'd like to be available to provide transportation services from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Upcountry area, integrating the...what was left of the Ala Hou program as well as our i-Shuttle which runs...is a, is a shuttle that runs in the Upcountry area. And, you know, the transportation contract that we have...yes, Mr. Pontanilla, it is a large sum of money, but our...if you look through our exhibits, it's very much allocated to certain purposes and certain availability of services. And, you know, we have services for nutrition

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programs, as well as the elderly through the community, and leisure transportation services, we have a lot of youth transportation services, and, and of course Ala Hou. And thank you for combining that so we could at least, like what we're doing now with the i-Shuttle, combine those services. We look forward to, to continue to provide those services and continue to have a discussion on a coordinated transportation plan for Maui County so that we all know what we're doing and what our responsibilities are and how we can move together. I did want to mention that the County Department of Transportation did step up to the plate very quickly and provide transportation services for the people in Day Health program. Darren Konno, who is the person that works on the ADA Paratransit, was able to get everybody that was in the central area that...to Hale Makua's Day Health in the system and provide that transportation in a timely manner so that those services weren't, weren't--and I just want to acknowledge, they have been working very hard to, to kind of fulfill this area. But there is still a gap in service, and, and MEO, you know, we try not to leave people stranded on the side of the road...well, we don't leave people stranded on the side of road. And if we need to work together, and we had, had good communication with Darren on, on getting that organized, and so I want to acknowledge that and thank him.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Okay. Mahalo, Mr. Baz. And before I open the floor for questions, I want to thank you for the recommendations, who we should consider for the panel that I plan to put together, but we'll be in communication with your organization.

MR. BAZ: Thank you.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Members, any questions for Mr. Baz? Member...Mr. Nishiki, you have been yielded to by Ms. Baisa.

COUNCILMEMBER NISHIKI: Oh, thank you. Sandy, just a little concern because of testimony given earlier and Joe's acknowledgement of money that had been given to MEO. And, and the testimony was about that certain individual in Kihei that seemed to have been left behind, and now people are viewing this and, and, and looking at somehow there's been a group of people that are not getting any service. Are you now, under your contract, obligated to give people that...say that gentleman with that heart appointment that needed to. Is that something that you are cast with that perhaps people that are watching now may not understand? And is that something that you, as a provider, is responsible for?

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Mr. Baz?

MR. BAZ: Thank you. Mr. Nishiki, our contract with the County Department of Transportation runs on the same basis as the fiscal year of the County of Maui, July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>. And the prior contract had very...if you look through, it's very specific times and availability of services that were including the Ala Hou and other things. And so if we could fit a person into our transportation services that, based on the, the schedule in our contract, we would definitely do that, and many times we would go beyond that schedule

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to meet the needs of the clients. As of July 1<sup>st</sup> of 2010, the Ala Hou program, which that person would have been eligible for prior to in Kihei, is no longer available. You guys funded the County of Maui's...Maui Bus Paratransit services for the first quarter and directed the County Department of Transportation to go out to bid to, you know, re-bid those services to a provider. And they, they have until October 1<sup>st</sup> of this year to contract with a provider.

COUNCILMEMBER NISHIKI: So you're saying that that gentleman may have had access with MEO, but because of what you read in the contract, you now have eliminated services to Kihei?

MR. BAZ: In the Ala Hou program, correct.

COUNCILMEMBER NISHIKI: But in any other program--that, perhaps I need some clarification--

MR. BAZ: We have...

COUNCILMEMBER NISHIKI: --does that person have the ability, Sandy, to call you up and, and get to his medical appointment through another type of service?

MR. BAZ: We have what's called the Rural Shuttle program and...

COUNCILMEMBER NISHIKI: So the answer is yes or no?

MR. BAZ: Yes --

COUNCILMEMBER NISHIKI: Okay.

MR. BAZ: --if it's within the times and days that the Rural Shuttle program operate, which are very, very limited.

COUNCILMEMBER NISHIKI: Thank you.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Mr. Nishiki. Ms. Baisa?

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Yes. Thank you very much. I wanted to rephrase that question to you, Sandy.

MR. BAZ: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: If I understand correctly, with the changes that were made as of July 1<sup>st</sup> under the new budget--although you do not have a contract in your hands yet--I understand that you had to lay off a bunch of drivers who used to do this kind of work.

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MR. BAZ: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Because of that, the funding to provide the services to this gentleman is now with the ADA Paratransit, not with MEO.

MR. BAZ: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Ms. Baisa. Any...Member Pontanilla?

VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Thank you, Sandy, for being here. You know, I was looking at the minutes in regards to what we discussed during the budget, and it was brought up by a Member of this Council to combine those funding to provide you the flexibility. In, in regards to the budget that we provide you for transportation, seems like for the last several years you've had carryover/savings. Now my, my question to you is that if you're having carryover/savings for the last couple of years, I don't know how sure you are in regards to this particular budget and if you would have any, you know, in looking at the, the trend, carryover/savings from this particular 2011 Budget. Through that carryover/savings--I'm just guessing now--could you provide that additional services looking at past histories?

MR. BAZ: The carryover/savings that we've had in the past was based on savings in fuel, insurance, fringe benefits, things like that. The...and, and a *majority* of that was because we were able to receive supplemental funding from the State of Hawaii under a Purchase of Service contract with the Office of Community Services. That contract ends...actually ended yesterday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010, and we will not be receiving \$183,000 from the State of Hawaii as a supplement to our transportation program. Because of that, we're not going to have any carryover/savings at all, and...

VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: So during the year, I'm sure you do your budgeting and, and look at your spending. If you're coming to a point where you see carryover/savings would be realized, is there a way for you to redirect those monies to provide transportation services for Maui County? And I know you, you need to go to the Department of Transportation to redirect monies. Is there a possibility of doing that?

MR. BAZ: Definitely. Yeah. We have gone to the Department for redirection of funds in different categories. We were able to do some maintenance...scheduled maintenance on our vehicles as well as some repair to our air conditionings and things by...'cause the Director approved, you know, us adjusting our, our line items back and forth. We were also able to purchase a few additional vehicles, because we were, had some savings in, in the vehicle purchase contract that we had from prior years' funding, and they have been in...available to do that. One of the issues is that, you know, transportation services, people come to depend on, and any changes to those services or modifications makes it

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very difficult, and it makes it, you know, just an issue to, to come about. But we'll be happy to, to work with them. One of the...

VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: So it could be done, though?

MR. BAZ: Yes, it could be.

VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Mr. Pontanilla. Any further questions?

COUNCILMEMBER NISHIKI: Yeah. I got one.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Mr. Nishiki?

COUNCILMEMBER NISHIKI: Just because I need to clear this up, and, and maybe Don should be here answering it. But if there is no coordination, Mr. Chairman, amongst the different service providers--and this is what I see as a problem now--and *who* are the people that are being...having to suffer is the people that need this transportation. And so now it's you do, I do, I don't have money, I not going to do it. And, and, and yet why would you leave somebody that needs help to perhaps die? And this is, to me, cold. So, Sandy, when this situation emerged, just as was spoke about earlier, did you contact Mr. Medeiros to tell him that this group of people will not be serviced anymore?

CHAIR MEDEIROS: And before you answer, I just want to...like Gladys, I have to distinguish which Mr. Medeiros he's talking about. So that, that would be the Department of Transportation Director. Proceed.

MR. BAZ: Thank you. Mr. Nishiki, I'm not sure of your question. The, the Ala Hou program...our current clients that we had...or I guess not current, but clients that we had prior, you know, last fiscal year, we notified them in the beginning of June that the transportation services were no longer going to be available and for them to register with the County's transportation system. As well, I believe the County's Department of Transportation Office mailed all of their clients and, and...I don't know, I'm not sure of all of our clients, but as many people as they had on their files to, to let them know that this change was happening. So there was notification on both sides. I'm not sure about the issue of that gentleman. I was not aware of the details of that issue, so.

COUNCILMEMBER NISHIKI: Thank you.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Mr. Nishiki. Any further questions?

VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: I get one more question.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Mr. Pontanilla?

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VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you for that piece of information, because, you know, when you send somebody a 14-page application...and, and some people get frustrated in trying to answer the questions on the application. And I think a lot of them, you know, may fall through the cracks in regards to receiving paratransit from Roberts. So I don't know, maybe, you know, we're going to ask the Department head in regards to what kind communication do we provide for those clients. Thank you.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Pontanilla. And then, Members, yeah, I prefer asking those questions to the departments that may give...that are responsible to answer for those questions--so just to keep this portion of our meeting as, as concise as we can. So, Members, any other questions for the testifier to *clear* or rephrase his testimony? Member Kaho'ohalahala?

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: Thank you, Chair. Then--aloha, Sandy--just to clarify what was testified to earlier, a process in which a person must apply for services, that is not for MEO's Ala Hou services?

MR. BAZ: Correct. That's for the ADA Paratransit, and like I mentioned, Darren has been very helpful with the clients, getting them, you know, registered. And I know specifically with the Day Health clients, they...it didn't take 21 days for them to get registered, and, you know, they...they're very helpful in that area.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: Okay. I just want to kind of clarify the, you know, what is, what is occurring here, and while you're being challenged with the task of trying to accommodate, that the current process requires anyone who is seeking paratransit services from Roberts has to go through this lengthy process of application.

MR. BAZ: The County of Maui does the certification for paratransit riders. Our Roberts operates the, the paratransit services currently, but the County of Maui is the one that actually does the registration of those. For MEO's Ala Hou system, we do the registration for it, and we get back to them within seven days.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: Okay. Thank you for the clarification.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Mr. Kaho'ohalahala. Any other questions? Seeing none, thank you for your testimony this morning, and thank you for being here.

MR. BAZ: Thank you.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Ms. Sakamoto, any further signed up testimony?

MS. SAKAMOTO: Not that I'm aware of.

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CHAIR MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Ms. Sakamoto. So we have no-one that has signed up after the meeting started. We'll...I'll present an opportunity for anyone in the audience, in the gallery wishing to testify that has *not* testified yet to come forth at this time. And seeing no-one come forth, without objection, Members, the Chair will close public testimony at this time.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Thank you, Members. So ordered.

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

CHAIR MEDEIROS: At this time we're going to move to our agenda items, and the first agenda item this morning, Members, is IM-9. And IM-9 is the...

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Mr. Chair?

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Yes. I'm sorry. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Just a point of personal privilege. Because we've been sitting here through testimony for the last hour, can we take a short morning recess?

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Okay. I'm going to explain --

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: --the agenda item description. We're going to take ten minutes so they can set up for their presentation.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: So we'll, we'll do both at that time --

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: --which will be in a couple minutes, but thank you for that reminder.

**ITEM NO. 9: REPAIR OF POLIPOLI BRIDGE AND CULVERT AND MIDDLE ROAD DUE TO STORM DAMAGE (KULA) (C.C. No. 09-142)**

CHAIR MEDEIROS: So the first agenda item this morning, Members, is IM-9 regarding the repair status of Polipoli Bridge and culvert. The Committee is in receipt of County Communication No. 09-142 from Councilmember Gladys C. Baisa, relating to the repair of Polipoli Bridge and culvert and Middle Road in Kula, Maui due to storm damage. The Committee is here to discuss the status of repairs. So at this time, Members, we will take

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a ten-minute break. Let's say 10:40 we'll return to convene, and at...during this break, the Department of Public Works, Director Arakawa and Wendy will set up the presentation, PowerPoint as well as the screen. And then when we come back, we'll reconvene and proceed with that presentation. So at this time, our meeting is in recess. . . .(gavel). . .

**RECESS: 10:30 a.m.**

**RECONVENE: 10:42 a.m.**

CHAIR MEDEIROS: . . .(gavel). . . The Infrastructure Management Committee is reconvened at this time. We're going to continue our meeting, and at this time, I'm going to call on the Director of the Department of Public Works, Mr. Arakawa to give us a presentation on Item IM-9 regarding Polipoli Bridge and culvert. Director Arakawa?

MR. ARAKAWA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Appreciate the opportunity to do the update for the Committee. I've prepared a brief PowerPoint presentation for you. The item that you have before you stems from an April 25, 2009 communication from Councilmember Gladys Baisa regarding repair of Polipoli Bridge, culvert and Middle Road due to storm damage.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Director? Let, let me just interrupt very shortly. Members, you have the hard copy in your binders. Proceed, Director.

MR. ARAKAWA: Thank you. And the Committee met on this matter on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Just a brief background of events, at the last meeting--the December Committee meeting--it was noted that the design of the replacement culvert was close to finalization, and I wanted to note that the existing culvert is 4 feet in diameter and that culvert is inadequately sized. So in order to accommodate flows through this area, a 20-foot by 7-foot conspan structure is needed and is being proposed as a replacement. Rights of entry, as well as easements from the four owners abutting the proposed conspan, were also noted at the Committee meeting, and it was noted that the estimate of the construction cost is \$2 million. If you remember at the last Committee meeting, there were a number of residents who were there who had some concerns about vehicular and pedestrian safety. Back in December, what the Department had done was had erected yellow delineators which marked the drop-off on the makai side of Polipoli Road. And these are some of the photos which were taken at that time, in December of last year. You can see the yellow delineators there on the makai side, and because of the flood damage there was some concern along that curve of the road as to the safety of vehicles crossing that road. And here, you're just taking another picture from...looking at it from the other side. So based on those concerns, what the Department did was we added some Triton barriers on the makai side of the road. The edge striping was further narrowed, and basically it, it was a narrow two-lane road and we basically changed it to a one-lane road. Since that time, much of the vegetation has grown back, and we also added vertical delineators to the mauka side of the road. So these are some photos we

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took of...last week, and you can see the Triton barriers on the makai side, and the vegetation has grown back substantially, and you can see the edge striping as well. We've also added those yellow delineators on the mauka side of the road, and the road has narrowed so that it is basically a one-lane road now. We've also added a yield line along with a "Yield" sign on the approaches to the bridge and was...also added a "One Lane Road" sign. And this is the yield line. Those are the...what's commonly, commonly referred to as sharks teeth on the pavement, on, on the road, as well as the "Yield" sign. And this is the other approach from up the mountain. We've also added that "One Lane Road" sign, and in the distance, you can see the yield line as well as the "Yield" sign.

... Just an update on where we are. The design of the permanent replacement has been completed, with the exception of Department of Water Supply review of the waterline plans. And I understand they're just about done with their reviews. Land rights have been secured for the larger culvert, and the Council approved construction funds of \$2 million in the Fiscal Year '11 Budget which just took effect on July 1. So the projected schedule would be going out for bid...advertised for bid August 2010, with bid opening possibly in September 2010, and contract execution in the November-December 2010 timeframe. Start of construction is anticipated after the rainy season, probably in March-April of 2011, and due to the narrow right-of-way, because it's only a one-lane road, the road needs to be shutdown during construction. Now completion time is probably scheduled for about September-November of 2011, so we're talking about a period of about six to eight months. So with that, I'll be happy to answer any questions which the Committee may have.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Director Arakawa. What I'm going to do is I'm going to take a short recess, we're going to return the Chambers to its original configuration, and then we'll be ready for questions and answers. This Committee meeting is now in recess. ...*(gavel)*...

**RECESS: 10:49 a.m.**

**RECONVENE: 10:50 a.m.**

CHAIR MEDEIROS: ...*(gavel)*... The Infrastructure Committee meeting of July 12<sup>th</sup> is now reconvened after the short recess. Thank you, Members. And mahalo, Mr. Director, for that presentation. At this time, Director, do you have any other comments, opening comments other than the presentation you can make at this time?

MR. ARAKAWA: No, Mr. Chair, other than the fact that Wendy Kobashigawa from our Engineering Division is also here to answer any questions which the Committee may have.

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CHAIR MEDEIROS: Thank you very much. So, Members, the Chair now opens the floor for questions and discussions. I'll allow Member Baisa, whose district this project is in, to go first, followed by Member Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you very much, Chair. First of all, I'd like to commend you. Thank you very, very much for putting this item in your Committee and giving it due attention. I'm sure that it's had a lot to do with the expedited response, and I also would like to thank the Department for what you've done. It's very impressive. The pictures are very good. I had notified the persons who had made...brought this issue to my attention about today's meeting, and the fact that they're not here today tells me that they are probably extremely pleased with the progress that's been made. And I'm very happy, you know, with the plans. We have the money, and we have a have plan, and it looks like we're going to get it done. I have asked the Chair, though, if he would please just defer the item today so that we can meet at the end of 2011 and say job well done. So really I have no questions. I'd like to thank you very, very much for the attention to the matter. Thank you.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Member Baisa. Member Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah. Thank, thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could ask...again, thank the Department as well, like Member Baisa. And, you know, in looking at the pictures and just trying to recall, there's no lighting currently in that area. And because of the nature of the road I'm just wondering...and when construction does begin, if you can kind of go into more specifics what the residents can expect to see with the road, you know, eventually being closed and so forth, just to ensure that we don't get any, you know, accidents and then we end up in court for something. And just, just what are the Department's recommendations for safety measures, and how are the residents going to be accommodated, or what will they have to do when the road is shut down? What impacts, if any?

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Department?

MS. KOBASHIGAWA: During the road closure, we are going to be posting signs along Polipoli Road and near the highway on Polipoli Road, at the entrance, and also on...I believe it's called Cross Road. So we are going to be notifying...we are going to have signage up, and we do intend to notify the residents.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. And you're looking at a total, complete shutdown like 24/7, or is it going to be open at certain points in the morning or?

MS. KOBASHIGAWA: No, it's going to be closed--

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Closed.

MS. KOBASHIGAWA: --at the area where we're going to be working.

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COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: And that...

MS. KOBASHIGAWA: Completely Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: And that may take about how long, you estimate?

MS. KOBASHIGAWA: Between six to eight months.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Six to eight months, total shutdown?

MS. KOBASHIGAWA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Mr. Molina. Just to follow up on his question. Department, so if you're shutting down are you providing a detour and signage to notify pedestrians or vehicular traffic how they need to get around that area? Department?

MR. ARAKAWA: Yeah. Actually, even if that point is shutdown, there are alternate, alternative access points currently. So we would basically ask the residents and people living there to use those alternative access points.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Okay. And the reason I ask is that some people may drive right up to the project . . . *(laughter)* . . . and then find out it's closed and then have to retract and find a detour. So if we can put advance notices prior, before the project area pointing them into the right detour, I think that saves a lot of inconvenience for people using that road.

MR. ARAKAWA: Yes. We'll, we'll do that, Mr. Chair.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Thank you, Director. Any other questions? Council Chair Mateo?

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Department, under your, your update on the very first bullet, it indicates that design has been completed with the exception of DWS review of the waterline plans. Unless you're real comfortable that DWS will have no issues, your projected schedule is kind of in limbo because DWS is known to be the deal breaker. So what kind of assurances you have...do you have that will put this project, you know, on track?

MS. KOBASHIGAWA: We recently got comments back from Water Supply. They did say it's minor comments and pretty much the final set of comments they're going to make. And with our re-submittal, they are asking for the title sheet for signature.

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COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: Okay. So with...if they're asking just for the title sheet for signature, then you're pretty comfortable that there will be no need to address further changes in the pipeline itself?

MS. KOBASHIGAWA: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Council Chair Mateo. Any other questions? Member Pontanilla?

VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. So the bid opening is scheduled for September the 20<sup>th</sup>...September 2010. I, I know you're going to utilize \$2 million from the General Fund. What is your anticipation in regards to getting a good price?

CHAIR MEDEIROS: . . . Department?

MR. ARAKAWA: Councilmember Pontanilla, we can only rely on what the recent history has been, and the recent history has been that the prices have been very reasonable on generally all of our jobs--compared to what it was maybe two, three years ago. So we're hoping that it will continue to be that way, but of course it depends on the bids that are submitted and the actual numbers. So we're waiting to see what that. . .unfolds.

VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: Do you have a process, like value engineering, selecting a construction firm that will do this work to the bid that he proposed to the County?

CHAIR MEDEIROS: . . . Department?

MR. ARAKAWA: . . . Yeah, basically, we put out the advertisement for bid, which specifies what work needs to be done, and we just go by the, the low bid. Now. . .possibly we could do some value engineering, but it would be contrary to what the, you know, the specifications for the proposal were to begin with. So to be fair to all of the bidders, what we do is we just specify the work to be done and we just go by the, the low bid, the low qualified...the lowest qualified bid.

VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: And, and the reason I ask is because of, you know, when we do projects as a County, we have a lot of issues regarding change orders, yeah. So and that's the reason why for the question on value engineering. Once we set a number, that number is based on, you know, start to finish, and if there's anything that need to be changed then if it's not design change then the contractor is responsible to provide us with that product, so. Thank you.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Mr. Pontanilla. Members, any other questions? Seeing none, I just want to say to the Department, that this project which was in kind of limbo for a long time, I appreciate the Department's working with me and our Committee in...and with

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Member Baisa in moving this along. And the progress that we have seen is very much appreciated, Director Arakawa and your staff. So, Members, with no further discussion, the Chair would like to give his recommendation.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Recommendation?

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Mahalo. Without objection, the Chair will defer this item for further work at this time.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: No objections, so ordered. This item is deferred.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.**

**ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.**

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Thank you, Members, for that item one, and thank you to the Administration representatives that don't have to remain here.

**ITEM NO. 38: QUALITY OF SERVICES AVAILABLE TO PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED PERSONS (C.C. No. 10-70)**

CHAIR MEDEIROS: We now turn to item two on our agenda, Members, IM-38, and that's regarding the quality of services available to physically challenged persons. The Committee is in receipt of County Communication No. 10-70 from Councilmember Bill Medeiros, myself, relating to the quality of services available to physically challenged persons in the County of Maui. The Committee will be discussing the physically challenged persons in the County of Maui and the services available to them at this time. We do have the other departments available, Members. We have the...we have Director Medeiros with the Department of Transportation, and we have the Deputy Director, Mr. Helm from the Parks and Recreations Department and some staff with them. And we certainly have remaining the Director of Public Works. So if one representative can come down from the other two departments? We have this chair and we can add another chair to the side and we'll share the microphones. Should you require your other staff members to answer any questions, you can call them down at that time. So as they proceed down, Members, we, we gonna bring them down as our resource people from the Administration.

. . . And as they're seated, next to Director Arakawa is Director Medeiros with the Department of Transportation; and next to him is the Deputy Director of Parks and Recreations, Mr. Zach Helm. So, Members, I will open the floor for discussion. And before I do that, I'm going to allow the Directors to give some opening comments, if they wish to at this time or if they wish to wait until the questions are asked. So, Director Arakawa, do you have any opening remarks regarding this item?

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MR. ARAKAWA: Sure, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to mention to you that, you know, the issue that you have before you is very broad and far reaching as well as a very detailed and a very complex topic. And of course the County Department of Transportation and Parks and Recreation Departments are also here to share their initiatives in this area. What I can do, I can discuss in general terms a number of initiatives which the Department of Public Works has been involved with. And if the Committee desires additional information in a particular area, I'll try to answer your questions, but if not, I'll be happy to respond to the Committee in writing or suggest the appropriate agency which could provide you an appropriate response. One area in recent years which the County has implemented are curb ramp modifications to meet current standards, and this was as a result of a Consent Decree and order filed in December 1997 in Hensley v. County of Maui. A transition plan needed to be done which identified priority crossings, such as near government facilities, schools, hospitals, retail, commercial, recreation, religious institutions, and high-density residential. The plan was completed in October of 1999, and a total of 458 intersections were identified for treatment during calendar years 2000 to 2005. Approximately \$10.8 million was spent between these calendar years to implement the transition plan. Although the transition plan implementation is done, it did not cover curb ramps on all County streets. However, as streets are resurfaced, plans...our plans are reviewed by the Disability and Communication Access Board, and as needed, curb ramps to the applicable standards of the time are included in the design and are implemented. So curb ramps on remaining County streets will be included with resurfacing projects as these projects are, are done. As you all know, new streets which come forward to the County Council for dedication are required to have curb ramps constructed in accord with the standards in effect at that time. As far as sidewalks are concerned, the County Code requires concrete sidewalks six-feet wide on both sides of the street within areas zoned Apartment, Hotel, Business, and Industrial. The Director--that's the Public Works Director--may waive the sidewalk requirement in M-2, Heavy Industrial districts should the Director deem such sidewalks not required for public welfare or safety. This is in the Code right now. In Residential, Duplex and Interim districts, five-feet wide concrete sidewalks are required on one side of the street, but if warranted by public safety or other identified public benefit, the Director may require sidewalks on both sides of the street. This provision pertaining to Residential, Duplex and Interim districts has been in effect since 2007. As a general policy, we have required sidewalks on both sides of the street since the passage of the ordinance. Sidewalks are required on one side of the street within one-half mile of any elementary, intermediate, or high school, or college, and currently the Code does not require sidewalks in the Rural and Agricultural districts. And the foregoing provisions on sidewalks would apply to new development as it comes in; however, as you know, there are a number of County streets which were built to the standards acceptable at the time but do not meet current standards. Thus, new sidewalks are sometimes installed through the CIP process, and examples of this are the Iolani Street sidewalk in Pukalani and South Kihei Road sidewalk near Hale Kamaole. Regarding new State or County developments that require building permits, it is noted that the County does not enforce accessibility requirements. However, State and County developments which require building permits

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are sent to the Disability and Communication Access Board for review and approval, and a compliance letter from DCAB is required before the permit is approved. And the guiding provision for DCAB is Section 103-50, Hawaii Revised Statutes. So that's the general overview of the Department's initiatives, and that concludes my, my comments.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Director Arakawa. I'm going to have all the directors give their opening remarks before I allow questions. So at this time, Director Medeiros of the Department of Transportation.

MR. MEDEIROS: Good morning. Thank you for having us here today. That's a lot gone on this morning, but let me carry off, off what Director from Public Works is talking about. Please keep in mind that we have over 170 bus stop locations on the island of Maui with...in conjunction with the Maui Bus fleet, and we work very closely with the Department to look for areas as routes go in or modify stops to assist people using the Maui Bus. Keep in mind that every bus that is in the Maui Bus fleet is totally accessible either with a ramp or a lift. Also the majority of the buses in the MEO fleet are accessible with lifts as well. Those fleets exist--the Paratransit and the MEO fleets--largely to supplement the fixed route service where people come to a bus. In those fleets we go to the people who are maybe unable to get to a stop because of infrastructure. This morning there was...I'd like to...if it's okay with you, Chair, I'd like to maybe mention a few things about some of the testimony. Is that...would that be appropriate at this time?

CHAIR MEDEIROS: And if you can keep that brief.

MR. MEDEIROS: Okay.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: But I'll allow you to do that --

MR. MEDEIROS: Thank you.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: --and some of that may come, come out in the questions from the Members, but proceed.

MR. MEDEIROS: Fine. Thank you. Thank you very much. Initially there was some...a, a great deal of discussion about communication, and the Mayor has directed us and that...for that reason we had Darren Konno--who's, who's sitting in the audience, who works for the Department of Transportation, and he's our Transit Coordinator--attend, on a regular basis, the Commission on the Persons with Disabilities. We also had the Operations Manager from Roberts Hawaii attend that, and we'll do that on a regular basis. Also as an adjunct to that, Mr. Konno has attended many, many community functions dealing with folks with disabilities to provide outreach and information. There was discussion also about fares and whatnot, but I'm not going to go there. That goes in the purview of another committee and this Department. You also heard some people saying, you know, how, how the service is working for them, and you heard some about an issue that one of the testifiers talked about, about a gentleman not being serviced in

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Kihei, which caused us a great deal of distress--me personally. We have always been able to work with the disabled community through their providers and the various providers of service--both with MEO and in the County of Maui--so that these sort of things don't happen. I'm sad that this...it appears this person *wasn't* serviced, but I want to make it really clear and state at this time that had I known or my office known that this person wasn't going to have disabilities, we would have made a special accommodation. We have done that in the past and we will continue to do it so that these sort of things don't happen. I would also like to bring to the Committee's attention...and this sort of carries on with the communication piece. We, we try to be...we try to let everybody know what's going on. There is a paratransit guide, and it is several pages long, advising folks of how the system works and all which also carries on to what the gentleman...the first gentleman talked about. The actual application, other than the first page of it, is it's written in bold, it's...it's a, it's a...the lines are large, bold print, and there's one, two, three, four pages that the applicant fills out. Then there is another page of information and another...a final page. The final page is for the *doctor* or the medical provider to fill out. This all works into the ADA law, and if you'll recall, we went out and did a paratransit plan in August of 2007, which we had community meetings and whatnot to engage the community on what we were doing with the service and with the fixed route service. Lastly, I was a little concerned with some of the statements made about the MEO transportation system and the Ala Hou program in particular. Yes, the Ala Hou program in Central, South, and West Maui is coming under the moniker of the Maui Bus, and we have been transitioning that...those folks from the various programs, and we did have information out. I think the concern that I've heard is--especially from the Director of MEO--is that it appears that the grant agreement that we have with MEO is being, is being looked at by a program-specific or with a program-specific eye. For people that have disabilities, there's over \$5 million in the, in the MEO program...overall program with specific programs. And I think the confusion might be is because the title of these programs, you know, Ala Hou, dialysis, to work for persons with disabilities, Maui Adult Day Care Center and, and such...Rural Shuttles. Having, having been the director of transportation for MEO, the reason we have that is because that's how the *funding* came, and the funding was, was, was designed in those days to fit the needs of the community as the, as the needs arose and, and this body and the Administration proposed to, to address them. In nowhere, nowhere in our grant agreement does it say that a person cannot get service unless they are, are pigeon-holed into that, into that specific program. The point of the entire MEO system was that the more buses, the more equipment, the more services that you have on the road, you will be able to, be able to have enough assets out there to be able to address, you know, a lot of the needs or most of the needs that, that are there. So as the Director mentioned, we haven't finalized the grant agreement. We did have a meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> of last month with MEO, and, and I think we can carry on. This, this, this Committee today was really good, and that we can further explore discussions with MEO that the County is really not looking for specific cubbyholing [*sic*] of people, and that in this particular case, you know, MEO has vehicles in South Maui on a daily basis that, you know, that person could have been accommodated. And that if there are issues, you know, Darren should have gotten a call, I should have a gotten call if there was a reason that they weren't able to address them.

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And that's how we've *always* handled it with MEO, and it's always...we've always had a very good working relationship, because there will always be these sort of things where somebody doesn't fit whatever is going on. And so I assure you, as the Director of the Department of Transportation, we'll work forward to making sure that everybody's *needs* are addressed in one way or another. And this Committee...well, the Budget Committee of the Council has provided significant funding to make this happen, and we'll make sure that these funding...this funding *is* maximized to serve the disabled in, in our community. That's sort of a wrap-up. I didn't want to take too long. Thank you very much.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Okay. Mahalo, Director Medeiros. Next from the Department of Parks and Recreations, we have Deputy Director Helm, and before you give your opening remarks, if you'll introduce your assistant there and her position with the Department?

MR. HELM: Thank you, Committee Chair Medeiros, and good morning to all of the Council Members. It's, it's an honor to be here and given this opportunity to speak and go over the brief review as to the role of the Department of Parks and Recreation. Before I do, I'd like to introduce the staff that are here this morning with me. First of all, I have our Inclusion Specialist, Tara Sabado, on my right; and in the audience, I have our Chief of Recreation, Mr. Floyd Miyazono.

. . . I'd like to just mention as one of the testifiers this morning had, had complement about what the Department of Parks and Recreation provides as far as service for the physically challenged, and I'd like to kind of give you some review as to what our role has been. And, and we'd like to really thank Tara for her excellent work, and she has really done a great job. Our recreation programs, we do...we've been offered the Wheelie Tennis Program which is a six-month program. We have had 20 participants completed a program at Central district, at the East Maui district, and we also run in other districts as well. We have the Wheelie Basketball Clinic programs. It's a three-month program during the week...weekday periods, a total of five participants implemented on as-needed basis, and program was completed in the Central district in 2009. Kayaking for the disabled at Olowalu, service being provided by Ron Bass, a total of two programs in August and November, a total of 20 to 25 participants, assistance being provided by the Aquatics Division. We have Camp Cool, adaptive computer programs for children that require supports in order to use the equipment, assisted by Assistance Technology Resources Center, a nonprofit agency. Two programs were implemented with a total of ten participants. Inclusive swim aerobic and lap swimming, a pilot project, promote independency with the proper training--just started this month in July, limited to accommodate up to six participants. And we do provide training programs, program training awareness and sensitivity training for staff..Department...Department's Recreation and Support Services and Maintenance Division, Recreation and Support, for example, where trash cans are placed; Maintenance Division, for example, replacement of fixtures when a replacement is made; Aquatics Division, for example, information and support for disabled utilizing the beach chairs; PALS program, fully inclusive behavior problems. . .disorder format. . .an action plan that staff could monitor. We also have Aquatics program, beach chair at Kamaole I, and at the swimming pool, we have a chair

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hoist, lifts at swimming pools, at swimming pools--which is, to me, a very important equipment for handicapped individuals that do their exercises at the pools. And other programs at Kalima O Maui and Molokai Occupational Center assist with the maintenance of existing park facilities and other support based on programs request from, from the public. Future programs that we have scheduled, archery programs in the districts.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Deputy Director Helm. And I hope I get the name right. Is it Ms. Tara Sabaho [*sic*]? Okay. You want to add anything to the opening remarks or would you rather wait for the questions?

MS. SABADO: I can wait for the questions.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: All right. Thank you, all three Departments, for your opening remarks.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Chair?

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Members, at this time I'll --

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Chair?

CHAIR MEDEIROS: --open the floor. Mr. Victorino --

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: --followed by Mr. Pontanilla.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Thank you. And thank you for the Departments being here. I have couple of questions, and, and this may require Mr. Miyazono because this is specifically on programs. . . .(*inaudible*). . .

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Okay. Ask, ask, ask your specific question and they can call him down when it comes up.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Okay. Let's start, let's start with Transportation first, Mr. Medeiros. We heard today this 21 days waiting to get...from the time the application goes in, it takes 21 days for process...or at least they say it's going to take 21 days to process. So what happens in the interim? And this is the concern I think a lot of us, a lot of us have is, you know, you put in the application today, you know, and let's say your doctor's appointment or something that needs to be done is 14 days off. Why 21 days? That's number one, and I understand there are time, time restraints on getting it done. But number two, if something of that nature was to come up, could there be an exception at that point while the thing is still in process? Because to me you shouldn't penalize a person because they put the thing on the 1<sup>st</sup> and maybe their doctor's appointment is on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July, you know, and it's not the 21<sup>st</sup>. So that's my question to you.

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CHAIR MEDEIROS: Director?

MR. MEDEIROS: Thank, thank you, Council Member. The, the 21 days is Federal, is Federal law that you cannot *exceed* when, when an application comes in. You cannot exceed 21 days. Most of the time, we turn that around a lot faster. It's, it's within, it's within a few days maximum, sometimes maybe five days, but we turn it around quite quickly. Couple of the things that we have to do. Once we get an application in, if you recall that last piece was a certification by a doctor or a medical professional that, that...the application needs to be complete. And then Darren goes out to the, to the, to the site, to the home, takes a picture of it, looks at where our infrastructure, and then sets up a map and then provides a document that then goes to Roberts which is our provider. So the drivers know where the person lives and that sorts of things. But we can usually turn that around pretty quickly and, and we do. Second question, yes, we are able to make accommodation, and many times people do not *need* the paratransit service on a regular basis and they need it occasionally. Typically, Christmas and Thanksgiving, folks who may be in a, in a nursing home or whatever may want to go home with the family, and so we'll get a call...and they're not a normal member 'cause they're a user of the system. And so in, in those particular cases and others like the one we talked about was mentioned this morning, we do make a special accommodation, and, and we do ask them then to fill out an application and get it in to us for future reference so that we have that information handy. If it's a person that stays in Hale Makua, it's a pretty...a slam dunk --

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Okay.

MR. MEDEIROS: --so it's not a real issue.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Okay. That's good. And I'm glad to hear that, and I think the public's glad to hear that that, you know, accommodations can be made, Mr. Chair, when certain time limits are not being met and...or, or not being completed, you know, not for somebody's whose dire need like in this case I think was supposed to be his first visit for his open heart surgery. I mean gee, that sounds pretty important to me, you know what I mean?

MR. MEDEIROS: If, if, if I could?

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Sure.

MR. MEDEIROS: A lot of times what happens in this case if a person has something and they're coming out of the hospital we'll usually get a call from the hospital that there's something going on that they need some help. And that's sort of the first blush of it, and that's, that's when we or MEO would get involved, pending on that situation. Then, then we sort of get the paperwork after the fact. But, I mean, if a person is coming out of the hospital, obviously it's, it's pretty obvious at that point.

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COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: And the other question I had for you, would you agree with that recommendation or the idea that was thrown out by Reverend Valentine that they're willing to bring some of their people as--pardon the expression--practice facilitators for the drivers who have to strap down these various wheelchair and other apparatuses that go into the bus? Because, you know, he mentioned today he had a new driver, and again new drivers are gonna come. But would you, would you believe that you could get Roberts to do that on a regular basis, training, you know, maybe everything six months, updating? I don't know, what do you think of that idea?

MR. MEDEIROS: I think, I think there's, I think there's, there's discussion that needs to occur. I've had discussion with Mr. Valentine on some of these issues, and for instance, I think what people need to understand is *wheelchairs* are not standard--just like shirt sizes and pant sizes are not standard, they're various types. And there are various types of wheelchairs, power chairs even the standard chairs, there're quite a few. Many of the transit agencies across the country who are significantly larger than we are use a system where they will put a colored tape on the wheelchair at, at usually four locations, where you would secure it to the vehicle. And I've had that discussion with Mr. Valentine and said why don't we come up with something like that and, and then you can start talking to the folks that you work with; and then that way, it'll make it a whole lot easier for everybody to understand, especially the driver, you know, to hook them up. And so we've had discussions. It, it hasn't gone anywhere at this point. So we look at the participation with, with the Commission on...with Darren and all as I go forward to, to try to work through those, through those, those concerns.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Okay.

MR. MEDEIROS: And, and let's face it, we *will* have new drivers from time to time, that's just the nature of a business.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Yeah. Thank you.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Member Victorino --

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Yeah.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: --I'm going to limit it to two questions. We're going to make one pass and if we have time we'll go a second pass, because we're constrained for time right now. And I hope you appreciate...I appreciate that. Member Pontanilla? I'm just going to go down the line.

VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay. Thank you, Chairman.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Two questions.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: First question then for Milton Arakawa. I, I know you mentioned about, you know, those construction or construction work that began prior to 2007, or maybe you didn't. Those construction that were...that began in 2007 when the law changed or ordinance change, you know, some of 'em have been completed. I just want to give you an example, Eha Street. Sidewalks are four-feet wide, road need to be repaved or resurfaced, and there's other issues in regards to that one particular area. And because the road wasn't dedicated to the County of Maui, we're saying now that the sidewalk along the street should be widened to accommodate five feet. I, I don't know if the subdivision was completed prior 2007 or whenever it was and, and the reason why it wasn't dedicated to the County. That's the first...oh, that's the question for you. So what do we do with a subdivision that the infrastructure is there but we haven't accepted yet?

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Director?

MR. ARAKAWA: Councilmember Pontanilla, any developer or owner of a street which wishes to dedicate a road to the County needs to ensure that the road is conforming to the current County standards. Now sometimes there are developments where roads are built and they were built to the standards that were in effect at the time they were built. But in the case like Eha Street and others, there's years of delay, the street deteriorates over time, the punch list grows and standards may change. And in the case of Eha Street, at the time it was built, a four-foot sidewalk was the standard which was in effect at the time. But that's not the current standard, and the Code basically says in order to dedicate the road you need to build it to current standards. So that's, that's the crux of the matter with road dedications.

VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: Can I ask a follow-up question, because I have a question for Park?

CHAIR MEDEIROS: You have two questions, because I know --

VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay. Fine, then.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: --you have to leave and Council Chair Mateo has to leave. So I'm just trying to allow you opportunity and as well as Chair Mateo. Proceed.

VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay. Maybe I'll just write a letter to --

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: --the --

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Thank you.

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VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: --Mr. Arakawa in regards to that, because I do have an issue in regards to those subdivisions that were constructed with old ordinances or standards that hasn't been turned over to the County. Because we, we do get complaints, a lot of complaints. For Parks Department, you know, I've been here for eight years and I've seen your documents in regards to compliance to ADA. And I know it...you know, money is the biggest issue at that time, but in those...the documents that we receive, indicating what we need to do to correct this issue, do you know what percentage of that document or finding has been completed so that we know where we're at?

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Director Helm?

MR. HELM: Yeah. First of all I'd like to introduce Robert Halvorson, who just arrived, who would be able to answer that question for you.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Sir, well...you, you would like to question him?

VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: Yeah. Just give me a --

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Okay. Would you proceed down --

VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: --percentage on...

CHAIR MEDEIROS: --quickly?

VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: You know every year we go through the same process in regards to, yeah, we going pau, but we never get done.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Okay.

... Okay. If you'll take a seat, introduce yourself and your position please?

MR. HALVORSON: . . . Good morning. My name is Robert Halvorson, I'm a Capital Improvements Project Coordinator with the Department of Parks and Recreation.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Okay. Proceed with your question.

VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: Yeah. The question is I've been here in the Council for eight years, and the first year I got here, we were provided documents in regards to what the County needed to do to be in compliance with the ADA standards. So my question to Mr. Helm was, you know, I know we needed to do a lot of work. As far as the percentage of completion that was identified in the documents, you know, how far along we are?

MR. HALVORSON: Council...Pontanilla, the, the list was broken down into like four years, and we're pretty much 100 percent complete with the first two years and we're working

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on the third and fourth year. So I guess percentage-wise we're somewhere about 50 percent, 60 percent?

VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: Explain "years". You're in the...you have a four-year program. When I look at 2000...or when I got here was eight years ago. So first year, you should have been completed with the first-year corrections; and second year, third year, fourth year, we should have been completed.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Department?

MR. HALVORSON: I'm not quite sure what you mean by the eight year...I mean the...we probably started three or four years ago. . .on the, on the transition. Are you talking about the current transition plan we have?

VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: Yeah. The plans that we received eight years ago.

MR. HALVORSON: Well, I didn't think it was eight years ago, but we're...like I say, we're probably 60 percent completed with the transition plan.

VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: So when do you expect to complete?

MR. HALVORSON: Funds being available, in the next couple years.

VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . And the only funding you receive is through the General Fund or any special fund or ARRA monies?

MR. HALVORSON: This year we have some CDBG money, but other than that it's been the General Fund.

VICE-CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay. Maybe I need to work with you guys more closely. Thank you.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Member Pontanilla. Council Chair Mateo?

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: Mr. Chairman, thank you. And maybe I can just continue from where Mr. Pontanilla left off in terms of the transition plan, because I don't know how the transition plan is broken down in terms of specific projects, locations, et cetera. So perhaps to make, you know, just cut to the chase, if perhaps if you can submit to us a copy of the transition plan and let...and just let us know what's been completed in the years that you've recognized? Because you said projects implemented in the last three years for your plans?

MR. HALVORSON: I believe so, yes.

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COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: So maybe if you can just bring us up to snuff up until the three years that the program's been running, your program's been running, so we can understand exactly where we are with the transition plans in terms of what's been completed and what is yet to be completed in, in whatever duration the plans is based on. Is, is that, is that something you understand?

MR. HALVORSON: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: Thank you.

MR. HALVORSON: We, we give that report to the County ADA Coordinator periodically.

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: Okay. But that doesn't help, that doesn't help me.

MR. HALVORSON: All right.

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: I don't get a copy of that particular plan.

MR. HALVORSON: We can do that.

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: Thank you very much. The other, the other question would be for Mr. Arakawa in terms of...I guess we heard from the testimonies that attendance at these...at their meetings is real sporadic. So certain departments do not come, and there was a concern whether or not departments was getting their issues heard. So for, for you, Mr. Director, do you often pull copies of their minutes to get updated on the issues that they have recognized as priorities?

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Director?

MR. ARAKAWA: Councilmember Mateo, I think the general procedure should...this question probably should be addressed to the agency that actually administers the Commission or who the Commission is attached to, and that's the Department of Housing and Human Concerns. Now given that, if the Commission on Disabilities does have a question relating to any issue that any of the other departments are concerned with, certainly they can make a request on a specific item and we'll be happy to show up and explain or answer any questions --

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: Okay.

MR. ARAKAWA: --that they may have.

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: Yeah. No, thank you. And, and, you know, like, Mr. Chairman, I think that was my understanding from the very beginning. When I heard Mr. Valentine talk about direct...you know, departments not there, the question for me would be, like all of our meetings, did you *request them* to be there if there were issues?

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However, you know, to, to be fair, perhaps Mr. Arakawa's comments would be appropriate for us to check back with...it would be the Director of Housing and Human Concerns to see whether or not, you know, appropriate items on their agenda items was in fact directed to the appropriate departments so that there can be appropriate follow-up, et cetera. So I guess I will be touching bases Ms. Tsuhako and, and just following up, because like it will be such a waste to have the issues that's been discussed by the Commission not, not, not go any farther than the meeting itself. So I think it's just something that we need to touch bases with that Director. So thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, gentlemen.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Council Chair Mateo. And, and, and you're correct, I, I think from the Administration, at a minimum, the department or agency that has oversight of that Commission should at least be there to hear the discussions or work with them on the recommendations of the agenda items and so forth. I think the rest of the departments or agencies, whether they're with the County or out of the County, should be requested by the Commission. Thank you. Member Kaho'ohalahala?

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: Thank you, Chair. This is for Public Works. You mentioned you had spent already \$10.8 million. Can you clarify what expenditure that is?

CHAIR MEDEIROS: . . . Director?

MR. ARAKAWA: . . . Councilmember Kaho'ohalahala, I can give you a more detailed breakdown of this in writing if the Committee chooses to do so, but my understanding is that the bulk of these funds came from Community Development Block Grant monies.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: . . . And they were used for?

MR. ARAKAWA: . . . They were used for curb ramp upgrades.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: And then you talked about a transition plan. Was that a part of this expenditure?

MR. ARAKAWA: I'm not certain what, what funds the transition plan came from. I can respond to the Committee in writing on that.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: Okay. I, I just want to get a real clear picture of, of what that plan is, what it consists of. And then the...so the entire \$10.8 million is in part from CDBG?

MR. ARAKAWA: I would have to clarify that, and I can, I can provide a detailed answer to, to you in writing. And in fact if the Committee desires to have a copy of the transition plan, we can provide that to you as well.

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COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: Chair, if we could get a copy of that? I'm only raising this because you used that in your presentation--about what expenditures you had. And so at this time you're not really sure what it was used for and where it comes from. Is that, is that correct?

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Director?

MR. ARAKAWA: Yes. And I can respond to you in writing on that. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: Okay. No, but the answer is right now you don't have --

MR. ARAKAWA: That's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: --information?

MR. ARAKAWA: That's correct.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: I'm concerned that when we use this kind of information and we bring it to the Council, and then when we get clarification, we don't get any more . . . *(laughter)* . . . information, then we have dropped this. So I'm a little disappointed that we have no further discussion, because there's no more information other than an amount. So that, to me, is, is disturbing.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: I'll pass --

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: --because we don't have information. There's no clarification. We're going to get it in writing at some later point, but what is the point of the...what is the point of the meeting? What is the point of bringing up that information and then have nothing to substantiate it? So it doesn't make sense.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Okay. Mahalo, Member Kaho'ohalahala. Member Baisa, any questions for the Departments?

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Not a question for Public Works or Parks, but I have a question for Transportation.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Yes, go ahead. Proceed with that.

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COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: We need Mr. Medeiros.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Oh, where did he...oh, he just...okay.

... Okay. Member Baisa?

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Yes. Thank you very much, Chair. And thank you, Mr. Medeiros, for being here. Questions about some of the things that we talked about this morning. It's been kind of alluded to during the discussion that based on the receipt of four and half million dollars worth of funding that MEO should be prepared to jump in when there's an emergency. I'm curious, how is MEO reimbursed for services?

CHAIR MEDEIROS: ... Director?

MR. MEDEIROS: MEO is, is, is reimbursed for services based on the service that they provide, hours of service, and passenger, passenger counts. It's a, it's a, a grant agreement that has a specific amount of money, and then, and that we outline services that are to be provided, and then they provide 'em.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Correct. Is this a similar situation with the Maui Bus and with ADA Paratransit? Is that how they're paid?

CHAIR MEDEIROS: On the ADA Paratransit, it's...because we do not know what the actual utilization will be, it's, it's open-ended.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: ... I think we're kind of mixing apples and oranges then, and the reason I say that is, you know, is Roberts like, like MEO, required to do more? They receive over \$7 million; and if there's a need for them to do something extra, do they do it? I mean it's...it has to be evenhanded--if this expectation is made of MEO today that, you know, if there's an emergency MEO should not...should depart from its normal programming and take on an emergency, then I think that it should be the same expectation from anybody receiving that kind of money from the County. So that's, that's what I'm trying to figure out.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Thank you, Member Baisa. Member Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Wait, wait, wait, wait.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Oh, I'm sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: I'm not done.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Oh, you have two questions.

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COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Yes, I'm not done. That was my first question. The second question is according to the MEO contract, it's very specific, as far as I understand, about the activities that are to be performed and the programs. If MEO were to provide extra services that are not authorized in the contract or specified in the contract, would they be reimbursed for that and do they receive the entire amount of their contract every year?

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Director Medeiros?

MR. MEDEIROS: The...what I had mentioned earlier was that with the amount of vehicles that are on the road, that people can be fit into those vehicles providing services under, under certain contracts. So just because a person, say, is coming from point A is a dialysis person, that doesn't mean you cannot put these other, these other people in with that to get them to...from point A to point B. That, that is what I was trying to get across this morning and that I felt that MEO *should* be doing all along and I felt *has* been doing all along. That's why when this situation was brought up this morning, I was a little dismayed as to *why* that person wasn't serviced. If MEO couldn't service it, then the next step would have been to call us at my office and we would have authorized service for...through the Maui Bus to serve that person.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: My final comment, Chair, is then the MEO Ala Hou contract was reduced and given to ADA Paratransit, and the basis of it was duplication. I think we've heard this morning that duplication is good. Thank you.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Member Baisa. Member Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you, Chairman. First of all, I want to thank Director Helm for giving us a real good rundown of the various programs that are available. You know, I'm sure there's a lot of people that were maybe not aware of how much we have in the County. So if I could just ask Director Helm just one quick question in terms of outreach and getting the word out to the public. What, what are you folks doing to inform the public to make them more aware, especially those in our physically challenged areas, about these programs you folks have?

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Director?

MR. HELM: Yeah. Council Molina, I'll have Tara --

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay.

MR. HELM: --answer your question.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Okay. Proceed.

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MS. SABADO: Hi, good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Good morning.

MS. SABADO: Yeah. Public awareness is definitely a big piece of getting information out. So I attend as many committee meetings and, and, and the Disability Commission meeting monthly, and I always give them an updated report. And I also receive feedback from a lot of our public patrons when I'm at a beach doing an assessment or at the pool or even at committee meetings. I also sit on the Children's Community Council, and they also bridge the Department of Education and the Department of Health and all the different providers that provide services for persons with disabilities. And I still have a network of people that followed me, prior to my hire with the Parks Department, that I continue to inform. And, and all of the programs that we've created were based on community interest and input as well as resources that we had existing in our Parks Department.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Well, well, thank you for spreading the word out there. And, Chair, for my second and last question, I had a question for Mr. Medeiros, but I think those questions have been asked. So I'm saving my last question for Mr. Arakawa. So let me first state, you know, we heard the statements from Mr. Valentine about the...I guess the underlying theme is the breakdown in communications as it relates for our physically challenged people, and in some ways I do agree. If I could ask Director Arakawa...let me first state, you know, I'm not coming down on you or anything like that. One particular example of, I think, a breakdown in communication relates to that Makawao sidewalk improvement project that made the news, I think, back late last year. There was a lot of brouhaha about it. We had a community association that had been working on the long, on the plan for it, and then some folks came in at the last moment to express their concerns. And a representative from the Mayor's Office came to get my input. I gave them my input. And next thing you know, the Mayor's representative, maybe, I guess gave you folks the directive to go out there and get additional input *after* the plan was completed. And, you know, kamaaina residents worked on this plan for a number of years. And since that time, I have not received any feedback from the Mayor's representative about what's the status of this long-awaited plan--especially those from our physically challenged community, and we just had the rodeo parade up there. And, you know, you have a lot of people that have asked well, when is the County going to improve these sidewalks because this is not only about the physically challenged, this is for the, the keiki and for the elderly. So if I could ask Director Arakawa, if you could give us a quick update; or if you can't do that today, if I could have that writing. Because I want to report back to my constituents and they're waiting, and I feel it was almost a disrespect from the Administration to just hold up and, you know, after all the work was put in by this community. And it was approved by the County, as to my understanding, you know, this plan that they came up with. So can I get response from you, Mr. Director?

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Director Arakawa?

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MR. ARAKAWA: Councilmember Molina, I, I think to a large extent your question is really not directed to the Department of Public Works --

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah.

MR. ARAKAWA: --because that study was basically a conceptual study which was done with a grant to the Main Street Association from the Planning Department. So that was basically done as a conceptual design for Baldwin Avenue in Makawao, and like you mentioned, the design did not seem to gain a great deal of community consensus. But beyond that, I'm, I'm not certain what has occurred beyond, you know, the initial meetings on that, that, that redevelopment of Makawao Town. I guess the, the best person to talk with is either the Main Street folks or the, the Planning Department on the matter.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. And I figured because it involved sidewalks, you know, Public Works, I'm sure, would have had some input on it, but because I guess it's a conceptual plan. And again here's a perfect example, no communication, you know, as the area representative. And I'm just hoping that this message can be conveyed to this Administration--if they truly care about the needs of the citizens of Makawao, 'cause it's a much needed sidewalk. Especially those...I'm getting the calls from the physically challenged folks who need, you know, the sidewalks improved so they can, you know, move along. So anyway, well, thank you for your response, Mr. Director, and we'll make an inquiry. And hopefully the lines of communication will improve from this Administration to the folks of Makawao. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Member Molina. And I think the meeting has brought awareness to that need, so hopefully we can improve communication lines. Okay. Member Victorino?

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Well, Chair, because of the nature of the time and, and what I'm going to do is I'm going to put my questions in writing to the Parks and Recreation and as well as Public Works. I think that might be a more expedient way...

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Yeah, and that's appreciated as...

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Yeah. We're at the end and we just got bare quorum --

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: --and, you know, if somebody needs to --

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Exactly.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: --sneeze now we can't meet for even that purpose. So ...*(laughter)*...

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CHAIR MEDEIROS: Okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: --all joking aside, sir, I will bring...put my, my request in, in writing for the various departments.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Thank you.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Thank you. Member Kaho'ohalahala?

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: Yeah. Chair, I guess the...I'd, I'd like to know what your recommendation is going to be in terms of...

CHAIR MEDEIROS: I'm going to defer this item so that we can further discuss it, and the intent of the Chair is to have a panel comprised and, for questions and answers. We do have three important Departments here, but we have some other agencies that are directly involved with persons with disabilities so we want to include them, too. So *that's* my plan and my intent.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: Okay. 'Cause I think the Department of Housing and Human Concerns' absence is, is probably...

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Yeah. And, and they will be included in that panel along with some other suggestions that have been made that we will consider.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO'OHALAHALA: And I think I ask that question because from the testifiers, there are several of them who are on the Commission of Disabilities, have indicated that they, they don't feel like they are being supported in their role as, as commission members. And that is tucked under the Department of Housing and Human Concerns. And while the Code gives them some very broad kinds of responsibilities, it sounds like they're not being advocated or they're not being supported in terms of how to accomplish that. And so that's where my next area of concern would be directed other than the people that are here. Okay.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Yeah. Thank, thank...mahalo, Member Kaho'ohalahala. And I, I think today's meeting has brought awareness to a lot of things and a shortness of, of what's going on that we need to improve on. So I think this meeting has as the initial meeting, because the communication was...that I sent in was on March 15<sup>th</sup>, and of course we all know that's the start of our budget session. This is the first meeting I've been able to schedule after the budget session, so we're going to move forward on this item. Because, you know, I have a strong interest in this and I want to be sure that we address the shortcomings of what's going on now and improve service and access and availability and opportunities for our people with disabilities or handicap.

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COUNCILMEMBER KAHO‘OHALAHALA: Okay. Chair, if I could make a request then?

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER KAHO‘OHALAHALA: When you’re calling this...reconvening this panel together, if you can also request of the Deputy Corporation Counsel who’s responsible for that Commission to be present as well?

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Okay. Our Staff will make a note of that. Okay. Mahalo. Member Molina, you may have the last say on this for this meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: I’m, I’m ready for your recommendation.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Okay. Thank you. So if there’s no further discussion or questions, Members, the Chair is ready to give his recommendation.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Recommendation?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Recommendation?

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Thank you. Without objection, the Chair will defer this item.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: No objections.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: No objection.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Thank you. So ordered.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.** (excused: GB, DM, and JP)

**ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.**

CHAIR MEDEIROS: So at this time we have concluded our business--

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Chair? Chair?

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Yeah, Chair. And, and, and, and this is *totally* off the record...I mean not part of your agenda, but I’m going to take this liberty and you can hit me later on this one. But last night, you are well aware that we had one of the biggest fires this island has seen in many years, and this time it wasn’t in no Maalaea or Olowalu or in, in these, what I call, remote areas, it was in Wailuku, my community. And I hear this all the time so I’m going to say “my community” for which you stay in this same

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community during the course of the week. And I want to say that our Fire Department, bar none, showed terrific professionalism, excellent skills, and terrific determination to not let, I repeat, not let *one* structure and prevent anyone from being injured. They worked through the course of the night. I was out there from 8:45 to nearly 11:30, and let me tell you the flames rose 30-, 40-plus feet in the air. It was an astonishing sight to see all this fire and all these homes. This is not something that you see when you're driving out to Lahaina and you see it going up the mountains. These were actually in a community of *hundreds* of people. And so, Chair, I, I appreciate this, and I want to say the reason for that is I want to *thank* our firefighters, the command center, Commander Shaffer and *all* of the people that were there through the course of the night. They are there now. There's pictures on *your* computer from our Information Officer from the, from the Mayor, Mahina Martin. She stayed overnight. They did a yeoman's job. This community and, and that is all I'm going to say, on behalf of me and the community, we want to thank our firefighters, because, Mr. Chair, when they're needed, they're there working *tirelessly* through the smoke, through all the dangerous situations, and protected many of our family and friends' homes and, and structures. So I sorry, and I know this is off, and, you know, you can give me a whipping afterward, sir, but this is something I needed to address, because you were there last night, too, you saw what was going on. And I want to thank them, because they fought fires many other places and in many of our other communities, but this was right in the central of, of Maui County, right in Wailuku Town. And I mean fire all the way around and homes all the way around the fire. It was just amazing, the professionalism and skills that they displayed last night. So I want to say thank you to the Fire Department, to the Police Department, and all the emergency service responders that were there. They did a fabulous job, including Parks. I mean, you know, also Public Works, what's his name...I can't think of his name. You, you would know him, Mr. Chair, he's kind of like the coordinator when have these, these different events.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Mr. Costa? No? Mr. Brian Hashiro?

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: No, no.

COUNCILMEMBER NISHIKI: Yeah.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: That, that would be the Public Works Highways . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Raynard, Raynard.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Raynard.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Oh, oh.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Raynard.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Yeah, Raynard.

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COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Yeah. Raynard was overnight too.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Raynard, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Yeah. So you know these people, you've fought fires with these people, you've been there. And, and it is just amazing how they well they did and not to let one structure be damaged or destroyed and no-one's got hurt. It was just an awesome sight, and I want to again thank *all* of these people that contributed. Thank you, Mr. Chair --

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: --for allowing me that.

CHAIR MEDEIROS: Okay. And, and I'm thankful that you made, made that acknowledgment, because, you know, having been in the Fire Department six years and fighting that kind of brush fires or structure fires, it depletes your energy very quickly as a firefighter or any emergency responder. So it, it really requires good teamwork, good work between departments and agencies. So exactly, those, those flames were pretty high and intense, and to not have any structure burn down, except maybe a chicken coop or something, you know, was, was terrific on their part. And I think all the Members here, you know, appreciate what our departments did. Thank you. But I want to thank our Administration representatives here from Parks, from Transportation, and from Public Works. We thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for being here, and those that were up in the gallery. And I thank, Corp. Counsel, for being here; and especially my Staff, our Committee Secretary, Ms. Sakamoto, and our Legislative Analyst, Mr. Geers. So without any further questions or discussions, Members, the meeting of the Infrastructure Management Committee of July 12<sup>th</sup> is now adjourned. . . .(gavel). . .

**ADJOURN:** 11:57 a.m.

APPROVED:



BILL KAUAKEA MEDEIROS, Chair  
Infrastructure Management Committee

im:min:100712

Transcribed by: Daniel Schoenbeck

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CERTIFICATE

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

DATED the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of August, 2010, in Pukalani, Hawaii.



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Daniel Schoenbeck