

# **BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Council of the County of Maui**

## **MINUTES**

**April 18, 2011**

**Kahului Community Center, Main Hall (Kahului)**

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

**PRESENT:** Councilmember Joseph Pontanilla, Chair  
Councilmember G. Riki Hokama, Vice-Chair  
Councilmember Gladys C. Baisa, Member  
Councilmember Robert Carroll, Member  
Councilmember Elle Cochran, Member  
Councilmember Donald G. Couch, Jr., Member  
Councilmember Danny A. Mateo, Member  
Councilmember Michael P. Victorino, Member  
Councilmember Mike White, Member (in 7:59 p.m., out 8:00 p.m., in 8:20 p.m.)

**STAFF:** Scott Kaneshina, Legislative Analyst  
Michael Geers, Substitute Legislative Analyst  
Yvette Bouthillier, Substitute Committee Secretary

Ken R. Fukuoka, Director, Office of Council Services  
Susan Clements, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Donald G. Couch, Jr.  
Arthur Suyama, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Danny A. Mateo  
Michele Yoshimura, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Joseph Pontanilla  
Kelly McGinnis, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Joseph Pontanilla  
Miki Yokouchi, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Michael P. Victorino  
Sherilyn Otsubo, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Michael P. Victorino  
Stephanie Ohigashi, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Michael P. Victorino  
Troy Hashimoto, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Mike White

**OTHERS:** Christopher Kim, Student, Maui Waena Intermediate School  
Nathan Felipe, Student, Maui Waena Intermediate School  
Charlene Doi, Executive Director, Kansha Preschool  
Ellen Kamaka, Hui Malama Learning Center  
Shantel Longboy, Student, Maui Waena Intermediate School  
Kaimi Hanohano  
Emily Bartow, Unit Director, Maui Boys and Girls Club Central  
Makalii Sequeira, Student, Waihee Elementary School  
Molly McGinley, Student  
Derek Manzano, Student, Baldwin High School  
Elijah Borge, Student, Kalama Intermediate School  
Janis Opiana  
Trisha Bluson

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Melvina Kanaha  
Ezra Kanaha, Student, Maui High School  
Elliott Collier, Student, Hui Malama Learning Center  
Ryan Rodrigues, Student, Hui Malama Learning Center  
Kamaile Kaahanui-Kepano, Student, Hui Malama Learning Center  
Nohea Chartrand, Student, Hui Malama Learning Center  
Henriette Monk  
Haley Murayama, Youth Alliance, Maui Economic Development Board, Inc.  
Miyo Miyasaki-Kim, Director of Veterinary Services, Maui Humane Society  
Gerry Flores  
Greg Kostanoski, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Maui  
Pat Toyama  
Sandy Freeman, Executive Director, Maui Adult Day Care Center  
Victor Reyes, Jr., Teacher, Hui Malama Learning Center  
Michael McCormick, State Director, Best Buddies Hawaii  
Jessica Gambsky, Veterinary Technician, The Maui Humane Society  
Phyllis Davis, Aging with Aloha Coalition  
Rita Barreras, Director, Aging with Aloha Coalition  
Joylynn Paman, Executive Director, Maui Nui Botanical Gardens  
Tamara Sherrill, Garden Manager, Maui Nui Botanical Gardens  
Stephen Kealoha, Malama Family Recovery Center  
Jean Okudora, Malama Family Recovery Center  
Maria Keau, President, Maui High School Project Graduation  
Alexandra Taylor, Pain and Palliative Care Nurse, Maui Memorial Medical Center  
Hospital  
Chris Brosius, Coordinator, West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership  
Graham DeVey, Science Teacher, Baldwin High School  
Jesus Baltazar, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.  
Leonardo Sequeira, Case Manager, Enlace Hispano, Maui Economic Opportunity,  
Inc.  
Sheena Jolson  
Jennifer Bagoyo, Registered Nurse – Case Manager, Maui Memorial Medical  
Center Hospital  
Beth Mathias, Board Members, The Maui Farm, Inc.; and Marketing Director,  
Pacific Biodiesel  
Jeremy McAnulty, Program Manager, Best Buddies Hawaii  
Jamie Yap  
Anne Carter, Board President, Maui Nui Botanical Gardens  
Gael Ross Ito  
Kala Baybayan  
Veronika Sandor, Chief Executive Officer, MODDHA Interactive, Inc.  
Michael Porrazzo, Vice-President, MODDHA Interactive, Inc.  
Jeff Reiss, Chief Executive Officer, Peletex, Inc.  
(15) additional unidentified attendees

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . .(*gavel*). . . I'd like to call to order the Council's Budget and Finance Committee meeting for April 18, 2011, at the Kahului Community Center. Good evening everyone. Thank you for having us here this evening. At this time I'd like to yield the floor to Councilmember Victorino who will provide us the introduction of the Members that are this evening.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Aloha, Maui. How you doing out there? All right. Okay, great. Let me start to my left your right, I will start with our statesmen from the east part of Maui from the Hana district Mr. Bob Carroll.

*AUDIENCE: (applause)*

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Then we have our beautiful, young lady from the Upcountry area Ms. Gladys Baisa.

*AUDIENCE: (applause)*

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: The other young lady from the west side of our district from West Maui all the way from Honokohau Valley Ms. Elle Cochran.

*AUDIENCE: (applause)*

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: And then brought in especially from the island of Molokai our Chair, the incomparable. . .Danny Mateo.

*AUDIENCE: (applause)*

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Off to my right at the far end our Budget wiz and our what I call the numbers man, the gentleman from the island of Lanai Mr. G. Riki Hokama.

*AUDIENCE: (applause)*

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: And from South Maui the one we call Junior amongst us, his name is real Junior, Mr. Don Couch, Jr.

*AUDIENCE: (applause)*

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: And of course let us not forget our Chair, your representative from the Kahului district, Mr. Joseph Pontanilla.

*AUDIENCE: (applause)*

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Councilmember Victorino. That was good introduction though. . .

*AUDIENCE: (laughter)*

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . .for all of the Members. . .*(chuckle)*. . . Again, good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Tonight it is your opportunity to provide your testimony on the Fiscal Budget for 2012 which is being proposed by mayor Alan Arakawa. This is our second to the last meeting within the community and I'm so happy it's in Kahului.

Just a few ground rules when you do provide your public testimony. When you come up speak directly into the mic, state your name, the organization that you represent and you have three minutes to provide your testimony. Once you are completed if you can stay there we may have questions for you, easy questions. So before I call on the first person to provide public testimony, if every one of us can turn our cell phone. . .cell phones to the silent mode or turn it off. And if I hear anyone cell phone goes off, you come up here and you sing one song.

*AUDIENCE: (laughter)*

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay. . .*(chuckle)*. . .

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: That's true it keeps us awake.

**ITEM NO. 1:            PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2012 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI** (C.C. No. 11-80)

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay, the first person to sign up for public testimony Christopher Kim. Christopher Kim followed by Nathan Felipe.

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

MR. KIM: Good evening, Honorable Council Members. My name is Christopher Kim and I am an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student at Maui Waena Intermediate School. I am here to testify on behalf of Maui Economic Development Board. For the past three years we have applied for and received the Ke Alahele Education grant to support of robotics team. This has enabled us to travel to Oahu to participate in State's tournaments. Our robotics club has grown in size and ability over these years in great part because we students are excited to compete with middle and high schools from across the state. We have even placed first in VEX and have won awards for botball. Without MEDB our accom..., our achievements could not have been accomplished. Their increasing support for the students of the coming generation show their beloved care for the future of Maui. Thank you.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . .(*cleared throat*). . .Members, any questions for Christopher. Christopher. Christopher, can you come back. And by the way ladies and gentlemen, Christopher is the Spelling Bee champ for the State of Hawaii.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Member Couch.

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: Christopher, thank you very much for showing up and. . .congratulations by the way. I just wanted to know when is the next step for you.

MR. KIM: For the Spelling Bee?

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: Spelling, yeah.

MR. KIM: Oh, I go to nationals on May 29<sup>th</sup>.

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: Good luck.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Before I call up the next testifier, I just, I wanna introduce the staff that are supporting this Committee. To my far right we do have Michael Geers, Scott Kaneshina, as well as Yvette Bouthillier. And then we also have staff from Member Victorino's office Miki Yokouchi, Sherilyn Otsubo, as well as Stephanie Ohigashi. And from Mr. Couch office Susan Clements. From Member White's office Troy Hashimoto. From Chairman Mateo's office Arthur Suyama, and from my office Michele Yoshimura as well Kelly McGinnis. So those are the people that are supporting this Committee. The next testifier this evening is Nathan Felipe. Nathan. Followed by Charlene Doi.

MR. FELIPE: You guys want me to go?

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Go ahead.

MR. FELIPE: Okay. Good evening, Honorable Council Members. My name is Nathan Felipe, and I'm an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student at Maui Waena Intermediate School. Not only have we been lucky enough to have received funding from MEDB, but they have given us the opportunity to attend many workshops and conferences. They have graciously included us in photoshop training, web design training, workshops on renewable energy, and the STEM works conference at which we were able to learn about everything from optical drives to games design. MEDB has enriched my life in giving me learning opportunities and life experiences that I would never have

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been. . . never had without them. Their staff is caring and dedicating and they're funding is so important to the youth of Maui.

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

*AUDIENCE: . . . (applause)*

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Seeing none, thank you. Next testifier is Charlene Doi followed by Ellen Kamaka.

MS. DOI: Good evening, everyone. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in front of the Council. We wanna also thank you for supporting us for the past four years in our preschool. We opened in 2006 and this is our fifth year of operation and we greatly appreciate the grant funding that has come from the County because it has made a lot of difference in us being able to provide the services that we do. It amains..., maintain our commitment to providing high-quality learning, nurturing environment that is also enriched by the intergenerational program with our neighbors the Maui Adult Day Care Centers. The highlights of our day are always the time that we spent with grandmas and grandpas and this is unique to the island of Maui, and we would love to be able to continue this for a long time. As I said we're in our fifth year of operation and every year we've experienced a steady growth in inquiries about our program. And despite the economic hardship that people are going through we have a full enrollment this year and that says a lot I think about the value of our program to the community. Parents continue to choose our program because of its size and the real life experiences that we provide for the children. We also know that like many other organizations that are seeking funding from the County everyone is struggling, and we have increased our fundraising efforts. We had tried to work really hard on our donor campaign and our parents work really hard along with our Board. We have a minimum of four major fundraisers and that's a lot to ask for a school of 16 families. So any help that we can get from the County we truly appreciate. We also want to say that you know I have included in packets for you our detailed budget so that you can see what it is that we deal with every day. And I also need to point out that because the children are so important for us, our staff has not had a pay increase for four years. All the money has gone directly into services to the families and the children because that's what we're all about, and we truly appreciate this opportunity to testify and this is why. Thank you.

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

MS. DOI: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Ellen Kamaka.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Followed by Shantel Conjoy [*sic*].

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MS. KAMAKA: Aloha.

*AUDIENCE: . . .(aloha) . . .*

MS. KAMAKA: My name is Ellen Kamaka, and I am an advocate for the Hui Malama Learning Center. Our youth here on Maui are very fortunate to have access to. . .*(cleared throat)*. . .an effective and inspiring learning program. I speak of the Hui Malama Learning Center. This past year our 16-year-old son Abraham was placed at the Center. Hui Malama has since been preparing him academically and they've also been cultivating self-reliance and individuality. They have empowered him to focus on the future to, to complete future goals and to strive to do his very best. From the Executive Director Pua Enos to the Youth Services Coordinator Tiare Kinores, the team of teachers and staff, works diligently as a team with one focus in mind and that is that our youth succeed. The Center works in partnership with many agencies in the community so that our youth can be assisted with ongoing problems. It is truly their dedication that helps to help our youth to thrive and to excel. The Learning Center is very unique in that they. . .the youth engagement strategies really help to develop a whole person and it is the developing and promoting of life skills that help to pr..., to prepare our youth to becoming a productive member of our community. And as a parent my heart is full in knowing that there is a team of dedicated individuals that truly cares for my son Abraham. Therefore we sincerely ask for your continued support for the Hui Malama Learning Center and for the youth of tomorrow. Mahalo.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you again. Shantel Conghoy *[sic]*.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER (speaking from the audience): . . .*(inaudible)* . . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Yeah, yeah.

MS. LONGBOY: Good evening, Council Members. My name is Shantel Longboy and I am an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student from Mau Waena Intermediate School. MEDB has also been supportive of our media program. We were Ke Alahele Grant recipients and this helped us to attend the National Student Television Network Convention in Florida. Our media program only started this year but we were able to earn two honorable mentions at the convention, but more than that we learned from industry experts and made friends from students from all across the nation. If it had not been for the assistance of MEDB we would not have had the funds to travel all that way. Thank you.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Next testifier is Kaimi Hanash...shano?

MS. HANOHANO: Aloha. My name is Kaimi Hanohano and I'm part of the Headstart Makawao B, and I'm gonna read a letter in behalf of Easter Coyle.

I am reading on behalf of Headstart Makawao B. My name is Easter Coyle and my daughter is Leialii. She is three years old and one of the youngest students in her class. The teaching staff, Ms. CJ, Ms. Maria, Ms. Tabby, Ms. Denette, and Ms. Janelle, have been very influential to Leialii in her learning abilities and classroom activities. Being a part of Headstart Leialii has benefitted tremendously. Leialii, I feel as I watched her with the other kids (which most of the kids are turning five years old and getting ready for kindergarten) you would think she was ready for kindergarten too.

Leialii has a speech challenge and being with the Makawao B staff this school year, she is continuing to progress. She is able to speak a little bit more clearly and carrying a con..., carrying a conversation or tell a story and my family and I can actually understand her. Also being that she's three, she is very independent and her social skills are that of an older child. I truly hope that the Head Start Program across Maui will continue to prosper and help those families that need and can benefit with this program for years to come. I know that Leialii and my family have. Thank you for your time. Easter Coyle.

And I also wanna add my own story. I have a son and he is special needs. He has a speech delay and through the Headstart Program he's able to improve on his speech. And if it wasn't for that program, he wouldn't be prepared for kindergarten. And thank you for funding the program so far and I hope that you guys continue to fund it and thank you.

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

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

MS. BARTOW: Good evening, Council Members. My name's Emily Bartow. I'm the Unit Director for the Maui Boys and Girls Club Central Club. One thousand six hundred and forty-four available programming hours per year; 1,182 is the total of kids we've touched through community outreach in the last six months; 489 is the number of members at the Central Boys and Girls Club currently. Seventeen is the oldest member we serve. Nine, a total number of staff to serve the kids of Central Kahului. Six is the youngest member we serve. Five is the number of dollars for one year. . .for a one year membership. One basketball game, one book report, one math assignment, one art project, one ping-pong game, one hula lesson, one new friend, one new memory. It just takes one teachable moment to make an impact on a child. The County of Maui has been hugely supportive of the Boys and Girls Club for many years. I am here today to tell you that the monies that are allocated to our clubs are making a true and real difference in the



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lives of Maui's youth. In these times economic hardship, it is more necessary than ever for our youth to have a safe and affordable place to go after school. Many of our member's parents are working to two jobs and are not home in the afternoon or the evenings. Due to this we've seen our membership number steadily rising. It is only with the County's continued support that we will be able to serve these increasing numbers of youth. I would like to thank you for your continued support and hope that you know how much this means to our kids. Thank you.

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

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Seeing none, thank you. Makalii Sequeira.

MS. SEQUEIRA: Hello, my name is Makalii Sequeira. I am 9 years old and I go to Waihee Elementary School. I come to Boys and Girls Club because it is cheap and because it is fun. My favorite activity is computer games. If Boys and Girls Club was not open for kids, I would be sad because other families would have to pay a ton of money elsewhere when they can pay five dollars here. Also, I would miss the various activities that everyone loves and nothing would make me want to give up my good grades, better behavior or my new friends. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

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

MS. MCGINLEY: Hi, my name is Molly McGinley. Boys and Girls...

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: We cannot hear, yeah.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Lift it up. There you go.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Yeah.

MS. MCGINLEY: Hello, my name is Molly McGinley. Boys and Girls Club is a big part of my life because I wouldn't have any fun for the rest of the day. What I do mostly when I get there I do my homework and then I go play with all my friends. And if there was no Boys and Girls Club, I would be so bored and not have any fun.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you. Derek Manzano. . .(pause). . .followed by Elijah Borge.

MR. MANZANO: Hello, esteem Council. My name is Derek Manzano and I go to Baldwin High School and throughout the years I've gone to the Boys and Girls Club Central for ten years. And

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throughout this learning experience of my life I've grown as a person and for the community. I'm there constantly every single day so I can also help the children even though I don't have to be there. Just because of when I was growing up people would like. . .like Emily over here were there for me. . .sorry. Um. . .I love the Boys and Girls Club because in a way you. . .you grow a family there. You meet new people, you have new friends. You just grow as a bigger person. But I've. . .for some reason throughout the years I've. . .I've. . .gone to love the children there. I know most of them and I just have fun with them every day. And for some reason I think that this experience in a way has made me decide to I believe become a teacher one day just to help children like them. Thank you very much.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Members, any questions for the testifier?

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Thank you, Derek, and, and that's very inspiring. Derek, what grade are you in?

MR. MANZANO (speaking from the audience): I'm a junior.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Speak into the mic so I can hear, please.

MR. MANZANO: I'm a junior.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: A junior--

MR. MANZANO: I'm sixteen years old.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: How old?

MR. MANZANO: Sixteen.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Sixteen. Another question, Derek. How. . .ten years. . .so you started when you were six years old?

MR. MANZANO: (spoke away from the mic). . .sorry, I'm. . .(inaudible). . .--

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Speak into the mic, yeah. I'm sorry.

MR. MANZANO: Um. . .I use to go to a youth program like this because then I was. . .(inaudible). . . Oahu before I was ten—

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: I see.

MR. MANZANO: --but I've been here for six years on this island. Sorry. . .(inaudible). . .--

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COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: And the last thing I wanted to ask you is you said you loved ta..., teaching the others or working with the others is because others when you first came helped you?

MR. MANZANO: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: So you're passing it back on?

MR. MANZANO: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Congratulations. Thank you.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Elijah Borge.

MR. BORGE: Good evening, Council Members. My name is Elijah Borge and I attend Kalama. I'm here today to tell you my experiences with MEO Youth Services. I've been in the program for five years now and I've learned the... learned and experienced so many things. I've learned to be more confident with myself using the life skills they have taught me. I love to play uke and entertain. People have encouraged me to follow a positive path instead of participating in risky behaviors. It's unfortunate that more youth don't take advantage to these great opportunities and programs that take you to areas on the island to learn about the culture but also build character. Luckily I'm able to be here today to give thanks to you for your support. There are other kids in the program that are not able to make it so I represent myself as who was them. I'd like to thank you very much for supporting MEO Youth Services and youth transportation for bringing me down here every day. I know for listening to my parents that the funds are very low for programming and I would like to ask you to please keep funding MEO Youth Services. Thank you.

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

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

MS. OPIANA: Uh... test... okay. Hi, my name is Janis Opiana. Good evening, Council Members. I wanna thank you for seeing me and my two sons. This is Jonas and Logan. I want to tell you... oh, I'm speaking on behalf of the MEO Headstart Program just to let you know. And I wanna thank you for funding our program and I think it's important that you please continue to fund this program because when I came to Maui I had my sons and I had a really hard time with them and they suffer from social, emotional problems. And the MEO Headstart Program... I started off with my first son Jonas here. And they work closely with me as a parent and they open that communication barrier between me and my sons. This is my second son. He's a second year. He's been there for two years now. And the program also allowed me or it helped me get my two degrees in college. I have a degree in liberal arts and a degree in automotive

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technology. So I've worked in the field for about five years and there's no way I would be able to pursue my degrees if it wasn't for this program. They helped me, they advised me, they did everything they could. They worked closely with my son. With me they took their time. The staff is phenomenal. I mean whatever I needed they were there. And if they couldn't help me they would find the resources to help me. I know a lot of parents couldn't make it tonight, but there's the parents that are pursuing the nursing degree, parents that are doing culinary arts, you know, so there's a lot of things. This is just a small example of what the Headstart Program has done. So please, please consider continuing to fund this program because it is important. And that's it.

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

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

MS. OPIANA: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Trisha Bluson. Trisha.

MS. BLUSON: Aloha, ladies and gentlemen. I would like to use this opportunity to hopefully make a difference for my children and the families of MEO's Headstart Program by sharing my personal experience.

While I am extremely grateful for the first half of preschool being Federally funded, I would still like to have funds from the County of Maui be allocated to allow school to end at 3 p.m. as opposed to 12 noon. The additional three hours mean that my son has more opportunities to learn, more hours in his school day mean he has a better chance to learn the sounds each letter of the alphabet make, learning that putting letters together form words, that putting words together form sentences, and that sentences put together stories.

Here at the preschool our children are being taught the very basics of how to write, how to spell and how to read. We all know how important it is to read to our keiki, but the rewards of our keiki reading his first book to us is priceless.

This year the zoophonics program has been introduced to my son's class. It is a learning tool that help the students recognize the name of the letters and it sound by associating it with an animal and the movement or motion that the animal makes. I believe this learning technique works so well because it lets the child see it, say it and do it. The action part of it is the association that helps concrete the letter into memory. These are the beginning steps that are so crucial to learning how to read and write, and they are fortunate to have exposure to this program in preschool.

While my son's education is one of the main important reasons I'm asking for the continuance of County funds, the other vital reason I'm begging for it is so that I can remain employed. If lack

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of funds means school ending at noon, I would lose my job because of not having a provision for my child thereafter. This would be the start of a negative domino effect for my family and I. If I lose my job, I would not be able to afford child care for my two-year-old daughter nor would I be able to fund my ten year old extracurricular activities. No job means zero income, no medical, loss of independence. I would most likely end up seeking assistance from other agencies which mean I'd no longer be self-sufficient either. My family and I would have to endure quite a struggle and hopefully overcome this setback somehow.

In conclusion, I am, we are, thanking you for the support received thus far in extending MEO Headstart Preschool and hope that the beginning and future of our keiki's education be highly considered. If we give our children the resources to learn, grow and be safe in the classroom from seven thirty to 3 p.m., it would be the best decision and most rewarding. Thank you kindly for your time.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

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

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

MS. KANAHA: Good evening, Council Members. I'm sorry I just. . .this is the first time I've ever come to a meeting like this and I'm here to support a program that is important to me and to my son and for other children. And I'm listening to everyone else's testimony, the young ones and the parents, and how important the programs that they're here for and I know that your job is not an easy one. And I just wanna say thank you in advance for your time to hear my testimony.

I am here on behalf of the Best Buddies program and my son is a part of that program. His name is Ezra. And you know I can't say enough of what it has done for him as a person. My son is intellectually challenged and he was very shy, quiet, and what we consider a loner. But through this program he has grown into a young man who is confident. He has confidence. He has made so many friends through this program. His best buddy is Stacey and JR and it has given him so many opportunities that now even I would have imagined that he would have. He's gone through events and actually has gone to Indiana and the capitol and I'm so blessed by this. Mike McCormick he's so instrumental in this and his teachers. And it's a good thing. It really is a good thing. I'm so proud of my son. And if you knew him when he was younger, he was one of those who was picked on you know. And like I said like a loner. But now he's not that. And you know we're able to do all things, yeah. Everything is possible. And I just wanna thank you so much for your time and I truly hope that everyone's programs can get funded. So thank you.

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

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

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Seeing none, next testifier is Ezra Kanaha. Ezra.

MR. KANAHA: Aloha, Council Members. I'm Ezra Kanaha and I'm from the . . .Maui High School and I'm trying help out Best Buddies out. I went to Washington to represent our state and also Best Buddies to pass the bill for us to get money for, for what I'm working for. And also I help out my school to end our wording of the R word, you know, the R word retarded try to get all the language. . .sorry I'm a little shy right now. Okay, the English accent so like they use it as a bad word, but to people who really are retarded it does hurt. And also I'm here to tell you guys about who I am. I'm Ezra. I'm a Best Buddies member and it's fun because people who don't have someone to go up to like a Big Brother and Sister like kinda like that but it's more like . . .*(inaudible)*. . . the same age. So it's like a friend to go to and it's like a one on one friendship so that you go somewhere and have fun. So thank you for letting me have your . . .*(inaudible)*. . .time.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Members.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Ezra. Ezra. Can you get back to the mic thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Ezra—

MR. KANAHA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: --what grade are you in?

MR. KANAHA: Eleven.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Eleven grade. Let me tell you, Ezra, you made yourself and your mom very proud tonight. So everybody give Ezra a big hand.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

MR. KANAHA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Thank you, Ezra.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay. Next testifier is Elliot. Elliott Collier.

MR. COLLIER: Aloha, my name is Elliott Collier and I attend Hui Malama Learning Center, and this is my first year at Hui Malama. The thing I enjoy most of all Hui Malama is they are small class sizes which give the teachers more time to work with you and help you to get your work done. Me and my classmates always help the community by picking up trash and working with other members of our community, helping to make Maui a healthy environment. While we're at Hui

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Malama we are not only working our community but also learn key things that will help us in our lives to become better people at the things we do. One example of us helping our community is when my classmates and I went on a hike and picked up trash. Hui Malama has helped me changed into a better person physically and mentally and has prepared me for the challenges in life. Thank you for allowing me to sup..., thank you for allowing for your time and supporting Hui Malama.

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

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

MR. RODRIGUES: Hi, my name is Ryan Rodrigues. I'm from Kahului. I'm here to tell you about my school Hui Malama Learning Center and how it's helped me. It's helped me by making me realize my goals. They also help me by giving me one on one time with teachers to help me with my studies. We go on fieldtrips to have hands on learning experiences like we learn about agricultural and we learn how to cook at MCC and we also went to MCC to learn about like college courses. And yeah that's why I like this school and thank you for your time and thank you for supporting our school.

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

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Seeing none, thank you. Kamaile Kaahanui. . .Kapano [*sic*]?

MS. KAAHANUI-KEPANO: Hi, my name is Kamaile Kaahanui-Kepano. I live in Wailuku and go to Hui Malama Learning Center. I'm going to talk to you about how Hui Malama helped me make changes in my life. The changes Hui Malama help me make was breaking out of my shell, taking learning seriously and staying away from dramas. Victor gave me assignments that empowered and encouraged me. My teachers would call on me in class giving me opportunities to speak and to get out of my shyness. They help me take learning seriously by repeating information so that I can understand it better. Like in math I learned power exponents and distributive property. And in social studies I'm learning about Declaration of Independence, and the fundamental rights to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. In my other school there's a lot of dramas, rumors, and groupies. The teachers and staff member ignore it and it made it hard to concentrate. The stress of it made my headaches worse and it. . . I didn't want to go to school. At Hui Malama the students and staff respect one another. The teachers will let us handle things but if they see bullying they would jump into it and handle it. I appreciate them supporting me and when you support them you support. . .and he helped me make changes to be more confident and to learn more. Thank you for your time.

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AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

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

MS. CHARTRAND: Good evening. My name is Nohea Chartrand. I'm from Wailuku and I am an eighth grader at Hui Malama. I would like to tell you about myself and my school. When I was in public school I was not getting the education that I needed at the time, but I was still being passed on to the next grade. This happen for five years from first to six grade. Because of that I had no pride in myself. I felt stupid. Since coming to Hui Malama I am now at my grade level for math and reading. Coming to this school also helped me to communicate with people instead of being shy. I never thought I could speak in public. This school helped me a lot and changed me in many different ways and also given me hope for my future. Thank you for listening.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing no..., oh, excuse me. Member Cochran.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Hello. Not so much a question but I just. . .for all the Hui Malama students I just wanna say that I too was guided and brought out of my shell and been put on the right path through. It was Maui Hui Malama back then in Puunene if. . .you guys are probably not old enough but, um, yeah, it's. . .so I, I definitely am grateful and Hui Malama got me to where I am today. So keep up the good work, thank you, and I appreciate Hui Malama too for what they've done for me. Thank you.

MS. CHARTRAND: Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Henrietta [sic] Monk. Henrietta [sic] Monk.

MS. MONK: I'm Henriette Monk and good evening to all of you. I wanna to let you know that I appreciate MEO and its services to seniors for 25 years. After my father's passing, MEO provided my mother with the care that she needed to get to the dentist, the doctor, the eye doctor, the bank, shopping, activities like the Aloha Club or Kaunoa, even helped her get her appointment to pay her taxes at AARP at Kaunoa, on and on that the list goes. So ten years ago I returned from the mainland to take care of my mother who needed additional care. And so the two of us together made use of the senior program and in the past three years we saw my mother had to go to Hale Makua. I was unable to take care of her. And I was able to visit her every day that services were provided for me. So MEO's senior bus service keeps my life and kept my mother's life active and independent. It also provide us with a social life because not only that we get to visit with people on the bus, we saw friends, families and friends, friends that we wouldn't ordinarily see as we waited for the bus. So not having a car or not being able to drive me for medical reasons, so many of my needs were fulfilled in having the MEO bus. The drivers are exceptionally kind and respected—respectful, services on the telephone and by the staff is



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always beyond reproach. They make every means, take opportunity to provide me and with my mother with services we needed. And of course while on the bus I was aware of the different passengers that came aboard. People on crutches and on wheelchairs. People with blind. . .eye problems not being able to see and so there's a gentleness about the people rolling someone off the bus and into opening a door to clinic and helping a person into the door. . . the drivers will help me with my packages so I do not have to get them off the bus. They get them off the bus for me, leave them on my wall, but it's, it's. . .it keeps me safe so I'm secured as I leave the bus and I'm very, very grateful. And so I would say that these wheels have kept me actively rolling and connected and I hope that in the future others and myself will continue to have this service. And I thank you very much for this time.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Seeing none, thank you. Haley Murayama.

MS. MURAYAMA: Hi, my name is Haley Murayama, and I have been a part of Maui Economic Development Board's Youth Alliance Program for two years now. Youth Alliance has allowed me to go to different sites around Maui and learn about many different jobs that help sustain and make up Maui's community. I've learned that a lot of people living here truly care about aina as well as future generations. With so many adversities arising from the current and the future generations to come, it is encouraging to know that there are people out there in the present who are trying to help solve some of these problems. My favorite part of the program is how it gives young teenagers like myself a chance to meet many different people and make new, many new friends that are mostly would never have come to know so well had I not joined this program. Thank you for listening and I hope you continue to support Maui Economic Development Board's Youth Alliance Program.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Seeing none, thank you. Miyo Miyasaki-Kim.

MS. MIYASAKI-KIM: Good evening, Budget Chair Pontanilla and Council Members. My name is Miyo Miyasaki-Kim and I'm the Director of Veterinary Services at the Maui Humane Society. I've been a veterinarian for little over 32 years, the last 15 of which I've been the shelter's veterinarian. Prior to joining the Maui Humane Society I had been in private practice for about 15 years. While in private practice I knew of Humane Society's and what they did, but I had no idea of the extent of the challenges they faced. We all know that Humane Society gets thousands of animals turned into them every year. We've heard those numbers, but to actually see the faces and hear the stories of each animal that is turned into, into the shelter every day is heart wrenching. We are an animal shelter, but each animal we help has a human connected to it in

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some way, shape or form whether it be the lost pet that a worried owner is looking for, a pet that's . . . people can no longer keep due to their circumstances and are hoping we can find it a good home, a happy family who has had found a pet to cherish, owners who need assistance in euthanizing their beloved pet, and even the people who bring in trapped feral cats and chickens hoping we can find a humane solution to their problem. Animals are an integral part of our lives. It is obvious that there are too many homeless animals here on Maui and we recognize that spaying and neutering pets is one way we can help decrease these numbers. We have always spayed and neutered all dogs and cats at the Humane Society adopts out but we knew we had to do more. About ten years ago we started a low cost spay-neuter program that was open to the public. In Fiscal Year 2001 to 2002 we performed 629 surgeries for the public. This number has grown steadily over the years and this past fiscal year we performed 13 . . . , thirteen hundred forty-three surgeries for the public. When you combine these numbers with the number of feral cats we do for the trap neuter and release program and the number of our own shelter animals that we fix daily, we performed over 3,000 surgeries this past fiscal year. This is more than all the other private clinics on Maui combined. We perform an average of 15 surgeries every day, sometimes more. The need for this service is so great that we are currently booked six weeks in advance. Many of the animals we do surgeries on I have little doubt have never seen a vet before. In order to address this growing need for surgeries, we recently renovated our surgical suite to add an additional surgery table and additional room for more kennels thanks to the generous donations of our supporters. Our hope is that we can periodically bring in a second veterinarian to work side by side with me so we can perform more surgeries every day. In addition to doing surgeries my department is also busy providing for general . . . the general health and well-being of all the animals brought to the shelter. This includes routine examines, vaccinations, worming, testing when needed and treating the injured and sick. I feel very fortunate to have such a rewarding job because I can say I have made a difference in the lives of animals and people every day. I would like to invite each of you to visit our shelter to get a firsthand look at what we do. I am very proud of our shelter and all that we have accomplished and I think you would be too. Thank you for your past support of our programs. Aloha.

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

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

MS. FLORES: Hi, Council Members. My name is Geraldine Flores and I'm here to speak on behalf of the Boys and Girls Club. It is a safe, positive, and great place for the kids. They have power hour, they do activities with the kids, and they take every individual as an individual and they treat 'em with respect, kindness, and compassion, and I'd like to ask you folks for continued support with the Boys and Girls Club 'cause it does makes a difference for every youth goes there and they know them by name as they approach the Club in the afternoon's, after the school bus gets there. And I wanna say thank you and please support Boys and Girls.

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

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

MS. FLORES: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Greg Kostanoski.

MR. KOSTANOSKI: Good evening, Council Members. Thank you for this time. My name is Greg Kostanoski. I've been a Big Brother Big Sister volunteer for the last several years. I'm currently a Big Brother for a little about a year ago now, and I wanna thank you for your support and ask for your continued support going forward with your funding of the agency. It's a resource center not just for the little's but it's also a resource for adults and bigs like myself who have time on their hands as well as things that they wanna share to somebody to make a difference in their life and help them whether it be an activity or with their school work or just, just hanging out. I was fortunate enough in my youth to have people who impacted my life voluntarily and it's a great opportunity now to have Big Brothers Big Sisters allowing me the chance to return to my community what was given to me during my youth. And thank you for your support. The program really does make a difference not just with the kids and the littles but the adults as well.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Pat Toyama. Pat Toyama.

MS. TOYAMA: Good evening, Council Members. My name is Pat Toyama and I am here in behalf of the Maui Adult Day Care Center. As a caregiver to my mom, I was still working when the doctor said that she could not be left home for more than ten minutes. So I contacted the Adult Day Care Center which they accepted her and it made me feel very, very relieved that I could just go to work and not worry about her at all. The Maui Adult Day Care Center has had at least maybe about four workshops per year which we benefitted which is also available to the public and I have learned a lot. And the most thing that I have learned from the Adult Day Care Center through observing the people there, the workers there, is to be very, very patient because elders take their time in doing whatever they're gonna do at their time. Mom really enjoyed going to the Day Care Center. If it was open seven days, she would have gone seven days. Even on Sunday she would get up, get dressed and so I would ask her mom where are you going? Day Care Center you know. I said today's Sunday. There's no Day Care. Oh. She has met a lot of friends there. She enjoyed playing cards and she was able to participate in the activities that they had by going out to excursions and things. And going back to the Day Care Center again, they have had. . .they have support groups and I have been attending their support group even if mom is now at Hale Makua I still attend there. They're really, really good about it. So please continue to support the Maui Adult Day Care Center. Thank you.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Sandy Freeman followed by Victor Reyes, Jr.

MS. FREEMAN: Good evening. I'm Sandy Freeman, the Executive Director of Maui Adult Day Care Centers, and over the last month or so we've been in to see just about all of you and given you a fact sheet so I'm just gonna hit some highlights here. Just a reminder that we do have the four centers in Kahului, Wailuku, Lahaina, and Kihei, and we service 350 clients that are unduplicated, but if you count up all the days in the units they come through the evenings and in the daytime on Saturday, you're looking at 3,300. In addition to the four centers, we have the Hana Senior Center that services about 450 drop-in clients, and as you are aware about 90 percent of our clients are . . .have some form of Alzheimer's Disease or dementia. And we couldn't really be doing what we're doing without the collaboration through other agencies. Of course the financial support that the County has given us but also the Nisei Veterans is building that building for us, Hale Mahaolu building the three buildings for us, and MEO—my goodness 35 percent of our clients couldn't be coming without their support, and the lunch program through Kaunoa, the list could go on and on. But the programs that we provide the high-functioning intergenerational program that's with the Kansha Preschool, a transition program between the high functioning and low functioning program, our Friday sundowning program that goes until eight thirty, Saturday respite program and we're now open from six thirty in the morning 'til six at night, and the Hana program. And also we have the family support program as Pat mentioned to you with the workshops and support groups. Outcome of all of this they really live at home longer, they can be where they wanna be, they're not just home watching tv. With the increased knowledge for the families they're able to deal with the behaviors a lot more with less stress, and it's able to keep the cost down. I just wanna touch briefly on some of the things that we've done to cut our costs, and that is staff has given up two paid holidays for which that we can stay open and get . . .generate the income. We've decreased the RN's position from fulltime to part time, daily monitoring the ratios to the staff to the clients, and we haven't replaced staff if they've left. What've done, been doing is using on calls pretty much. We reclassified our program supervisors into less supervision and more direct service, they're on the floor 70 percent of the time now. And no administrative or program staff raises for the last four years and we don't have it in also the 2011-12 budget. And it costs us . . . we try and keep our costs to our families low which is \$46 a day and yet it cost us \$57 a day per client to service the clients and it's because of the support from the County that we're able to keep the cost lower.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Next testifier is Victor Reyes followed by Michael McCormick.

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MR. REYES: Good evening, Council Members. Thank you for this opportunity again to let Hui Malama share aloha. Originally my boss wanted me to talk about Hui Malama, but I wanna talk about a really important resource that this committee has and you've seen it this whole night and it's this youth that we have. The kupuna huge resource so that they can pass down the knowledge to our youth, but this is our future that we have in front of us, and we wanna inspire, and we wanna nurture, and we wanna empower, and I think that's what all these youth groups are here for.

When you look at the resources that everybody's competing for, it's about money, it's about numbers, and that's what you guys look at. But at Hui Malama it goes beyond the money that we're asking for. It goes beyond the quantity of students that we have helped throughout the years for over 30 years. It goes into quality and that is what these programs are all about. It's the quality of life here on Maui and we wanna improve the quality of life and make it better and we wanna keep it no ka oi, the best place to live on earth. And we inspire our kids to come to these County Council meetings. We inspire them to come up to your offices and meet you. We inspire them to learn about their goals and who they are. We nurture them by teaching them skills in the classroom and then giving them the opportunity to go out into the community and show and demonstrate these skills that they have learned. We empower them. . . *(exhaled)*. . . by giving them the courage to get up here and speak for the first time ever, and we want them to know that this is the quality of life that we want forever here on Maui, and for them to pass this on to when they have kids and when their kids can hopefully be State Spelling Bee champions or Council Members or the Mayor or the Governor or maybe even the President. You can't measure and weigh off who is gonna get the most money. That's just too hard, but what you have to measure is the quality of life that we wanna have here on Maui and it starts here with the future of these kids. And when I'm looking at these four kids, I'm just gonna like toot my own horn here. With these four kids they've been through so much and all the students they put so much work into not only this year and getting through this year but their life. We don't have a janitor. We don't have a lunch staff. We don't have custodian. We don't have a landscaping staff. It is these students. When you pass by Hui Malama you're gonna see them working in the yard. When you come by lunch you're gonna see them cooking lunch. When you come by on Friday's you're gonna see them scrubbing the toilets. When we go on hikes it's never just to have fun and look around at what we're enjoying and learn about our culture but it's also to give back to the community. So you're gonna see them picking rubbish on the beach at Kanaha after the tsunami, you're gonna see them helping out with charity walks, you're gonna see them all over the place. And what I'm trying to teach them or not, I'm trying to teach them what we're trying to teach 'em as a community. In these hard times it's not only about cutting back and, and reducing your services. It's more about doing more with less. So what we're trying to teach them to do is coming to these community meetings and learning all about the different services and working together. And I've been looking around and we partnered with many of 'em, Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. They've helped us immensely with our garden program,--

MR. GEERS: Three minutes .

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MR. REYES: --Paia Teens On Call, I mean the list goes on and on. Even the smaller businesses out there. So I just wanna say thank you for supporting these youth services. Thank you for supporting Hui Malama and let's continue the quality of life on Maui. Mahalo.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members? Mr. Reyes. Question from Mr. Victorino.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Mr. Reyes.

MR. REYES: Sir.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Couple of things. First of all, I disagree with you that we make decisions basically on numbers.

MR. REYES: Sir.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: We look at quality of programs, we look at what it. . .the results that it brings to this community. So numbers is not always the game we play so let me correct you right there, okay.

MR. REYES: Yes, sir.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Number two, there was a little guy that went to Hui Malama at a very young age and today he's a professional bas..., baseball player.

MR. REYES: Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: So you know that also.

MR. REYES: Yes, sir.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: So the programs we look is look at the overall results we get whether it's a baseball player, whether it's a Council Member, whether it's an everyday citizen you guys do a great a job, but never, never say that again about numbers because we never do it on numbers. We do it on because it's a good program for the people of Maui County.

MR. REYES: Yes, sir.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Thank you, sir.

MR. REYES: Thank you.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. It's like lecture but hey. . .

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AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Yeah. . .thanks, eh.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Mike McCormick followed by Jessica Gambsky?

MR. McCORMICK: . . .(chuckled). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Go ahead, Mike.

MR. McCORMICK: Yeah. Aloha, Budget Chair Pontanilla and Budget Council Members. Thank you for having me speak tonight. And first off as a resident of Maui I just wanna say that I'm really proud to hear all these great, young people that have spoken tonight. We can all be really proud of our future here and hopefully they will be sitting where you guys are someday making decisions, but all I can say is I'm very proud that these young people are a part of our island.

Earlier tonight you had a chance to hear Ezra and his Mom speak, and Ezra's been nominated for a student of the year award from OHA and I just wanna read a letter of recommendation from his Vice-Principal at Maui High School.

To Whom It May Concern: My name is Desiree Sides and I work at Maui High School as a Vice-Principal. I am writing this recommendation for Ezra Kanaha who I believe has made a positive difference in our community. I've had the privilege to watch Ezra blossom as he becomes a man. I first became acquainted with Ezra when I began to oversee as a school administrator Maui High School's Best Buddy organization. When I first met him he was shy, friendly, and respectful. After representing Maui High School at a Bus [sic] Buddy. . .Best Buddies ambassador program at Indiana University last summer where he learned to further advocate for people with disabilities, I began to see a more confident, young man emerging. This year Ezra has continued to give speeches to his fellow peers and to other Maui County and State offig..., officials advocating and educating about the harm caused by calling special education students the R word--retarded. And on behalf of programs that benefit people with intellectually and developmental disabilities, IDD, I was able to witness one of his public appearances at this year's Big M.A.C. - Moving Across Transition. It is a seminar put by the Maui County Division of the Hawaii DDC, Developmental Disability's Council, with partnership and sponsorship by the Department of Education. His speech helped to support the campaign, spread the word to end the word. Ezra explained how the R word hurts because it's offensive and derogatory. He spoke of his love for his family and his Hawaiian culture. Along with this fellow Best Buddies he represented his school and community very well.

Last night, and this was actually written yesterday. So last night at Maui High's junior prom it was very heartfelt to see that Ezra's contributions have made a difference with this disabled and nondisabled peers. His friendly and caring ways has made him a popular person with students and adults. A couple of weeks ago when the alarm bell went off, I saw Ezra in the hallways and

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he asked if I had caught the person who pulled the fire alarm. Ezra has a true sense of doing what is right for everyone. Through his advocacy and his personal ways, Ezra has helped raise public awareness and understanding of the many talents and contributions people with disabilities have. Thank you in advance for your consideration and I only hope for a positive outcome for Ezra. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Sincerely Desiree Sides, Vice-Principal Maui High School.

Thank you and please support Best Buddies and all these great organizations. Thank you.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you again Mike. Jessica Gambsky followed by Phyllis Davis.

MS. GAMBSKY: Good evening, County Council Members. We meet again. My name is Jessica Gambsky. On March 29<sup>th</sup> I addressed my need and gratitude to the Kihei Youth Center. From that night, I walked away feeling uplifted, humbled and into the arms of a proud daughter. Tonight, with great urgency, I am speaking on behalf of the Maui Humane Society. Fifteen years, it's been 15 years since I dedicated my life's work to the Humane Society. A far cry from being the Hawaiian studies major I was at UH Manoa. School, as I learned, teaches you to become who are today. Grade school taught me to raise my hand when I knew the answer. High school taught me to raise my hand and question everything. College taught me to rise without question and pursue my passion with purpose. In those 15 years I have seen great things happen and I have seen a need for greater things to happen. The Humane Society has been established since 1953. It has paved a reputable organization which continues to educate, assist the community through various programs and generously gives back to humanity. I am here simply because I love what it is that I do. I have the knowledge to help animals. I have the passion to educate. I have every opportunity to excel at what I love to do. As a veterinary technician my day may begin with spays, neuters, physical exams, and medications, constant wagging tails, and the occasional feeling like I could really use another hour in the day. But it always end with this one question. "Did I give them what they needed of me?" Which is usually followed by "What am I going to do tomorrow for them what I wasn't able to do yesterday?" So for them I am here today. Thank you, Council Members for genuinely listening to all the community speakers tonight and for joining the advocacy for animals. Thank you.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you. Phyllis Davis followed by Rita Barreras.

MS. DAVIS: Good evening. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Phyllis Davis and I am a resident of Haiku and I'm here to speak in support of the Aging with Aloha Coalition and the need to restore the funding to the country's . . .county's budget for 2012.



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I have had four distinct careers spanning over 40 years and all of them I have had a major focus on seniors in some manner. And I volunteer my time and talents with the Coalition because of the professional leadership of Rita Barreras and the Coalition's proven track record for innovative ideas that get implemented and because it has amazingly mobilized a community divided geographically into a community force like nothing I have ever witnessed any place I have worked or lived. I'm here this evening because I have a concern about the future of the Coalition. You have the concern of establishing a budget that is sound and fiscally responsible. You are reviewing and analyzing each line item to see whether it's absolutely necessary or what it's value to the community will be. To restore the funding that we are requesting, you need to know if you made a good investment. You need to know did it. . .what the return on your investment was. Now Rita's going to follow me here to present those facts and figures, but you will find that you've made a very good investment. A return on investment can be described as immediate or anticipated in time. It also has to take into account what was saved or what events were everted [*sic*]. . .averted by making that investment. Many of us and certainly businesses is invest in an idea that appears to have merit and potential and facts will show that the Aging with Aloha Coalition had immediate and quantifiable results. Others are harder to quantify because they began with an idea sparked by the members of the Coalition that resulted in the implementation of a very valuable program.

One of the best examples is the Care Core Program. A ten week curriculum in three Maui high schools initially attracted over 100 students to learn what a caregiver career would look like. This has been an ongoing curriculum with many more students participating and over 100 of the students entered Maui college to major in nursing or get certificates to be nurse's aide and many have joined the workforce.

A three-year long term care project at Maui College targeted people that were not interested in becoming nurses and from that 119 students graduated and 75 percent of them remain to this day in the health care workforce. Prior to this employers were flying nurses and nurse's aide to Maui at great costs.

So these projects have given Maui youth a reason to stay on Maui and get a job for the future. And how do you measure that in dollars and cents? This was the grass root solution to a huge and looming problem of not having nearly enough caregivers to serve the under. . .the under serve seniors and the future baby boomers.

MR. GEERS: Three minutes.

MS. DAVIS: Oh, boy. . .(*chuckled*). . .let's consider this. I'm starting a new business and I have been given access to the brightest and best minds in my industry and I have 100 workers that I don't have to pay a cent for. Too good to be true? Would you say that had value? Well, that is what makes up the Coalition. These people represent a working coalition with solutions as their goals. The value of attracting over 100 people with a fire in their belly to address needs, find solutions that implement the creative ideas that come from the different regions of the community is immeasurable. What will the community do without volunteers? And I think you know the

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answer to that. Right now we all have to do with less and stretch it further. We're facing a tsunami of aging and we're not ready. We're like the hostess that has a roast for four and four more show up unexpectedly. Does she turn them away? Or does she quickly and creatively fix some side dishes, add some rolls and a bit more gravy? Well, the Aging with Coalition is like that hostess--it adds what is missing and needed at a minimal cost. We step up, step in and present a solution.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Ms. Davis can you conclude, please?

MS. DAVIS: I'm concluding right now. Thank you very much for your time. Any questions?

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

MS. DAVIS: Thank you.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Rita Barreras followed by Joylynn Paman.

MS. BARRERAS: Good evening, Budget and Finance Committee Chair Pontanilla, Members of the Committee. I wanna thank you for this opportunity to. . .testify before the Committee regarding the Aging with Aloha Coalition which is requesting that \$200,000 in funding be restored of a Fiscal Year '12 Budget proposal that's under your consideration. This represents a \$25,000 reduction from the Fiscal Year '11 appropriation. As Phyllis Davis indicated, the volunteers that are active with the Coalition have felt and feel they belong to a working Coalition with solutions as their goal. They believe that it has been effective because it has been staffed to keep the community strategic plan of priorities to improve long-term care and support services, moving forward with demonstrated results. We have been goaled and outcomes oriented. And the four goals that were set--I'll just quickly sum up--that was to improve access to information about long-term care and support services so people can make informed decision, increase awareness and knowledge about what services are available in the community, provide education and training to caregivers and our younger generation, and influence change in the services and workforce systems to support a home and community based services system.

I wanna share with you just some key successes that I think that with the help of people and agencies over the years have helped us produce. One is a high school long-term care curriculum pilot project in which 160 students participated and 100 students went onto Maui college. It's considered an unrealized benefit in heal occupations and that the community will reap benefits in the long run. The nurse aide accelerated training and education program, which is new, it was new three years ago, it was initiated by the Coalition and pilot tested at UH Maui College, 119 students graduated. Of those we know the status of, 75 percent remain in the field of elderly care. The results in that case is job creation. A County investment of \$60,000 for a volunteer caregiver pilot project resulted in the cost of origin of about \$500,000. An average of 80

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volunteers were matched with consumers that added to the workforce. The Aging with Aloha Coalition made a recommendation to the State Department of Human Services to change an administrative rule that resulted in the creation of a statewide going home program. According to the department, that proposal saved taxpayers \$70,000 per patient annually over three years resulting in over \$50 million in savings in the State Medicaid program. A comprehensive resource directory has been designed and disseminated in the community to at least 3,000 older people, caregivers and people with disabilities. And an aging in place retrofit project in Hana has proven to be cost-effective and its results were published in the Hawaii Medical Journal.

MR. GEERS: Three minutes

MS. BARRERAS: Let me sum up then. . .*(cleared throat)*. . .let me just say that I have other statistics that I will be sharing with you. One thing that I would leave with you though is that with the baby boomer population emerging, what I see happening is the youth populations going down, the baby boomers population's going like this, 77 percent of our population are adults, 23 percent are youth. We have some tension building and some collision coming into play here. What, what is needed is continued staffing to support an Aging with Aloha Coalition so we can plan ahead for the future and put together a solid strategic plan for 2011 and beyond so that we are better prepared for that population. Now is the time to recruit baby boomers. Thank you.

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

MS. BARRERAS: Thank you.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Joylynn Paman followed by Tamara Sherrill.

MS. PAMAN: Aloha ahiahi kakou.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aloha.

MS. PAMAN: Where can you find a collection of over 1,000 individual plants, many extremely rare or endangered that tell the story of our kupuna and their voyage to Hawaii? In the heart of Kahului lies Maui Nui Botanical Gardens, an instrumental program that benefits our community every day and provides a safe and protected home for a living and thriving collection of native Hawaiian and Polynesian introduced plants. I commend the County of Maui for recognizing Maui Nui Botanical Gardens importance over the years and for generously providing financial support.

As the new Executive Director of Maui Nui Botanical Gardens, I can honestly say that we value our community and we believe that this is a unique gathering place for them not only to learn about the importance of plants used by our kupuna, but to discover how these plants play a

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significant role in today's society. We are excited to take the garden to the next level and grow into an educational hub for learning and practicing our Hawaiian culture, as well as continuing to promote conservation.

The County has been a consistent supporter of our work and we commit to providing a quality service to Maui's community and its visitors. Many who are in the audience this evening, including Maui Economic Opportunity, Hui Malama Learning Center, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Maui, and the Roselani have--who we also support--have also benefitted from our site. We provide this unique collection free of charge to the public six days a week. The proposed budget will support personnel cost for staff. This makes up approximately one-third of what we need to raise to keep the staff on hand and to maintain our site. And I would like to assure you. . .I would like to assure you that the staff at Maui Nui Botanical Gardens are extremely efficient hard workers and are positive reflections of the County. Through our work we are able to serve thousands of residents and visitors.

Maui Nui Botanical Gardens is a cultural and conservation gem in the heart of Maui and I urge you to approve, proo..., the proposed budget. I also. . .I'm committed to looking for additional resources that can move us toward a pos..., a position where we will need. . .not need to rely on you in such a large capacity in the future. In time I believe this is possible and I'm happy to be standing in front of all you this evening with very small number of supporters that I have behind me. Mahalo nui.

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

MS. PAMAN: Okay, mahalo nui.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Tamara Sherrill.

MS. SHERRILL: Aloha, Honorable Council Members. I'm Tamara Sherrill and I'm the garden manager at Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. Mahalo nui for the operational support you provided over the years.

We're not a social services organization, but we are a gathering place for many community groups to experience Maui County's natural and cultural history. The garden is becoming more valuable every year to Maui County as a public place to see the plants that make Maui County unique in all the world, and with the operating budget we currently receive we continue to just demonstrate water conservation, give free advice about which native plants to use for landscaping and act as a seed bank for endangered species conservation. We also continue to verify and make available to the public more than 150 taros, sweet potato, banana, and sugar cane varieties that were cultivated by ancient Hawaiians which are very important culturally as well as agriculturally. We continue to give away more than thousand native trees every year for

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arbor day and hundreds more free plants to school and community gardens. With the same operating budget and a small grant from the Hawaii Tourism Authority, this year we've drastically increased our emphasis on education by using our large and dedicated group of volunteers to create a docent program. They now give free tours three times a week to visitors and residents that emphasize the ways that native and Polynesian introduced plants were used by Hawaiians to survive and flourish on Maui.

And also new this year we now host workshops and cultural demonstrations that teach visitors and residents more about Hawaiian skills like lauhala weaving and cordage and kapa making, lei making, and Hawaiian games and sports. We posted dozens of school groups since we began this program, and we work with volunteers every single day that are retirees, visitors, people from drug court, Maui High Special Ed, and many, many more.

In addition to the food plant varieties I mentioned, we cultivate native Hawaiian plants that are so endangered there's just a handful left in the world. For example the Kanaloa kahoolawensis from Kahoolawe there's only one wild plant in the world, there's only four plants that are left in cultivation, and we have the healthiest, the most thriving plant in the world and we're using it to cross-pollinate with the other plants. We've also sent hundreds of the endangered native gardenia to Lanai for restoration, and we're growing real plants for the Maui Coastal Land Trust for their dune restoration in Waihee. We have many species for which there are less than 10 wild individuals remaining in a population and we continually grow seedlings for out planting and store seed for future restoration of these species. So you will not regret a vote to continue to support this valuable respected and resilient gathering place. Mahalo.

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

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Stephen Kealoha. . .(silence). . .followed by Jean Okudora.

MR. KEALOHA: Good evening, Chairman Pontanilla and Members of the Budget and Finance Committee. My name is Stephen Kealoha and I'm here to support testimony for Malama Family Recovery Center. I served on the Board of Malama along with the other two organizations--Aloha House and Maui Youth and Family Services--up until December. Now my role has shifted. And the reason I tell you about that is because I found that Malama was the one agency among the three of the tri-agencies of Aloha House and Maui Youth that needed a lot of help. It has been a really tough time for them and I really wanna thank the County Council and the County in general for providing support throughout the many, many years in the past. I wanna thank you for the community program grants that we have received and the Community Development Block Grants we received for construction of our new facility. And I remember Councilmember Victorino was present at the groundbreaking in January of 2010 and I'm really pleased to say that hopefully in another month we would be able to move into the new facility.

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I found a new volunteer group, like I mentioned, with the blessing of our Executive Director Jud Cunningham, and I come out tonight to testify on their behalf like I said because I believe they need a lot of help. And I'm trying to do whatever I can as a volunteer trying to bring in other people to help support them. And the reason is that, you know, Malama is the only agency in the State, in Maui County that provides gender specific substance abuse treatment for women and their keiki. And it's so important that we deal with these substance abuse problems throughout our County. I might remind you of two different County needs assessment surveys that were taken back in 1999 and again in 2008, and in both instances the public identified substance abuse as the number one priority that they wanted the County to deal with so you can see how important it is. Substance abuse is in the form of drugs and alcohol, and it's so important to take care of treating the people because that problem can lead to so many other social ills--crime, you know, theft, prostitution, and so on and so forth. It's just endless. So I think people recognize that and they do know that it's important to take care of that need.

I know it's been tough for the County and for the State budget wise, and so I'm not here tonight to ask you for more money or anything like that. I just wanna thank you for your support and hope you will continue to do that in the future. And it's become even more critical for Malama because we also loss money for a program we call Baby S.A.F.E., and that money from the State Department of Health. We're working with our current legislators to try to see what we can do to get that restored in the future.

MR. GEERS: Three minutes.

MR. KEALOHA: So I wanna thank you again for taking care of us in the past. And my next person in the back of me will testify as a client. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Any questions for Mr. Kealoha? Thanks again Steve.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Jean Okudara [*sic*].

MS. OKUDORA: Aloha, Council Members. I'm kinda nervous and so. . .and I thought I was gonna cry at the end but I guess not. I'm here today to offer my testimony on how Malama Family Recovery Center helped me overcome my addiction to methamphetamine and helped me become a positive role model for wom..., for other women in our community. I was addicted to alcohol and drugs since I was 13. I was in and out of youth facilities and foster homes and I was a habitual runaway. As I got older my life got worse and I started using meth. I was addicted with four children that was being cared for by other family members. I reached my lowest point when I was 35. I ended up in Maui Community Correctional Center for an extensive amount of crimes, and that's where I wanted to give up on my life. I couldn't wait to get out and continue on my path to self-destruction. My life was so out of control at that point. When I was incarcerated a counselor came up to me and asked me if I wanted to attend Malama Family Recovery Center and I didn't know what it was. He explained to me that it was a program just

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for women, run by women and. . .so I decided to try it. When I attended my first session, I learned something that I haven't had during my lifetime and it was hope. I learned how to. . .I learned about hope and I learned that I was gonna be able to make it. During the four months I learned how to process feelings. I worked on my anger. They taught me how to use relapse prevention skills, to work on my triggers recovery tools. I learned how to use cognizant behavior maps to control my criminal thinking and impulsive behaviors and that kept me out of trouble. And they had parenting classes that taught me how to protect and nurture my children, and I also learned I wasn't alone. By having a supportive-all-women treatment team in a program with only women, I was able to overcome social barriers and latch onto like positive reinforcements that allowed me to reintegrate back into society as a law-abiding, self-sufficient community asset. I believe everything I learned in Malama provided me with life-long skills which I use daily to keep me safe and away from the streets. This program did work for me and I'm sure it worked for other people. Today I work fulltime at Malama, I'm an employee of Aloha House, I attend college, I mentor to women in prison, and I'm a wonderful caring parent today. Thank you.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for testifier? Thank you again. Members, the Chair recognizes your hurt so I'm gonna call for a five minute recess so we can stretch our legs and do our personal business. So this meeting is in recess for five minutes and. . .well, we'll reconvene at about ten after eight. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS:	8:00 p.m.
RECONVENE:	8:11 p.m.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay. . .*(gave)*. . .the Budget and Finance Committee meeting is now reconvened. The next testifier this evening is Maria Keau. Maria Keau, please.

MS. KEAU: Hello.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hi.

MS. KEAU: Good evening. My name is Maria Keau and I'm the President of Maui High Project Graduation, and we'd like to first of all say thank you for your. . .for your support in the past and we ask for your continued support.

Maui High Project Graduation. . .Project Graduation actually is an all-night drug- and alcohol-free event aimed at keeping seniors off the road on graduation night, a night when underage drinking is at an all-time high. We are very. . .we are a very small group of parent volunteers that depend on the local community, businesses, and grants like yours in order to make this event available to the graduating class. I feel that when a student gets behind the wheel after drinking they not only endanger their lives but the lives of everyone who may be on

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the road that night and it could be you or someone you love. So we ask for your continued support so that we can provide this safe environment for our students. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: What was the name of the program again?

MS. KEAU: Project Graduation.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: And this is Maui High?

MS. KEAU: Maui High School.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Maui High. Thank you.

MS. KEAU: Yes. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Any more questions? Seeing none, thanks again.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Alexandra Taylor.

MS. TAYLOR: Hi. First of all I just wanted to say thank you for giving us this opportunity to speak. My name is Alexandra Taylor and I am the Pain and Palliative Care Nurse here at Maui Memorial. And I'm here to support Hospice Maui, and to support them in getting an in-patient hospice unit. Currently I do work with a lot of the patients in the hospital that would greatly benefit from an in-patient hospice unit. Hospice Maui is doing a wonderful job with a lot of these death and dying patients at home. However, there are still many patients that are dying in the hospital for multiple reasons. The biggest. . .some of the bigger one's that I've seen is because they have really complex pain syndromes that would be very difficult to manage at home, as well as shortness of breath issues, or secretion issues. Currently I had a patient that we just sent home that had a lot of secretions, but the family was very dedicated to where they are suctioning their loved one every 30 minutes to an hour. Another patient that comes to mind is a patient that had cancer of the abdomen, and it was actually obstructing the bowels and this patient had a lot of pain that was difficult to manage as well as a lot of nausea. The family wanted to take him home however they couldn't because these symptoms were very difficult to manage. And this patient would've greatly benefitted from an in-patient hospice unit instead of dying in our hospital here. When a person is dying it is the most vulnerable time of a patient's life as well as the family member's life. The hospital, the nurses are doing the best that they can to take care of these patients while they're in the hospital, but it is an acute care hospital so these nurses are also having to deal with acute care patients that need other interventions like IV antibiotics, x-rays, EKG's, blood draws. So a lot of times these nurses also don't have the time



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to do a lot of the other important work that comes along with the patient that is dying, including you know emotional issues, helping the family to kind of work through a lot of grief and coping.

Also the environment of the hospital is. . .I don't know if you guys have been there, but it's a bit sterile. It can be very noisy. I've actually had patient. . .they are double rooms and a lot of times when a single rooms are not open, these patients that are dying are in a double room with another patient in the. . .right next to them and that is a very difficult time. It prevents the family from being able to be with this patient during these, these moments in their lives that are very important and can be very difficult to deal with.

And there are other, there are other issues of, uh. . .the patient's being in the hospital as well. A lot of the nurses. . .I've been doing a lot of. . .trying to do some education around end of life since I've been here for the last. . .little bit more than a year. A lot of the nurses do not get special education and training on end of life and comfort care issues. When I was in nursing school I think I got one day's worth--

MR. GEERS: Three minutes.

MS. TAYLOR: And also same thing with the doctor's they don't get very much specialized training in this area as well. So I would just like to end by saying thank you very much for allowing me to speak. Any questions?

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

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Hi. Thank you for being here. You know I always wanted to take your course to become, you know, do hospice care for West Maui. I know you folks are really lacking in support there but. . .is it still like a 12-week program and you have to show every day for. . .I mean it was like really--

MS. TAYLOR: I don't know now. . .I actually work for Maui Memorial so I don't know how--

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Oh, okay.

MS. TAYLOR: --the program actually works for Hospice--

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: How Hospice itself works.

MS. TAYLOR: --Maui. . .(chuckled). . .

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Oh, okay.

MS. TAYLOR: Yeah. But they, they do a really great job at supporting people for in the home setting so the in-patient unit would be even better. . .(chuckled). . .

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COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Right.

MS. TAYLOR: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Okay, thank you.

MS. TAYLOR: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Next testifier is Chris Brosius.

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

MR. BROSIUS: Aloha, Council. Good evening. My name is Chris Brosius and I am the Coordinator for the West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership. I'm here tonight to testify in support of \$100,000 allocation in the OED budget, as well as a \$72,000 allocation that's in the budget for the Department of Water Supply, both of which will help watershed protection in West Maui. Both sources are really important to us. They form the bed rock of our programs and have allowed us to leverage funds from State, Federal, and private sources. We...we greatly appreciate this support especially in comparison to other grant programs. For example, watershed programs by the State continue to face 50 percent reductions. Despite these challenges, in the next year we plan to install 1.5 miles of fence to protect an additional 5,000 acres in the Honolua and Launiupoko watersheds to protect from invasive pigs and, and deer, and the impacts that they have on our watershed lands. We plan to educate our island people through our interpretative programs and AmeriCorps volunteer's sponsorships. We plan to continue to seek solutions.

Just last week we hosted a conference attended by 111 people for the Hawaii Association of Watershed Partnerships, and our goals there was to bring together stewards from mauka and makai to network and find solutions to save our near shore waters and our... (inaudible)...systems which are very important to our sustainability, our island economy, our appeal, our livelihood here.

We are currently spearheading an effort to create community wild fire protection plans to protect dry areas of west, south, and leeward east Maui from the destructive forces of fire. They absolutely ravaged the watershed and render its hydrologic function impair and therefore it is a concern for our water resources.

In the future we'd like to deal more aggressively with invading dirt bike us in Waiehu. We would like to continue to expand our weed control programs. You probably all heard about the impacts of strawberry guava and waivi in the watershed. How those plants actually suck up about 53 percent more water during drought system than our native forest does? So when it comes to managing our forest it's very important.

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Basically, all these efforts are designed to protect our water resources and our rare biological heritage, and I'd like to thank you for the support that you've given us. We couldn't literally do it without you.

And before my time is up, I was reminded by the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens about the importance of outreach. And I just wanted to give a nod to their program. Because one of the things that we suffer from as a watershed is loving of these natural areas to death in a way. And it becomes increasingly more difficult with public interest in the watershed--

MR. GEERS: Three minutes.

MR. BROSIUS: --to provide opportunities for access. So Maui Nui provides a way to bring the watershed to them if you will instead of vice-versa. So thank you very much for your time.

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

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

MR. BROSIUS: Thank you very much.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Graham Deuey *[sic]*.

MR. DEVEY: I am Graham DeVey. I'm a science teacher at Baldwin High School, but I'm here to speak for the Women in Technology part of Maui Economic Development. And I think here on Maui we have some very good news right now for the present and especially for the future. The demand for high-tech jobs here on Maui, high technologies like aerospace, like astronomy, the computer technologies that go with them the demand is growing. These are desirable high-tech jobs that companies want the talent that will support those jobs and that's where Women in Technology's come in.

I as a science teacher. I have a background in engineering. I was an engineer executive and I had 200 scientists and engineers reporting to me before I started working on Maui 16 years ago, and so these kinds of kids that we need. We have the local talent. We have the brainpower and so forth in our local kids. We want them to be filling all of these jobs here on Maui because they wanna stay here, they wanna work here, they wanna thrive and be successful here. And a lot of times it's just a matter of giving them the understanding, the inspiration, and knowing that the jobs are gonna be here for them and that's where Women in Technology's comes into plan.

This is a picture of. . .(inaudible). . . Alana was a 2005 graduate from Baldwin High School. She was in my ninth grade honors physical science course and she's now. . .just recently graduated from University of Colorado with a degree in environmental science. She has a dream job doing research diving in the kelp beds. She's also teaching kids marine science and

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environmental science in Catalina Island. And she wrote back to me and Alana came to Baldwin High School not for science for the drama program, the theater program. She was our lead in the Grease production. She was our Olivia Newton John. But here's what she writes me about coming to Baldwin High School. I was coming from an upbringing of theater and music, expecting to focus mainly on those subjects in high school. I did not consider myself scientific at all nor would my parents consider themselves science-minded. Then when I got to your class two very important things happened. All or most of the learning became hands on and I met Caitlin, a friend, who was really into science and help me become interested too. With the offer of extra credit to join an after-hour school club that explored science in greater detail, Future Scientist and Engineers of America, that's sponsored by Women in Technology at our school, I was surrounded by more of the same hands on project and people who chose to be there. Being able to travel to University of Hawaii for competitions, showed me how easily science could get you places. I started thinking that I could do this as a career. This is Women in Technology's contribution. Now I asked if I could share this with Women in Technology and she wrote back and she said "They are awesome. Of course you have permission to send my thoughts to Women in Technology. They are awesome and also at a HUGE (capital HUGE) influence on my current successes. Really the funding that allowed us public school students to travel, meet other groups and see other facilities, really had a big impact on showing me how bright my future could be." Women in—

MR. GEERS: Three minutes.

MR. DEVEY: --Technology is the one coherent voice of all of our high-tech industries. It inspires us teachers. It creates our clubs and gives us the training and so forth to bring these programs to bring our Maui youth. We'd like to get all out there and there's a lot of leverage to having these kinds of programs in our community. Thank you very much for supporting Women in Technology.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Seeing none, thank you again. Jesus Balthazar. Leonardo Sequeira.

MR. SEQUEIRA (interpreter): Good evening, Council Members. My name is Leonardo. I'm just gonna be the interpreter for the client, okay?

MR. BALTAZAR: . . .*(spoke in Spanish)*. . .

MR. SEQUEIRA (interpreter): I come in the name on behalf of the community of Hispanic.

MR. BALTAZAR: . . .*(spoke in Spanish)*. . .

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MR. SEQUEIRA (interpreter): To help you to ask you to please consider the continued support in Enlace Hispano.

MR. BALTAZAR: . . .*(spoke in Spanish)*. . .

MR. SEQUEIRA (interpreter): They help out a lot with the Hispanic community and we. . .

MR. BALTAZAR: . . .*(spoke in Spanish)*. . .

MR. SEQUEIRA (interpreter): . . . we don't have anybody who will represent us besides the Enlace Hispano.

MR. BALTAZAR: . . .*(spoke in Spanish)*. . .

MR. SEQUEIRA (interpreter): The only one that we have to represent us is MEO Enlace Hispano Program.

MR. BALTAZAR: . . .*(spoke in Spanish)*. . .

MR. SEQUEIRA (interpreter): They made it possible for different counselors to come and visit us over here on Maui.

MR. BALTAZAR: . . .*(spoke in Spanish)*. . .

MR. SEQUEIRA (interpreter): But whenever we need to go to the doctor's they're the ones that do translation and interpretation for us.

MR. BALTAZAR: . . .*(spoke in Spanish)*. . .

MR. SEQUEIRA (interpreter): When we're looking for employment we need to fill out an application they're the ones that help us to fill out of the application.

MR. BALTAZAR: . . .*(spoke in Spanish)*. . .

MR. SEQUEIRA (interpreter): So if you decide to cut the funds for Enlace Hispano you're gonna leave us hanging?

MR. BALTAZAR: . . .*(spoke in Spanish)*. . .

MR. SEQUEIRA (interpreter): That's why I come in behalf of the Hispanic community to ask you to continue supporting the Enlace Hispano Program.

MR. BALTAZAR: . . .*(spoke in Spanish)*. . .

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MR. SEQUEIRA (interpreter): So we wish you not to cut the funds for the Enlace Hispano because if not you're gonna leave us without any support.

MR. BALTAZAR: . . .*(spoke in Spanish)*. . .

MR. SEQUEIRA (interpreter): Thank you for so many years of supporting our program.

MR. BALTAZAR: . . .*(spoke in Spanish)*. . .

MR. SEQUEIRA (interpreter): And we hope to continue the program and the helping. Thank you so much.

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

MR. BALTAZAR: Thank you very much. . .*(spoke in Spanish)*. . .

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Sheena Jolson.

MS. JOLSON: Aloha, Maui County Council Members. I wanna personally thank you for this opportunity to testify this evening. My name is Sheena Jolson and I'm here to speak in support as a current volunteer on behalf of Aging with Aloha.

Just to give little background on I guess myself and then how I . . .I'm affiliated with the Coalition. I just graduated from pharmacy school this past May from the University of Arizona. And I am completing right now a post-graduate pharmacy residency at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, and it's the first year of the program, and it's established here on Maui. So I moved here this past October to the island and since then have become a licensed pharmacist practicing at Maui Clinic Pharmacy here in Kahului. This program is one year in length and is very similar to medical students after they graduate medical school and pursue a residency. So a goal of our pharmacy residency is to enhance our clinical skills and knowledge that you can't really gain in school so it's an after school extra year of studying. So a major objective with the residency is to enhance health care in elderly rural populations, specifically for the University of Hawaii residency program. So when I first arrived to Maui I was thrown into this program and, you know, we're working in the pharmacy but a big part of the residency is community outreach. So I had no idea who to . . .you know get in touch with. So I contacted the Hawaii State rural health association and they personally and highly recommended that we collaborate with the Aging with Aloha Coalition. So since then I've been a part of the Aging with Aloha Coalition. The past few months I've been volunteering with them and I can honestly tell you they've really helped our residency program grow and prosper. They were the first and only group of people outside of the pharmacy that really seem to care and embrace us and give us the guidance to deliver the best patient care possible. They invited us to give a presentation to their team

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leader's just days after meeting them. They were very curious as to what our program was about and what we could contribute and eager to help us network with other healthcare professionals and service providers on Maui. The Coalition has shown not only an interest in providing healthcare for the elderly and rural population, but also helping young professional such as myself with establishing a career and improving outcomes for the larger Maui County area. The Coalition works hard at making sure everyone knows what everyone else is doing on the island. They have compiled a resource book with phone numbers, addresses of the different services provided here from different long-term care facilities to modes of public transportation. I use the booklet many times in the pharmacy when people ask me specific questions. Some connections we've established with Aging with Aloha are now growing into relationships such as--

MR. GEERS: Three minutes.

MS. JOLSON: --with the Maui County Medical Society, Office of Aging, and so many more. I don't know honestly where we would be without the Coalition. Aging with Aloha is every engaged with young professionals such as myself and also with the youth. They are very active in coordinating students pursue healthcare related jobs and making sure that the baby boomer generation is sufficiently cared for. Not enough organizations exist such as this. I just would like to, you know, personally ask the Budget and Finance Committee to reconsider allocation of funds for the Aging with Aloha Coalition and thank you so much for your time.

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

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Jennifer Bagoyo.

MR. BAGOYO: Good evening everyone. My name is Jennifer Bagoyo and I am a nurse at Maui Memorial Medical Center. I'm a case manager there. I wanna thank you for your time and your consideration of the financial support for an in-patient hospice facility here on Maui. The need for in-patience hospice care on our island is not new and it's really exciting to see that this might move from being a dream to reality. There are really two major reasons why in-patient hospice on Maui will be so positive. The first is healthcare resources and their appropriate use. Here on Maui we are currently limited to how we can care for terminal patients in the home setting and for a patient to successfully discharge home from the hospital under hospice. The family must have the ability to provide 24/7 care. There's an amazing volunteer network as well as a dedicated staff at hospice, but they cannot be the moment-by-moment caregivers for people who can no longer function independently due to terminal illness. That means a patient must either have a social network who's willing to support homecare, i.e. family or friends who can leave their existing jobs and responsibilities and devote themselves to around the clock care, or they must have the financial resource to hire care which is not covered by insurance unless of course the patient is Medicaid eligible and even then they don't provide 24/7 hour care in the home, or they must have a combination of both of those things. And that's really difficult on a family. It

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is quite common in discharge planning, part of my role as a case manager, to find patients and families who embrace the hospice philosophy of end of life care for comfort, but pragmatically are unable to make it happen. The inability to provide appropriate comfort care in the home then forces families into making choices for placement in the long-term care facility. They're scrambling to establish financial resources whether it's Medicaid or personal funds, or there's a prolong stay in an acute care facility when appropriate care should be given elsewhere. Certainly a correctable strain on our existing resources. Those concerns address the resources we have and how we may benefit by keeping acute and long-term care beds for acute and long-term care patients, but just as importantly there's a desire to respect dignity and quality of comfort care at the end of life. A hospice facility will provide not only 24/7 supportive care patient needs but will address the patient and family psychosocial needs at a time in their lives when they need support far beyond medications, baths, meals, and position changes. It's a point a man wants to die. We all will. An acute care hospital exist to cure, a long-term care facility is to give quality supportive care. But as we are at the end of life we have an opportunity to grow and deepen our relationships as little afforded through any other experience we go through as human beings. With in-patient hospice there is an opportunity to provide what a family and patient needs in an environment of warmth and respect. It doesn't take much to cognize the value of having that choice in our community.

MR. GEERS: Three minutes.

MS. BAGOYO: Too many patients have lost that chance. I've witnessed it. They simply don't get the chance to have a death experience and it's less than what they've hoped for. We owe it to the community, we owe it ourselves to create the option for in-patient hospice care. I know I'd like to have that choice. Thank you all very much.

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

MS. BAGOYO: Thank you.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Beth Mathias.

MS. MATHIAS: Good evening. I'm here today on two separate items. First as a Board Member for the Maui Farm I ask for continued support for the line item grant for our Family Strengthening Program. Continued funding for this program maximizes what the County and the Maui Farm have invested over the last 20 years in our facilities and our residential programs which provide a heavier touch in supporting families in making significant life changes, and being successful in their transition to self-sufficient living as responsible citizens, and contributing members of the community.



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Our success is evident. The parents we serve show improvements in attitudes about life and their motivation to change, improvements in their parenting skills and creating a healthy home environment for their children, advancements in their education and workforce training, advancements in setting a career path, and obtaining employment, and when they complete the FSP they have a safe and affordable home to transition to.

We ask that. . .you know that the staff over the last years has taken furlough days to reduce the overhead of the agency without impacting the services they offer, and we work very hard to diversify our funding pic..., funding picture with an aggressive resource development program to leverage your dollars. For those of you who have not yet visited the Maui Farm we invite each and every one of you up to experience the Maui Farm and the effect that your dollars have on what we do.

Secondly, I'm here as the Marketing Director Pacific Biodiesel and in support of MEDB. MEDB as you know provide invaluable services to both new and established business. They have supported Pacific Biodiesel in numerous ways, helping us to grow our business and provide increased job opportunities here on Maui. They foster connections and disburse information for us about our community-based biodiesel model allowing us to extend our reach in the renewable energy community. The qualified staff at MEDB has assisted Pacific Biodiesel on many occasions, helping us reviewing grant proposal prior to submission to make sure that we're all in line. They also provide a great service with the schedule of social networking classes for businesses, from Facebook and Twitter to Blogging and LinkedIn. The seminars have helped Pacific Biodiesel navigate the new media markets. And then there's the Malcolm Center which provides state of the art meeting facility ideal for businesses like ours. With our headquarters here in Kahului and operations on Oahu and the Big Island we don't have adequate space on Maui to gather for a company-wide meeting. The Malcolm Center is an ideal facility for such a gathering and it's high on our list for our next annual session.

MR. GEERS: Three minutes

MS. MATHIAS: On behalf of Pacific Biodiesel, I ask continued support of MEDB and their programs for the businesses of Maui.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

MS. MATHIAS: Thank you.

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

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Jeremy McNulty [*sic*].

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MR. MCANULTY: I don't envy you guys. A lot, a lot of decisions to make and a lot of powerful. . .and wonderful Mayor. . . (*inaudible*). . .tonight.

I work for Best Buddies as the Program Manager here in the State of Hawaii. And when I first started working for Best Buddies I have to say. . .I mean I read up best as I could on the organization but it was new job so I still had a lot of education to take on myself. And one of the first things our State Director Mike McCormick did for me was show me a video of a woman by the name of Karen Gaffney speak at an event. Karen Gaffney is a champion swimmer who is a diagnosis of Down Syndrome. She's accomplished a lot. She's done champion swims across Lake Tahoe, across Alcatraz, and we hope to have her here in Hawaii to do a swim for an event for us soon. And then the speech she gives, this was really the moment where I really got Best Buddies. It's just that she goes through naming off all the different accomplishments, swimming she had done, and then she starts and she says aw, that was easy. What was hard was going through high school and not having a single friend. And it made me stop and think about my friendships and what a blessings they've been for me in my entire life, and that it made me feel sad that somebody had to go through that, and then it made me feel angry that someone has to go through that. And then it made me proud to be a champion of good concept of equal opportunity for friendships and a lot of different forms of equal opportunity can create surprisingly controversial discourse, but I challenge anyone to show me the controversy in providing equal opportunity to friendships and to have a buddy.

On a lighter note I can. . .an example very recently the. . .it was a really subtle way of showing me how the program works was I was taking kids out on an outing to Maui Golf and Sports Park to do putt putt and drive bumper boats or whatever. And I was hanging out outside the arena where they do the bumper boats just watching and snapping some pictures to put on our website and one of the kids, who's from our Special Ed department, drove by and he got me right in the middle of my pants with the water can and I just like kinda froze and I'm holding my camera, and he and couple other kids kinda looked at me shocked. . .he has just squirted you know the chaperon or whatever with the water can. And then the kid that shot me just smiled and said "you look like you tinkled your pants." And then all of a sudden all the other kids from the general education just died laughing. They were genuinely laughing with him because it was funny. . .(*laughed*). . .immediately I was like you're right, man. And this is really funny. And I can just see the confidence in him boost up so much in that very moment 'cause they. . .were probably dealing with a handful of times that he had been given the opportunity to connect with the sense of humor to these other kids and it was there.

MR. GEERS: Three minutes.

MR. MCANULTY: It was really amazing and I thank you for your time. And for everyone . . .(*inaudible*). . . and their causes. Have a great evening.

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

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

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Seeing none, thank you. Jamie Yap.

MR. YAP: Good evening, County Council. It's not fun to be sitting where you're sitting and figuring out how to make all this work with budget cuts as we face budget cuts like I do. I'm Jamie Yap, son of James Yap, who's here to speak in behalf of Hospice who served my Dad in a time when we experienced his death at home in May 2000... May 2008-2010. If there are angles that live it's Hospice that organization. We were faced when he was sick and with Alzheimer's in the hospital and they told us you have to take him home now because we can't help him anymore. If there's anything I can say that'll make an impact as a family member in support of Hospice, is having that feeling of taking your family member home knowing they're gonna die at home and there's no other facility. Hospice is asking your help in supporting, providing a 12-bed facility that will help families deal with death in a different situation. We like to have good memories of our family members when we go to their house, but having your family member die at home, will be the lasting impression as you'll be faced with calling the ambulance or mortuary to come and pick up your deceased member of your family, and supporting that person as they take your family member out of your house. It's a different kind of feeling. And I was fortunate enough to have my Dad with Alzheimer's, as you heard earlier there are other situations that other family members who deal with. . .different situations. It's unbelievable feeling and thank God for Hospice being able to support our family as we were going through all of this and we got educated so hopefully you'll consider to the budget cuts someway to figure out how to put together a 12-bed facility. If not, oh, well, I know what you're faced with. So thank you for the time.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Jamie. You know how hard State's budget can get, right?

MR. YAP: . . .*(chuckled)*. . .yeah.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Same thing with County.

MR. YAP: I know. And so as you guys faced with this decision to make about our future on this County, I would hope that you guys will take, consider the people who are aging in our community as they get older and how we're gonna support them through this time of their life when they're going to pass. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Just a plug for Maui Waena, Waena. Jamie is the Principal there. And the Spelling Bee champion came from that school.

MR. YAP: Thank you.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Anne Carter.

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MS. CARTER: Hi, I'm Anne Carter. I'm here on behalf of Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. I serve as the Board President, and I'm not gonna say too much 'cause public speaking is not my strength. But I just. . .the resource that the garden is as a field site to study about our native Hawaiian plants not only the ones that are used culturally but also our endemic species is, is, it's amazing in that seven little acres that there's so much there, and that the uses that. . .we have Kamehameha Schools was here just last week. We had another school two days ago. The, the Noah Lincoln from Stanford University is doing his PhD on the nitrogen fixing properties of sugar cane--these are just the types of the things that the field site at Maui Nui Botanical Gardens right in the middle of Kahului provides for the County. And please if you can continue to give us our funding we would really appreciate it, and we working on diversifying our funding resources. Thank you for your time.

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

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Yeah.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Um. . .excuse me. Member Cochran.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Thanks. Hey, I was just curious if our Parks, County Parks Department has ever wanted to work in conjunction with you folks planting natives perhaps in our parks and areas. . .any sort of talk about that?

MS. CARTER: We are a partnered with the Park 'cause we are on Park land and we have worked in certain areas. We're actually working on a project not with the Park right, but up with Wailuku Town Association to do some planters along Market Street, but yes, that's something that we can think about.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Good. Wonderful. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Next testifier is Gael Ross Ito.

MS. ITO: Good evening, Council. I'm Gael Ross Ito, and I'm a parent of a student at Maui High School. . . (*cleared throat*). . .excuse me. I'm here in support of Project Graduation and basically what we want to do is thank you. . . (*cleared throat*). . .thank you very much for your support over the years. We believe in Project Graduation because it keeps the kids off the street as Maria Keau said earlier following their graduation ceremonies. It also protects them from people who may be celebrating in their own way who could harm the kids if they're on the streets, and also it gives the kids a chance to celebrate their last night of high school with their peers. And one of the beautiful things about this Project Graduation and the funding that we gotten throughout our community is the fact that not everybody can afford to have a party for their kids when they graduate from high school. And in this way a student who has severe financial restraints can attend Project Grad free and so I just ask your continued support for Project Graduation and. . .we're very grateful for the kids in our community who show such promise. The local kids have a really wonderful opportunity now and I've heard it this evening throughout many testimonies.

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But I do thank you and I hope that you'll consider continuing the funding for this project as we also continue to find our funding through the community. Thank you very much.

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

MS. ITO: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Kala Baybayan.

MS. BAYBAYAN: Good evening, Maui County Council. Thank you for allowing me to speak tonight. First of all, I wanna thank all you guys for being here and listening to all of us because we have. . .everyone has an equally very important cause to represent. And also to applaud the great strings that you go through to representing us. Actually Councilmember Cochran I actually saw you out one day in Lahaina Harbor looking at the coral reef and I was just very. . .I felt very proud too you know that we got Council Members that really take pride in where they live representing us.

But I'm here today representing regarding the line item the MAA line item with the Maui. . . sorry. . .Maui Aloha Aina and I just asking that you continue their budget that you have in the past for \$22,000. They've contributed a lot towards our, you know, community in educating us through, you know, their soil practices. I know that at the end of this month they've got a IMO workshop and I've witnessed firsthand the IMO is a indigenous microorganisms, but basically it's using things from your environment and putting it stuff back in the soil to make it more fertile. And I've witnessed a farm that was just. . .nonfunctional and then they started employing natural farming practices and IMO organisms and all of a sudden they're producing apples and huge bell peppers. So in this time where we're promoting sustainability for our island 'cause we realize that it's a finite resource and not something that's gonna continue producing for us, this is definitely something that is worthwhile for all of us to invest in. And to me it's such a small amount but then give such a big return offering these, you know, to community, you know, people in our community, people like me and for future generations to keep ensuring that we're gonna have a healthy environment. . .providing a healthy welfare for the people of Maui County and of Hawaii for all of us. Mahalo. Thank you again.

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

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Veronika Sandor.

MS. SANDOR: Aloha, Maui Council. My name is Veronika Sandor and I'm the CEO of a high-tech company domiciled here in Hawaii called MODDHA Interactive Inc., and also the Chairman of a humanitarian foundation called MODDHA International Foundation. And I'm here today to speak on behalf of the Maui Economic Development Board who has just been so helpful to us. We have a very diversified patent portfolio that has the ability to really transform this planet and

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help to save lives, and to create a lot of business here in Maui, but we didn't have the right partners, we didn't have the right resources to be able to keep all of our business here. And we went and met with the MEDB and they were just so instrumental in assessing what we have, what we needed, and putting us together with those resources so that we could start hiring all the brilliant minds that are here that are looking for work and not go out to the mainland. . .*(chuckled)*. . .to start recreating wheels that are already here that we would not have known about if it wasn't for MEDB. So I just wanted to come here and share with you that they're a great blessing to our community and I am very grateful for the service that they provided us. And I hope that they can do that for others in the future and that their service continues. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you. Jeff. . .I'm sorry. . .Michael Porrazzo.

MR. PORRAZZO: Yes. Council Members thank you very much. My name is Michael Porrazzo. I'm the senior scientist, quantum physicist, and I am the CIO of the MODDHA International Humanitarian Foundation. The Chairman's right here Veronika. I'm also the Vice-President of Maui of MODDHA Interactive Cooperation. And I'm one of the primary inventors and patent holders of the technology she was talking about. It represents about a multibillion dollar technology platform. And I wanna tell you that it's kind of easy for us to say I wanna come to Maui and kinda hangout, but to move a business of the nature that we are in the economic presence that our technology represents for the future of all electronics. To just give you an idea, this little multifunctional transducer changes everything about electronics and our planet. Everything in your cellphones are all based upon single point transducers. What we have is a quantum transducer that is a microphone, antenna, a speaker, a sensor, an energ..., a wireless energy transfer device and also impacts photovoltaic systems for increasing the transfer of solar and photovoltaic energy here. So I'm also the founder of Agrisonics and we heard a lot about agricultural technologies here on Maui, and in that aspect we represent the savings of more than 70 percent of the water that can be necessarily used to. . .for crops and for planting. We represent 500 percent increase in yield by using our simple technologies and our teachings. So I was a little skeptical that we were gonna be able to find the resources here on Maui to support the advance technologies that we represent. And having dealt with the United States government with some more technologies for wireless communications, I said well, you know, we have a perfect platform here to show how our wireless internet and emergency first responders can work here, but is the State gonna be ready to support this technology? And I must tell you that Maui Economic Development Board went out of their way to show us that the resources of the youth—and I'm not talking from the youngest children and the enthusiasm to the corporations that are here from HNU Photonics to Trex and to the other universities and even high schools that the amount of business and opportunity existed here to support our advance. . .the most advanced technologies that we have here. And we're so excited to be able to located here, to actually begin to process of moving. I come from Boca Raton, Florida, and it was. . .had a hard move to come here to Florida. . .I mean come from Florida to here to Maui, but to see the support that we have here for the types of technologies was really fantastic, and it's really because of the Maui Economic Development Board. So, please, we can't emphasize enough. We came here as

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a corporation because of the high-tech credits that you offered that was incredibly compelling reason for our location. We hope that Council Members will kind of reconsider the fact of reenergizing those tax credits this coming fiscal years. I understand that companies like ourselves were little under the radar, but when you get to hear about us and everything electronic that we impact, the reason we came here are because some of this technology credits. And because of those technology credits, you've seeded some amazing business opportunities and co-operations here that we can get to take advantage of. And we want to hire the local people. We want to do the business for the local people that's what we're about. We're about sustainability and proving sustainability is really important where we have our community and this is where I live now. It's really important--

MR. GEERS: Three minutes.

MR. PORRAZZO: --so thank you very much. I'll answer any questions.

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

MR. PORRAZZO: Thank you very much.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: The last person signed up for public testimony is Jeff Reiss. If anyone wanna provide testimony if you could sign up with Michele. She's right in the corner there. So Jeff.

MR. REISS: Aloha, Council Members. My name is Jeff Reiss. I've been on Maui going on 30 years now and in 2000 we established a high-tech company Peletex. We've filed for and received four US patents and we have additional international patents. We're here to develop options and high technology opportunities for employment here on Maui as well as provide technology that would benefit the planet. Recently we entered into a partnership with an Australian company that built the largest carbon capture facility on a coal fired power plant anywhere in the world. They're a partner in our company and we're in the process of finalizing negotiations with European utility that has an interest in our technology. The point is that as some of these others have mentioned, intellectual property patents are exactly the right kind of business that you can do here on Maui because there's no transportation cost. It's a challenge. Lots and lots of challenges. But I'm here to speak for Maui Economic Development Board because they got us over, over the hump. A number of years ago we were in danger of let's say losing, losing it all, but because of Maui Economic Development Board they pointed us to funding opportunity that we were successful in obtaining. It was over half a million dollars over two-year period. The Maui Economic Development Board has been a great support to us. You heard some great testimony here, especially the Women in Technology program and some of the things they're doing for the youth is exciting stuff and I just wanted to speak on their behalf.

And I had one other kind of unusual idea to that I don't think you heard this one so I'll save it for last. But I've noticed a lot of shopping carts, wagons all over the place and it's a form of litter. At one time I would just load those, those wagons in my truck and take it back to Longs or Ross'

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or wherever it is, and I thought wouldn't it be neat if the Council got together with, with the Chamber of Commerce and arrange for some kind of a program to round up those shopping carts and take 'em back to the businesses to save money and eliminate some, some eyesores. Just an idea for your consideration. . .*(chuckled)*. . . Thank you very much.

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

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Oh, Member Cochran.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Just curious where are you seeing all these shopping carts.

MR. REISS: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: No, where?

MR. REISS: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Any particular town?

MR. REISS: I live in Wailuku. We work in Kahului across from. . .the Salvation Army we saw a stack of 'em about six of 'em. Drive around by the library, the old school street--I mean you could see 'em all over the place and there's more and more like just in the last few years. It's an eyesore. It doesn't reflect well on Maui and like I said I use to just aw. . .I'll pick this up and take it back and drop it off but it's too much. But I think it'd be a great program for Chamber of Commerce. . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Ladies and gentlemen Jeff was the last person to testify. If there's anyone out in the audience that wanna testify this time? Seeing none **rushing** to the mike. . .

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: I guess everybody had spoken. . .*(chuckled)*. . .I just wanna say thank you very much for being here tonight at Kahului Community Center providing your testimony on Mayor Alan Arakawa's Fiscal Year 2012 Budget. So again thank you very much. We appreciate your attendance here. So the Budget and Finance Committee meeting at Kahului Community Center is now adjourned . . .*(gavel)*. . .

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



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

**ADJOURN:** 9:01 p.m.

APPROVED:

  
JOSEPH PONTANILLA, Chair  
Budget and Finance Committee

bf:min:110418-WailukuKahului

Transcribed by: Yvette Bouthillier