

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

April 29, 2011

Council Chamber, 8th Floor

CONVENE: 9:02 a.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Joseph Pontanilla, Chair
Councilmember G. Riki Hokama, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Gladys C. Baisa, Member (In 9:06 a.m.)
Councilmember Robert Carroll, Member
Councilmember Elle Cochran, Member
Councilmember Donald G. Couch, Jr., Member
Councilmember Michael P. Victorino, Member
Councilmember Mike White, Member (In 9:02 a.m.)

EXCUSED: Councilmember Danny A. Mateo, Member

STAFF: Scott Kaneshina, Legislative Analyst
Michele Yoshimura, Legislative Analyst
Camille Sakamoto, Committee Secretary

ADMIN.: Sananda K. Baz, Budget Director, Office of the Mayor
Adrienne N. Heely, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel

OTHERS: Rob Parsons, Administrative Assistant, Office of the Mayor
Laura Kaakua, Native Lands Field Representative, The Trust for Public Land
Daphne Sing
Kii Kahooahanohano, Member, Na Wahine a Kauhi a Kama
Venus Rosete-Hill, Board of Director, Neighborhood Place of Wailuku
Alesa Kneubuhl, Na Wahine a Kauhi a Kama
Marcial Pualani Kamaunu-Basbas, Operating Branch Chair – Vice President of Board of Directors, Mental Health America
Jlorra Pualani Savala

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . .(*gavel*). . .The Budget and Finance Committee meeting for April the 29th is now in session, time is 9:02. Good morning, everyone.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Good morning.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: At this time the Chair would like to introduce the Members that are present here this morning. We do have Member Carroll.

COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL: Good morning.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Good morning. Member Cochran.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Aloha.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Aloha. Member Couch.

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: Aloha and good morning.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Good morning. Member Hokama.

VICE-CHAIR HOKAMA: Chairman.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Good morning. Member Victorino.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Good morning and aloha, Chair.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Good morning. Excused at this time are Members Baisa, White; and Chairman Mateo. From Administration, we do have Corporation, from Corporation Counsel, Adrienne Heely--

MS. HEELY: Good morning.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Good morning. And our Budget Director, Mr. Sandy Baz.

MR. BAZ: Aloha.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Aloha. Supporting the Committee is Scott Kaneshina, Michele Yoshimura, as well as Camille Sakamoto. Members, this morning we do have people signed up for public testimony. But before we take public testimony, if everyone of us can turn our cell phone to the silent mode or turn it off, Chair would appreciate that. Joining us is Member White.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITE: Morning, Chair.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Morning.

ITEM NO. 1: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2012 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (C.C. No. 11-80, 11-100, and 11-101)

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: For those of you that are providing public testimony this morning, Chair will allow you three minutes to provide your testimony with one minute to conclude. When you come up to the lectern, if you can speak directly into the mic, state your name, organization that you represent, provide your testimony, and when you're done, if you can stay at the lectern for a few seconds, we may have questions for you. So at this time the Chair would like to call the first person to provide public testimony; he is Rob Parsons.

...BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY...

MR. PARSONS: . . . Good morning, Chair Pontanilla, Committee members. Happy aloha Friday to you all. Thank you for your hard, diligent work all week long. I'm here to share with you a opportunity that was unforeseen even a couple of months ago to us; and therefore, was not included in the major, the Mayor's budget proposal to you all. I've mentioned this to some of you this week. The Mayor has met with Trust for Public Land--whose representative, Laura Kaakua, is here this morning and can share greater details about this. But basically we're asking you to consider inserting \$475,000 that is available in our open space acquisition fund for the purpose of acquiring a very precious 64-acre parcel in Paukukalo, which is often known as River Mouth. It's Ka'ehu Bay. And you should have a sheet in front of you which has some background information. It says the property is one of the *last* undeveloped shoreline parcels of a once famous and *vast* network of wetlands and fishponds located between the mouths of Waiehu and Iao Streams. You probably, Members, are familiar with the recent history of this project. It was purchased some years ago by a hui of would-be developers; however, their plans to develop this were not well received with the community, due to the fact that this is a very culturally sensitive and environmentally sensitive area. So this is exactly the type of purchase that our open space acquisition funds were conceived to be used for. And this may seem like a last-minute proposal, but I think it's an appropriate one. Should you have questions about how this funding is coming together, I would ask you to direct those to Ms. Kaakua. And, you know, basically it's the same triumvirate of funders of County, State, and Federal that helped acquire the Waiehu Coastal Land Trust parcel--which is NOAA Coastal and Estuarine Funds, the State Legacy Land Funds, and our own open space acquisition funds. Budget Director is here. He can tell you just how much money is available in that funds. There's plenty for this and more, because I know there will be considerations for other. . .sensitive areas that we want to make sure are protected. I know of least one in East Maui and one in West Maui. So hopefully there's more than enough available funds to consider all of those things. And I just thank you for your consideration of this great opportunity. It does have support from the Mayor's Office. I think it would be a great opportunity to allow the cultural groups that are working with youth in that area to do some real land stewardship and to educate our young people with their hands on the land in this particular area. Thank you very much, Chair, Members.

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

COUNCILMEMBER WHITE: Thank you, Chair. I agree. I think this is a great idea. The question is. . .it shows that we're ranked 18 out of 42 for NOAA funds, and we were ranked No. 1 in 2009

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for the State funds. What is the, what do you see as the likelihood of those two sources coming through?

MR. PARSONS: Thanks for the question. I do not know. I would hope you would ask that to the next testifier who I, hopefully, . . . *(laughter)*. . . is nodding that she may give you a better idea of the answer for that. Good question. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITE: Okay, well, and. . . thank you for bringing this to our attention.

MR. PARSONS: You're welcome.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. And, Mr. White, what we could do to protect the County's share is put in a proviso that. . . once we receive or once the organization receive the NOAA and the State Legacy funding, then we'll release our portion of the funding. Mr. Victorino?

COUNCILMEMBER WHITE: Yeah, I think, the reason I asked the question is because I. . . as we see Federal funds and State funds becoming harder and harder to get, I think when we have, when we're, when we have opportunities like this we may have to step up to the plate a little bit more. And I know that's really hard to feel comfortable with because the State has its level of responsibilities, the Feds have theirs. But I think the reality is we have to take on some home rule perspective and maybe step up to the plate more in cases like this than we have in the past. So I just, I appreciate you bringing this forward to me, Rob. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Mr. Victorino?

COUNCILMEMBER WHITE: Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Thank you. And as the representative from that area, I keenly aware of what this is all about, and they have talked to me many times about this purchase, and I agree with Mr. White, he took the words right out of my mouth. We're going to look at buying this even if we have to buy it ourselves, and I would encourage our Members to look at that, because this is the last open space between the two communities and this is something that needs to be preserved. This wetland is culturally sensitive, but also has a lot of archeological sites that have not been developed yet, and it's been told to me by many of the elders that this is something that we *need* badly to keep. So, I agree that this is something we need to look at very closely and do it now, and it's not something that opportunities will come again in the future. So thank you, Rob, for bringing it and I will work hard to make sure --

MR. PARSONS: Yeah, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: --as much as possible to make this come to fruition.

MR. PARSONS: Thank you for your comments and for your willingness to introduce this.

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COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Thank you.

MR. PARSONS: Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: Thank you. Mr. Parsons, thank you for bringing this up, as I echo the sentiments of the rest of the Members. Who would be taking care of this? Is this going to go to the Hawaii Coastal Land Trust, or...?

MR. PARSONS: No, no, no, it would be a partnership with DHHL and Neighborhood Place of Wailuku. I believe one of the representatives from that organization just walked in and you'll probably have a chance to speak with her. Yeah, and they've already been doing work in this area. It's a natural fit. It's, we're encouraged.

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: Okay, thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay? Any more questions, Members?

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Mr. White?

COUNCILMEMBER WHITE: Who is the current owner?

MR. PARSONS: The current owner is the bank, it's been foreclosed on, it's likely to go to public auction soon. So there is a little bit of urgency about solidifying the, the, the three fiscal partners here with Trust for Public Land being the overseer of putting it together.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITE: If the, if it's the, if it's bank owned, are there, does it have any entitlements in place for any kind of development?

MR. PARSONS: You're asking good questions today. I will defer to Laura when she speaks with you.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITE: Okay.

MR. PARSONS: All right?

COUNCILMEMBER WHITE: Thank you, Chair.

MR. PARSONS: Okay.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Any more questions for Mr. Parsons?

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MR. PARSONS: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. The next testifier is Laura Kaakua. Is this the lady that we ask all the questions? ...*(laughing)*...

MS. KAAKUA: Yes, I can answer any questions that you have. Thank you all for having me here and working so hard on this budget process. And thanks especially to Councilmember Victorino for his continued support of the protection of the Paukukalo coastal wetlands. Just kind of an overview of this project--the Trust for Public Land is a national non-profit organization and, that's been doing conservation work in Hawaii since 1979. And we were contacted, as we usually are, by the community, especially the Paukukalo Hawaiian Homestead community and surrounding communities, to try to help the community to protect this special place. And we realized that the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, because it is right across the street from Paukukalo--Hawaiian Homes and Waiehu Ko Hawaiian Homesteads are very nearby--that the Department of Hawaiian Homes should at least be a partner. So when we approached the Department of Hawaiian Homes, they actually said that they were looking to have a broader view of what constitutes a community. And before, DHHL had been focused on simply the building of homes, getting native Hawaiian families in homes. And what they wanted to do is look at the communities that they have already built and try to really protect the natural and cultural resources that surround those homes so that it, it constitutes a really holistic idea of a community. And so this project will be kind of the model project for Department of Hawaiian Homes as they move forward in trying to build these well-rounded, sustainable communities. And so department of. . .DHHL would actually be the titleholder. What DHHL *wants* to do is partner with many community groups that could help DHHL steward the property, provide information about what resources are there. And so one of those community groups is the Neighborhood Place of Wailuku, and they've been doing land stewardship and family strengthening work on the property for some years now. Other community groups that use the property regularly are women's cultural group, which you'll hear representatives speak about in a minute or two; and also Kauahea, Incorporated, which is Hokulani Holt-Padilla's non-profit entity, and they have very strong ancestral ties to the area and would also like to help DHHL take care of the property. And so when we were contacted, we wanted to, we realized that because there are so many cultural and natural resources on the property that this would be a very good application for the Federal NOAA Coastal Estuarine Land Conservation Program as well as both the State Legacy Land Conservation Fund and this Maui County Open Space Fund. We did apply for State funding and for NOAA funding. The way that it worked out in the NOAA breakdown is that the President's, the money allocated in the President's budget was just a couple million dollars short and funded, I think, up to project 16 on that list and didn't quite make it down to number 18, which is where our project was ranked. We did get to meet with the reviewer of our NOAA application, and she really encouraged us to reapply again and gave us some pointers to increase the ranking for our next application. So, we are. . .I would say very confident in our NOAA application for this *upcoming* year, and that application will be submitted on Tuesday of next week. And with the State Legacy Land Fund, that funding may actually be cut--just so you are all aware--not completely but decreased. A lesser percentage of the State Conveyance Tax will go into that fund; however, we have checked with the Department

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of Land and Natural Resources and they do think that there will be enough to cover not only this project but other projects in the upcoming year. And the Legacy Land Commission is very excited about this project and also encouraged us to reapply in this upcoming year. And that application will be due at the end of this summer. So I can answer any questions, hopefully . . .(laughter). . . that you have.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay. Mr. Hokama?

VICE-CHAIR HOKAMA: So with the proposal that you shared with us today--which is, you know, half NOAA, about one-fourth State, and one-fourth County--at this point in time, if you do receive the County's funds, the only name on the title of the property being requested, the 64 acres is only Hawaiian Homes?

MS. KAAKUA: Yes. But I believe, and please correct me if I am wrong, that Maui County will hold an easement on that property as it has done. . .or at least has the capacity to hold--

VICE-CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, yeah, you gotta understand yeah for us, you know, our fund is funded from real property taxes, yeah--

MS. KAAKUA: Right, right.

VICE-CHAIR HOKAMA: --from the general community.

MS. KAAKUA: Right.

VICE-CHAIR HOKAMA: So for us to give money so that Hawaiian Homes can just control this acreage from General Fund monies, you know, for me, is a difficult thing--unless the County has partial title to the property, too.

MS. KAAKUA: Okay. You know. . .I don't think that DHHL. . .I think that would be a conversation we would have to have with DHHL *later*. And what they have said is that they are open to different structures.

VICE-CHAIR HOKAMA: Great, great.

MS. KAAKUA: What they would like...really they're seeing it as kind of a responsibility that they are taking on to benefit not only the Homesteaders but the broader Maui community. So I think that they would be open to such a thing. One benefit of having title with DHHL is that they would be responsible for all management costs, and so those costs wouldn't be placed on the County, because there is some restoration work that needs to be done. And so that would, you know, again be an internal discussion with the County and with DHHL.

VICE-CHAIR HOKAMA: I'm glad you said that because on Lanai, Hawaiian Homes said they don't have money for, for their property there --

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MS. KAAKUA: Right.

VICE-CHAIR HOKAMA: --for certain things.

MS. KAAKUA: Right.

VICE-CHAIR HOKAMA: I am happy they told you that for this property, 'cause I'm gonna tell them the same thing--that they better take care their Lanai property.

MS. KAAKUA: ...*(Laughing)*... Right, right, that was when we first, you know, had the conversation with DHHL, one of the things that we did say is, you know, DHHL will not be contributing to the acquisition. So that's why they're not in that list of three there. But we did say one of the, the different burdens you'll be taking on with the property is the management cost and, you know, the, for such a large property, those costs could be large. So they're well aware ...*(laughter)*... of that and that's why *this* property is really the, a new kind of groundbreaking project for DHHL in that regard.

VICE-CHAIR HOKAMA: I would just ask if this keeps moving forward if you would be able to share with us a little bit more specific details that, that, that's being able to share down the road. That would be better.

MS. KAAKUA: Of course, of course.

VICE-CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you very much, Chair. And thank you very much for being here. This certainly is beautiful and merits a lot of, you know, serious consideration, because we understand what it is worth --

MS. KAAKUA: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: --to our community. So much has disappeared and we kinda, can, wanna keep some of it. And if we can afford to do so, why not?

MS. KAAKUA: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: My concern is pretty similar to Member Hokama's, and that is about the long-term plan --

MS. KAAKUA: Right.

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COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: --for management, operation, control, and the County's interest. I would be supportive if this were going to a Land Trust.

MS. KAAKUA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: I would also want the County to have part ownership or ownership of it.

Ms. KAAKUA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: So we'll have to follow along that and see what happens.

MS. KAAKUA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you.

MS. KAAKUA: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Ms. Cochran?

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Laura, for being here. Just curious--when originally were you folks approached by the community?

MS. KAAKUA: I think it--

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: To get this rolling and...

MS. KAAKUA: Yeah, it was about four years ago already. So. . .2007, at the end, maybe the end of 2007.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: And still no real definite monies coming from this NOAA and the legacy, State Legacy Trust Funds?

MS. KAAKUA: Well, the. . .I guess in the world of conservation transactions, the State money was ready to go at one point, but because of the different funding schedules of the Federal funds, as well as the County funds, we're unable to really tap into that State money. And the State money--once you're awarded funds, that money lasts for, it *can* last for up to two years. And so the timing of it. . .just missed the mark by about six months. And so really now . . .(laughter). . . moving forward, you know, we think this is the year to actually make it, make all three funding sources happen. We really hope so.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: And exactly who's Kauahea, Incorporated?

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MS. KAAKUA: Kauahea, Incorporated is a non-profit that...it's President is Kumu Hula Hokulani Holt-Padilla. And she had wanted to be here today, but is at Merrie Monarch right now, probably having a ...*(laughter)*... wonderful time over there. And so...I bring up Kauahea just as an example of one of the many community partners that really want to help in the stewardship, in the...in all of the restoration that needs to happen there.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Okay. Thank you.

MS. KAAKUA: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Thank you, Chair.

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

MS. KAAKUA: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: The next testifier is Daphne Sing.

MS. SING: ... Aloha. My name is Daphne Sing and when I signed in to testify I had to kind of think, okay, who am I representing? And so I said myself. But I'm--okay, calm down--I'm representing my `ohana which is the Lum `ohana, and I also represent Kauahea, Inc., and I am the Secretary for that organization. When A&B first put this land up for sale, Hoku wanted them to give her a portion of the land to develop a cultural center, and that fell through. So subsequently she purchased land mauka and has set up a cultural center there. And she would be more than happy to be able to do a counterpart or an ocean cultural center on Kauahea. I asked them to give me this map because we live at the end of that property. Our family has lived there forever and so I was raised along that beach. And I'm just really glad that we are moving in the direction where it's not going to be developed, that it will remain for, you know, the way it is or for cultural purposes. My mother is 93 years old and she wrote a song about that place that we lived in, and in her song she talked about things that we did, like gathering stones on the beach for hula, using the hau as a toy to make a whip, using the koali or the morning glory for jump rope. You know, if it's developed, this kind of experience will not be available for future generations, and so I'm just glad to be here to see the direction that the sale of this land is going in a more positive way. And so that is my purpose for being here today.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you again for being here. Next testifier is Kii Kahooohanohano.

MS. KAHOOHANOHANO: ... Aloha folks, aloha kakou. I'm signed up as representing Na Wahine a Kauhi a Kama, as well as Wahine Ho'opa'a, also an extension of Neighborhood Place of Wailuku.

... For the past four years ...sorry.

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. . . E kala mai. . .our women's groups, which are native Hawaiian based women's groups remembering who we are as Hawaiian women coming together, remembering things that have almost been lost--Ka'ehu, this area has been our meeting place. We have had--I'm sure Venus will talk to you a little bit more about Wahine Ho'opa'a which was the strengthening group for women. And Na Wahine a Kauhi a Kama was established by our kupuna who have now passed, Thelma Kahaialii. Her niece, who is not able to be here today, is Donora Kahaialii, and she is our poo of our group. They, we have been gathering for almost 20 years, from the start. And Ka'ehu has called us to support this place to be there to gather as women. And all of our `ohana, extended `ohana as well, come together for multiple functions and gatherings that we, we have been holding there. It's a very crucial place and it would be so sad, beyond sad to know that we were unable to continue as we have *just*, after four years, really come together very strong and are really moving forward in the community, having various members come forward to join our groups and remember who they are, remember our cultural traditions. We have everything from dyeing materials with native dyes. We do lauhala weaving. My husband is Pohaku Kahooohanoho. Any of you know him? He does regular classes free to the community in this area, and he is able to do that because the place is provided to us also at no charge. So we have been tapping into the communities of Punana Leo O Maui which is our only Hawaiian immersion preschool. The makua throughout the year have been gathering there at Ka'ehu, this entire year to prepare moena or small sitting mats for their keiki which is something that is not happening anywhere. So these are very special gatherings that are being held here. My husband, actually he is also at Merrie Monarch now and is unable to be here or he would be here to testify as well. He has family ties to this aina. He's been going there since he was a young child with his Papa who is also now passed and these are their old fishing grounds. His Uncle Faustino has been there forever. He's still currently there and definitely in opposition to development in this area.

. . . I cannot explain in words to you how imperative this place is for our spiritual and cultural growth and for future generations to come. When we gather as Na Wahine, as women, our keiki are with us. And so things that I talk about--and I'm just scratching the surface of what we actually accomplish there--is just a way of life for our keiki. Yeah, they know nothing different because we have been so blessed to have this place to come to. We go hi'uwai in those waters before the sun rises--things that are very, very important. One of the reasons that we go there is because it's one of the last undeveloped areas. We're not gonna worry about tourists coming walking by.

MR. KANESHINA: Three minutes.

MS. KAHOOHANOHANO: Mahalo nui loa.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: *...(laughter)...*

CHAIR PONTANILLA: *...(laughing)...* Members, any questions for the testifier? *...(laughing)...*

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MS. KAHOOHANOHANO: Oh, sorry.*(laughing)*...

CHAIR PONTANILLA: ...*(laughing)*... Oh, you was just waiting for three minutes, right?
...*(laughing)*...

MS. KAHOOHANOHANO: Okay. ...*(laughing)*...

COUNCIL MEMBERS: ...*(laughter)*...

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Any questions for the testifier? Member Cochran?

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Thank you, Chair. Mahalo, Kii, for being here. You folks do wonderful work. I'm just curious how many, your Na Wahine group, how many people Na Wahine?

MS. KAHOOHANOHANO: There is in and out 40.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Oh, nice.

MS. KAHOOHANOHANO: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Wonderful.

MS. KAHOOHANOHANO: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: And the plans for the area for your group. . .and is there a--

MS. KAHOOHANOHANO: Well--

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: --definite idea of what you're looking for here?

MS. KAHOOHANOHANO: We just more than anything, regardless of what happens, we would like to still have access to hold space there. And with more community support and involvement, we often have, we have quarterly cleanups and we go malama the aina there, we go do beach cleanups as well. You know, and, and for the most part, we have between 20 and 40 people for those types of things--even though we put it out into the community. If we were able to tap into, you know, Hawaiian Homes and all these other folks that are now coming forward to hopefully work together, you know, we would hope that there is more involvement and things like that. At this point we've just been trying to malama the place ourselves and hold space there. And more than anything pray. . .honestly for this place, yeah. That's, that's the intention in us showing up at all. It's just to hold that space and bring that life and that aloha to that place.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Mahalo.

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MS. KAHOOHANOHANO: Mahalo nui.

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

MS. KAHOOHANOHANO: Mahalo.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: The next testifier this morning is Venus Rosete-Hill.

MS. ROSETE-HILL: Aloha mai kakou.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Aloha.

MS. ROSETE-HILL: Honorable Chair Pontanilla and Council members, good to be back talking to you guys. I just wanted to let you know that, actually we started going to this property over eight years ago. I remember the first time we walked on that property--it was Duke Sevilla and I, and it's kind of Duke Sevilla's backyard, stomping grounds when he was growing up. And we went there to really look at this area on how we can get young people to come and appreciate the aina over there. When we stepped onto that property, I know I can speak for myself, the *mana* over there was just so strong. When we started to hear that the, the owner Mr. Paul Wenner was actually look to develop that area, like all the hairs on the back of our neck stood up. We're like no way, this cannot happen. So we actually started, on our own, trying find out, research that aina, and find out what was it that made it so special. When you look back, this aina was actually Kahakili's stomping ground. This is where he actually trained his Aliis. The area that we are looking at right along the coast there is where fish ponds for the Alii--we actually still have terraces, we have the infrastructure of loko i`a, which is the fish ponds, also, the lo'i. So we, that area there was for Alii. It fed the Alii, the fish and the kalo. We also had the largest hau. It still has. In the State of Hawaii, that is the largest hau patch or grove, which is why that area over there is called moku hau, which is the land of the hau. Also we had some, the lauhala groove over there, I think we only have a few more, couple of 'em left that was a huge asset to our Hawaiian people. So that land right there is just, just invaluable, I mean it's just unbelievable. There's, there's. . .our Alii's bones, there's many. . .iwi over there. So we've been trying to malama the iwi that's been kinda pushed off to the side. So for the last seven years, I'd say, we been actually running programs for Neighborhood Place of Wailuku. We invited other community groups to be there, as you heard Kii speak. We did talk to Aunty Hoku who was very happy that we were there doing those types of programs. As Aunty Daphne talked about, she actually purchased some property up on mauka side. But we still are working with many of our young people there. Neighborhood Place of Wailuku did build our ropes course there. So *hundreds*, talking *hundreds* of people have come to that area. So it's not *just* for Hawaiian Homes. In fact, the reason why we *approached* Hawaiian Homes is because it needed to be --

MR. KANESHINA: Three minutes.

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MS. ROSETE-HILL: --some kind of a State entity. If the County wants to be a part of it, then awesome. I don't think like, like, like Laura said, I'm sure we can work it out as far as the ownership. We're looking more at *management* and how we can, not have to tap into the County as much, but how we can get more community people to get involved and start to put, you know, the money where their mouth is kind of thing. So that is why we opened up to them and we did approach Trust for Public Land, about four years ago, to help us with this, yeah. So I'm open for any questions, I do have some, you know, little bit, small kine history on the property and what we've been doing over there.

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

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: I think--

MS. ROSETE-HILL: No?

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: --sorry--

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Member Cochran?

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: --Venus, hi, aloha.

MS. ROSETE-HILL: 'Eh, howzit--

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Good to see you.

MS. ROSETE-HILL: --Elle. ...*(laughing)*...

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Good, I'm good. Possibly this question was floor, but I think Mr. White had, was asking in regards to entitlements from previously, because this portion was actually slated for luxury development of some kind at one time.

MS. ROSETE-HILL: Well--

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: So, I--

MS. ROSETE-HILL: Okay--

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: --if this question you can address or?

MS. ROSETE-HILL: Well, you know, it cannot be developed. I mean it's *wetlands*. *Majority* of the land over there is wetlands, so it's Federally protected. The other thing is the outskirts where they were looking at developing, it's flood area. So just getting, I mean for *us* to build the ropes course, we had to get like...archeological studies. We had, we had all these things to do, to get

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the SMA permit in, and when we were going through that process, we were told that there's really no way that they can develop down there. You could build like maybe couple houses, but they can't get their money back. We've had *many* developers. *I've* met with developers who have come down there to kinda inquire, when the property went up for sale by Mr. Wenner. And they all end up pulling out. There's just no way that they can develop or get their money. They can probably build a house for themselves [*sic*], but that's, that would be about it, and the County would not, the community wouldn't allow it. I mean they would have to change the zoning on that area, and I don't think it's ever going to happen. But a lot of the developers don't know this. So when it goes up for auction on June 12th, I believe, a lot of them who might be bidding maybe didn't do their due diligence and don't know that they can't develop that property. I'm not sure. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Thank you, Venus. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Mr. White?

COUNCILMEMBER WHITE: Thank you. Do you know, do you know the basis of how the price was reached?

MS. ROSETE-HILL: Well, it was, you know it was kinda what he owed on it. He did take a lien out on the property, which is why it's that amount. But he got it for a steal when he first bought it. I think he's asking for probably about the same that he actually purchased it for. . .

COUNCILMEMBER WHITE: Is it--

MS. ROSETE-HILL: . . . so that's kinda where that price came from.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITE: One of the other testifiers mentioned that it's now been foreclosed on and, and is owned by the bank.

MS. ROSETE-HILL: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITE: So, I, I tried to look up, but I can't get to the property tax records on my cell phone successfully. But--

MS. ROSETE-HILL: And I do believe that we had someone go down to do an assessment--right?--and a appraisal on the land. Do you know how much it came out to, the appraisal? Laura can come.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Members, if there is no objections, we'll have Laura come up again?

MS. ROSETE-HILL: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: No objections.

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COUNCILMEMBER WHITE: No objection.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

MS. KAAKUA: Thank you, yeah, just to, to clarify on the ownership. The property is currently undergoing foreclosure proceedings. The legal owner right now is still North Shore at Waiehu, LLC, but it is *very* likely that Capital One Bank will become the owner during a credit bid at the foreclosure sale which, as Venus mentions, is on, scheduled for June 12th, right now. And so we're working with Capital One Bank. . .the Trust for Public Land is working with Capital One Bank to, you know, begin those or further those discussions after the foreclosure auction.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITE: So is the 1.855 million the amount of the credit available for the bid?

MS. KAAKUA: The exact amount that is owed on the property is 1.733 million. That's the amount that is *owed*. This, this number that's on your fact sheet here, that's a number that's been thrown out in discussions with Capital One Bank. And so, you know, hopefully it will be even *less* than this 1.855 that we're requesting, but the 475 from the County ensures that we can at least get to that amount that we've been in discussions with Capital One Bank for.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITE: And what was the land, if it was purchased at a steal, what was that purchase price? Do we know that? Or maybe Mr. Couch can look it up from his computer?

MS. KAAKUA: Yeah, you know, I'm, I'm really sorry. I don't, I don't have the exact amount that it was purchased for by North Shore at Waiehu originally. I can, I can follow up with you all later and get it to you.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITE: No, it's alright I can find out when I get back to my office.

MS. KAAKUA: Yeah, we both, Venus is saying that she thinks it's about 1.3, but I don't know offhand.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITE: And have you spoken to Maui Coastal Land Trust or Nature Conservancy or DHHL about putting some money in, if the State money is not gonna come through at the level that is shown here?

MS. KAAKUA: Sure, you know, again we were hoping that the DHHL money could go at the end side for management. If--you know, we are confident that we will receive State Legacy Funds. If something were to happen there, we would definitely ask DHL, DHHL to contribute to the purchase price. The Trust for Public Land has worked and partnered with Maui Coastal Land Trust, which is now Hawaiian Islands Land Trust, on a number of deals, and they're a wonderful partner. In this case, because. . .you know, I'm, because we're looking to gain the fee. . .if we were going, that, that's why we haven't really. . .brought them into the deal as an official partner. If we were looking to have, hold a conservation easement over the property--which is something that, you know, might come down the road--at that time I think Hawaiian Islands Land Trust

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would be a great easement holder. And frankly I'm not sure whether they're interested in taking on such a huge responsibility because they do have the Waihee Preserve, which they're doing wonderful work at. And so this is 64-acres of land that is in need of some serious restoration.

MS. ROSETE-HILL: I think the whole thing, we did talk to them when they were Maui Coastal Land Trust and it was more the management thing. And even when we went before the State Land Commission, their whole thing, they did award us the 500,000, but then, you know, like Laura mentioned, the timing, you know, got, we didn't get the matching funds, so that kinda went away. But they did tell us that we could go back again, but if we came with a strong management plan. So part of pulling together all the different community organizations is just for that. Because I think it's hard for one agency or one entity to take on 64-acres, to manage that. So it's a combination of people coming in with their own interest and how they could, you know, chip in.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITE: And this is a sensitive question that some of the others might not ask, but I'm comfortable asking it. The . . .you're asking the County of Maui to put up money for something I believe is very, very important to preserve, but at the same time I believe Maui County is the only County where Hawaiian Home Lands is not, not asked to pay any taxes on the land values. I think I'm, I think that's correct.

. . . There's, that's one way that the native Hawaiian community--and I realize a lot of the native Hawaiians are paying a lot of taxes in a lot of other areas--but it might be just one small way to help in this measure. Any thoughts on that?

NOTE: Pause.

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

MS. KAAKUA: I . . .*(laughter)*. . . I definitely cannot speak on that point on behalf of DHHL. But . . .you know, again. . .we had talked having a continued discussion between the County and DHHL as this project moves along. So I think that would be something to bring up directly with DHHL. And we would be happy to organize those meetings so that they can come before this Council.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITE: Okay, thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Mr. Victorino?

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Thank you. And this property was originally bought in 2001, March 6, 2001 at \$1.3 million. It was quitclaimed again in 2005 for a \$1,000--you know, it's all in, all here. They owe one point seven, seven something million dollars yet on this property. So what I wanted to say is, first of all, the . . .aspect that. . .I committed to you guys to do this--whether it is 475 or one point--I can tell you this, if we were to purchase it outright, it would be owned by the County of Maui. It may be managed by somebody else. I will say that outright. If DHHL and the rest cannot come up with the funding and we *were* to come up with the funding,

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there would be nobody else. You know, and as we have in other areas, we may lend the Coastal Trust to manage lands and all that. But if we buy it out of the Open Fund, it belongs to the County of Maui, the people. And whether they're Hawaiian, Chinese, Portuguese, I don't care. It belongs to the people. So--

MS. ROSETE-HILL: Yes

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: --let me make that perfectly clear right here and now, yeah.

MS. ROSETE-HILL: Okay. And you know what, Council member, I don't think that's really been an issue for us as far as the community. I think it was mainly that we needed some kind of public entity to be the owner in order to tap into other funding sources. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: And Hoku has talked to me about it and a number of others have come through the years, and you have. And we just haven't been able to put it together 'cause the timing--

MS. ROSETE-HILL: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: -- has never been right. And this may be the right time.

MS. ROSETE-HILL: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: So I would hope the Council members look favorably upon us doing this--whether as a partner in this, which we need to be, or doing it outright. But the whole picture is to preserve what I call the "last open space in Waihee".

MS. ROSETE-HILL: Yes, it is.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: That's the last.

MS. ROSETE-HILL: It is.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: After that, there's nothing else.

MS. ROSETE-HILL: Yeah

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: So...but thank you guys for being here--

MS. ROSETE-HILL: Thank you

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: --to answer the questions--

MS. ROSETE-HILL: Thank you, Council members.

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COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO:--we appreciate it. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Hey, don't, don't run away.

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

MS. ROSETE-HILL: Oh, okay.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Ms. Baisa? . . .*(laughter)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you--

MS. ROSETE-HILL: . . .*(laughter)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you very much, Chair; and thank you, ladies, for being here this morning. Chair, I have a question for either your budget person or our Budget Director. How much money is in the Fund?

MR. BAZ: Thank you. Good morning, Mr. Chair, Council members. Ms. Baisa, there is. . .purposed as of June 30th 2010. . .seven point. . .oh, excuse me, I'm looking at the wrong one . . .*(laughter)*. . . Sorry about that.

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

MR. BAZ: Okay, June 30th, 2011--12,114,000. We're projecting about 210 million or so, you know, whatever the final number comes in for real property tax revenue, 1 percent of real property tax revenue, to be a balance of about 14 million. The Administration has proposed three projects in there--the Morris Point \$700,000; 1 million for Lipoa Point, and 4 million for the Central Maui Regional Park, which would be a total of 5.7. If you quickly reduce that, there is still about 9 million or so left in there.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: So if we could foresee 9 million dollars in the Fund, I'm kinda...you know, I'm kinda wrestling with why are we going after 475,000 and then have to deal with all the other players. Whereas, if we really want this, believe in it, then we own it, and we do with it what is best for the people of Maui who paid for it.

MS. ROSETE-HILL: That would be awesome. Sold. . .*(laughter)*... Sold.*(laughter)*...

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members any more questions?

MS. ROSETE-HILL: . . .*(laughter)*. . .

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . This is for your organization--the request that you making is for the Fiscal Year 2012 and the bid process is in June, which, you know, you won't have the money, should we approve this thing, for your bidding process. So I think we need to take this off-line so that we can work with the Budget Director in regards to how we can purchase this piece of property for the people of Maui County and provide the proper funding for it. Right now, we doing, you know, a little Committee work here, which is, you know, to me it's. . .it's a good thing because we have all the players that are involved in this particular purchase. But I think we need to look at the 2011 Budget in regards to the funding of this particular project. So. . .I just gonna leave it at that. So if you have any comments?

MS. ROSETE-HILL: Can I? Yeah, can I say something? If we have, you know we are still negotiating with the bank. So if we had any type of letter of commitment at the auction, I mean that could also be...just to let you know.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

MS. ROSETE-HILL: . . .*(laughter)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: We'll take it off-line because--

MS. ROSETE-HILL: Okay.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --I don't want to do Committee work at this time.

MS. ROSETE-HILL: ...*(laughing)*... Okay.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: . . .*(laughter)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay?

COUNCIL MEMBERS: . . .*(laughter)*. . .

MS. ROSETE-HILL: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: But we need to work it so that. . .and if we need to, you know, provide the monies through the 2011 Budget, then it should be a Committee meeting and probably, you know, having the approval to expend 2011 monies for this particular purchase. But. . .so. . .2012 is out of the question for you guys----

MS. ROSETE-HILL: Okay. Mahalo, Chair--

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Yeah.

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MS. ROSETE-HILL: And Laura Kaakua will be here all day --

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay. Fine, thank you.

MS. ROSETE-HILL: --if anyone wants to talk to her. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay, next testifier is Alesa Kneubuhl.

MS. KNEUBUHL: . . . Aloha, good morning, thank you for allowing us to be here. Aloha, Chair and everybody who's involved. . . .*(adjusts mic)*... Let's see here. I'm kinda tall. My name is Alesa Kneubuhl, I'm a native Hawaiian who was born and raised here on Maui and I've been a part of the Na Wahine a Kauhi a Kama. And just for me personally on a personal note, I feel kind of selfish saying this, but it's provided me with tremendous. . . tremendous personal growth between learning more about my culture and being able to support my `ohana at home and my children, I have two little boys. And being able to be and practice on this land here on Maui has just been, it's been such a special thing. It's an amazing place and I think I speak not only for the native Hawaiian community and the community at large, but having open spaces is. . . it's just, it's such a hugely important thing. And I feel like any support on your behalf. . . is, is huge because we don't want this to turn into a "once was and a cultural loss" that we look at in a museum or we hear about amongst the local people and we drive by this area and go, yeah, you know, it's turned into, you know, another high-end development and people aren't allowed to really go through that gate because, you know, it was just too late, people didn't come and step forward to show their interest of why this place was important. I have also been a member of the Hawaiian Canoe Club for the last 15 years under the coach Paul Luuwai. And he, he worked with Venus directly, doing the ropes course when they had it up at the Seabury area. And. . . at the time I was just a youth leader for the group, and we did the ropes course and it was absolutely incredible and empowering. And I wish for all of Maui County's youth who are in any kind of development programs to have access to a place like this because it was just, it was really an important thing. So, I'm gonna kinda fast forward to something that I've experienced recently, I went to New Zealand and my sister's husband's family is involved in supporting the Maori, their culture and their land. And these are some things that they had written to me in a letter and I'd just like to share those on behalf of native people. You know, they had mentioned to me, you know, we have to identify what the loss of this would be from a historical and a cultural perspective if the land were to go to a private developer, you know, and maintain a dignity and insistent that the loss of these places would be to the detriment of all the people of the world, not only people on Maui. Having our visitors being able to come to Maui and experience things from a cultural perspective, not only from what you would find at a luau. . . are really important. And being able to come down to a land like this and experience that, I feel is really important, and which I saw in New Zealand as well that the native people got to have the visitors come onto their lands and be able to educate them from a different perspective of just, you know, something that's coconut bras and, you know, raffia skirts. So. . . the Maori--and I believe that the Hawaiians feel the same way--they believe that the land is their identity to who they are. Their mountains are their tribal landmarks. Their rivers and waterways are their life force because without water --

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MR. KANESHINA: Three minutes.

MS. KNEUBUHL: --they cannot survive. Our people, our identity to our past, our present, and our future, everything living or not has a place and reason. Our wetlands, oceans, et cetera, were gifts from Tangaroa, Kanaloa, the god of the sea. The weather and climatic conditions come from Tawhirimatea. Tane is the god of the forest, and so on and so on. Everything that we believe in is infinite in our lands and our uniqueness are not given away cheaply. We believe that our lands are gifts from our Tupuna, our elders; and our Atua, our gods; and that we in our time on earth are the caretakers who are charged with the responsibility of taking care of these places. So with that I appreciate you just seeing our group and allowing us to be a voice for this piece of land here, and I feel like you guys all have a very good perspective on how to help support that. So again thank you for allowing me to be here today.

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

MS. KNEUBUHL: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: The next testifier. . .is Pualani Kamaunu-Basbas.

MS. KAMAUNU-BASBAS: . . . Aloha, Chair and Council members. I'm glad to be here today and. . .I'm here today, basically, to give you a hand of applause *...(rattling miniature plastic hands)...*

COUNCIL MEMBERS: *...(laughter)...*

MS. KAMAUNU-BASBAS: . . . and to say thank you. Applause number one, as you can see, as an Operating Board Chair and Board of Directors Vice President of Mental Health America, Maui County Branch, I'm here to express our appreciation and give you a hand of applause *...(rattling)...* to simply say thank you for your support. With our system of care collapsing around us, it is my regret to report from October 2010 to the present, April 2011, MHA has received reports of four suicides and one attempt on Maui; Molokai has had two suicides and one attempt; Oahu has had two suicides and two attempts all in the Kahuku area; Kauai has had three suicides. . .suicides reported. What is alarming for me is that they are all males from the ages of 14 to 45. And that age, 14, changed just recently. It was for the past few months 18 to 45, and now we have a report on a 14-year-old. Mental Health America advocacy network is a powerful voice for changes made up of thousands of individuals nationwide. A primary goal of Mental Health America is to educate the general public about the realities of mental health and mental illness. Mental Health America serves those that are going through a tough time to find treatment, find support groups, medication information, and the list goes on. Mental Health America, Maui County Branch, was established in 1972. It's been here for 39 years as a community-based network dedicated to keeping our local communities to achieve wellness by living mentally healthier lives. There is no health. . .without mental health. Applause number

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two, I want to personally give you a hand of applause ...*(rattling)*... and to say thank you for the Maui County Business Resource Center and the free business classes, mahalo to our County and our Council. And then a pause, applause ...*(rattling)*... number three, I want to give you a hand of applause ...*(rattling)*... to say thank you for your past support of Aging with Aloha Coalition. It is not a duplication of services since its inception has and is a positive vehicle for collaboration in the community which is most needed today. It is my hope that you'll continue to support Aging with Aloha Coalition. Again I give you a hand ...*(rattling)*... of applause, I really do and say thank you for your hard work, mahalo.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. That was clever.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Any questions for the testifier this morning?

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Thank you, Chair, just a comment.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Member Cochran?

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Hi, Aunty.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Pualani, can you come down? Please? Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Just a comment. On my way over, listening to HPR, hearing that we are number one in the nation for teenage suicides is really, really. . .you know, it was just astonishing to hear and very scary. So I'm glad Mental Health is out there to, to help, so thanks for that.

MS. KAMAUNU-BASBAS: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Aloha.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. The last testifier signed up for public testimony this morning is Jlorra Pualani Savala.

NOTE: Pause while Ms. Savala approached the podium.

MS. SAVALA: . . . Aloha.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Aloha.

MS. SAVALA: My name is Jlorra Pualani Savala and when I walked in the doors I was not going to testify. But as I stood here and I started to hear the testimony. . .and see the great works that a lot of the programs have helped me personally. I was a single mom for eight years with five

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children, and there was various. . .agencies that helped me--aside from Mental Health America, Women Helping Women, Neighborhood Place of Wailuku with the Ka'ehu property.

. . . If you would have looked at me maybe about eight years ago. . .you would have seen someone that was totally different. I did try to attempt suicide 'cause I thought my children were better off . . .

. . . than being . . .

. . . raised by a single mom. And the challenges that we faced was hard challenges.

. . . Today. . .I own my own business, I go to school fulltime. . .trying to get my law degree. So hopefully maybe in six, seven years I'll stand here as an attorney. But without the help of these agencies, which really comes down to the help of you folks. . .for the funding to be able to keep these agencies--and I know that with the budget cuts it's a hard decision . . .

. . . but these agencies--even MEO helped me to be able to have my child, at the age of three, attend their program. And today when I look at my children, I have, I have a grown son that's 21 years old, which graduated from Baldwin High School; I have two children attending Kamehameha Schools; and my youngest is now in the third grade. But MEO started. . .helping me when she was in preschool. But it really comes down to your folks' support. So thank you very much. . .for allowing me to be able to stand here and tell you folks this or share my story.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Chair?

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Mr. Victorino?

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

MS. SAVALA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Thank you for you sharing your story because the naysayers out there don't believe us when we say we help people. But you bring a face, a story, and a truthfulness that is sometimes really needed. So those people who complain, who criticize the amount of money that we put out for our non-profits for all the organizations that help keep our community as well as it is. . .you are the one that helps us. And I wish more would come and share that, because those naysayers then cannot speak anymore because you put a face, you put a real story behind of it. It's difficult sometimes. And during these crisis, during these budget times it has not been easy. But I'm glad you're here, I'm glad for all those that have testified, and I want the people that, that are out there, that are saying ah, we are spend too much money on non-profits to say uh-uh, there is the truth in it.

MS. SAVALA: Thanks.

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COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: And you also brought in another fact--that you helped yourself become a better person with your own business and becoming an attorney. And I admire that very, very much.

MS. SAVALA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: You were down but you didn't stay down.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: . . .*(laughter)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: You got right back up and you are a living treasure, in the sense of what you wanna be and where you wanna go with your family. And I thank you very much for sharing your stories with us.

MS. SAVALA: Thank you very much.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any more questions for the testifier at this time?

. . . Seeing none, thank you again for being here this morning.

MS. SAVALA: Thank you very much.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Members, Jlorra was the last person to sign up for public testimony. Is there anyone . . .*(laughter)*. . . out in the audience that *hasn't* provided testimony at this time that would *like* to provide public testimony? Please come forward.

. . . Seeing none coming forward, Members, if there is no objections, the Chair would like to close the public testimony.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay. Thank you.

. . .END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Members, as indicated yesterday, the Chair was going to take public testimony this morning, recess this meeting, so every one of us can formulate our budget, present it to the Staff this afternoon at 4 o'clock. So at this time, the Chair is going to call a recess and we'll reconvene at 4 o'clock this afternoon. This meeting is in recess. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 10:06 a.m.

RECONVENE: 4:05 p.m.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . .*(gavel)*. . .The Budget and Finance Committee meeting is now reconvened. Members, before the Chair asks you to provide Staff with your proposal, I got a call from Chairman Mateo, who is on Oahu right now in a conference committee regarding the TAT. The Senate is still holding fast on \$90 million cap and the House is \$101 million cap. So sometime tonight, you know, they'll compromise on a number. . .so you know it's between 90 and 101 million dollars.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: I guess we got some.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: ...*(laughing)*...

CHAIR PONTANILLA: So it was purposed by the Senate earlier, capping at 85 million. But now the scuttlebutt is 90, so, which is good.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: That's good.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: So, Members. . .you know, we'll collect your. . .proposal, and over the weekend myself, along with Staff, will be working on the budget for presentation on Monday. Part of the focus for this Chairman. . .this fiscal, the upcoming Fiscal 2012 Budget will be on human services, the homeless program, food program because of the economic condition that we face here in Maui County.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Yes.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: We need to take care our people, so lot of focus on, on that side of the house. Of course, lot of focus will be on infrastructure as well. And, you know, hopefully we can come out with a budget that we all can live with, you know, as Council Members as well as the Administration. The. . .for your information, in regards to the one group that came here and testified regarding the purchasing of 64 acres in. . .Waiehu. . .you know we had met with those people and because the date of the. . .I guess, bidding of the property is June the 12th, we're gonna move and hopefully Members will support it, when we do meet, in trying to utilize 2011 monies from the Open Space Fund to support that particular purchase. So it will be forthcoming and I will be working with Chairman Mateo in trying to resolve this issue so that at least we have an opportunity to support the purchase of open space for the County of Maui. So with that, Members, thank you for, you know, being here at 4 o'clock. So we'll gladly accept your proposal at this time.

NOTE: Pause while Mr. Kaneshina collected Council Members' proposals.

COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL: . . . Congratulations.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Happy weekend.

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COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Thank you for your help.

MR. KANESHINA: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: . . .*(laughter)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: . . .*(laughter)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Call us any time.

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

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay. Members, any questions before I adjourn this meeting?

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: No.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: No.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay. Thank you, again. The Budget and Finance Committee meeting for April 29th is now adjourned. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

COUNCIL MEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS. (excused: DAM)

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Meeting adjourned . . .*(gavel)*. . .

ADJOURN: 4:09 p.m.

APPROVED:


JOSEPH PONTANILLA, Chair
Budget and Finance Committee

bf:min:110429

Transcribed by: Tehani Villalobos

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CERTIFICATE

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

DATED the 23rd day of May, 2011, in Lahaina, Hawaii



Tehani Villalobos