

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

April 4, 2012

Mitchell Paule Center, Main Hall

CONVENE: 6:02 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Joseph Pontanilla, Chair
Councilmember G. Riki Hokama, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Gladys C. Baisa, 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

EXCUSED: Councilmember Robert Carroll, Member

STAFF: Scott Kaneshina, Legislative Analyst
Josiah Nishita, Legislative Analyst
Camille Sakamoto, Substitute Committee Secretary
Ella Alcon, Council Aide, Molokai Council Office

OTHERS: Deldrine Kauai Manera
Lynn DeCoite, President, Molokai Homestead Farmers Alliance
Viola Mundrick, Treasurer, Molokai Homestead Farmers Alliance
Macy Simmons
Kata Lee, Director, Molokai Youth Center
Ana Ludgate
Kennilyn Nishihira-Aki
Tanner Mosher
Barbara Haliniak, President, Molokai Island Foundation
Dallin Tancayo
Daisy Paleka
Charleen Tinao
Iese Tanielu
Robert Pelekai
Tino Toledo
Jacob Puaa-Spencer
Amy Maeda, Executive Director, Molokai Occupational Center
Merrily Burgin, Vice-President, Molokai Humane Society Board
Karen Holt, Executive Director, Molokai Community Service Council
Betty Gene Dudoit

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Vanessa Joao
Jennifer Whitted, Executive Director, Molokai Humane Society
Mathew Goodrich, Chair, Molokai Humane Society Board
Amy Makaiwi, Case Manager, Maui Economic Opportunity
Kauai Akina
Vonda Stone
Hala Pa Kala, Interim Driver Supervisor, MEO Transportation
Nanao Parsia
Chavis Purdy, Co-Owner, Teas of Hawaii
Jessie Ford, Owner, Teas of Hawaii
Lori Buchanan
Susan Nartatez, Instructor-Counselor, UH Maui College, Molokai
Jack Spruance
Manuwai Peters
'Olelo Hamakua Poepoe
Kirk Kiaha
Kegal Joe Tancayo, Jr.
Kegal Joe Tancayo, Sr.
Claire Iveson, Director, Family Support, Molokai Community Health Center
Stewart Morgan, Veterinarian, Molokai Humane Society
Lehua Cho
Iolani Kuoha
Kaeo K. Kawa'a
Alexandra Simon
Amber Afelin
Georgina Kuahuia
Cora Schnackenberg
Julie Ann Bicoy, Director, Molokai Visitor Association
Eugene Santiago
Rita Kalahiki, Area Director, Special Olympics
Ruth Manu
Judy Caparida
Rita Chung
Walter Ritte

Tom Galano
Po'okela Moses-Espanto
Kai Magdirila
Marylou Gorospe
(?) additional unidentified attendees

PRESS: ??

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . .(*gavel*). . . The Budget and Finance Committee meeting is now in session this evening at the Mitchell Pauole Center on Molokai. At this time, I would like to say, thank you for coming, to provide your public testimony on the Fiscal Year 2013 Budget as proposed by our Mayor, Alan Arakawa.

ITEM BF-1: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2013 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI
(CC 12-59)

CHAIR PONTANILLA: At this time, I would like to call the Member, our Chairman, who comes from this island, Chairman Mateo, to introduce the Members that are here this evening.

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: Aloha, everybody.

AUDIENCE: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: On my far left, we have the Member from Kula-Pukalani, and to Molokai she needs really no introduction, Councilmember Gladys Baisa.

AUDIENCE: (*Applauded*)

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: From West Maui, the representative representing the Lahaina area, Councilmember Elle Cochran.

AUDIENCE: (*Applauded*)

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: From South Maui (Kihei) representing that district, Councilmember Don Couch.

AUDIENCE: (*Applauded*)

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: From our sister island Lanai the Member representing that community, Councilmember Riki Hokama.

AUDIENCE: (*Applauded*)

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: Ladies and gentlemen, our candy man, the man who controls our County purse strings, put your hand together for the one and only from Kahului, Councilmember Joe Pontanilla.

AUDIENCE: (*Applauded*)

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: From the Wailuku area, this individual's son is also well known throughout the State of Hawaii, please welcome Shane's father, Michael Victorino.

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AUDIENCE: *(Applauded)*

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Aloha, everyone.

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: From the Makawao-Paia area, please welcome Councilmember Mike White.

AUDIENCE: *(Applauded)*

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: Okay.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Chairman Mateo. Also supporting the Committee this evening, we do have Staff members that came from Maui. We do have Scott Kaneshina as well as Josiah Nishita. Both of them are Legislative Analysts, as well as our Committee Secretary Camille Sakamoto. And also here this evening is Ella Alcon. She's the Executive Assistant for Chairman Mateo. And whoever made the dinner, I'd just like to thank 'em because it was super, super good. Thank you very much.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Was Danny.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Danny cannot cook so somebody else did it. Again, ladies and gentlemen, tonight we'll be taking public testimony from all of you that had signed up for public testimony. This is your time to give us input regarding Mayor Alan Arakawa's Fiscal Year 2013 Budget. Some ground rules - you have three minutes to provide your public testimony and the Chair will give you one minute to conclude. When you come up to the mike if you can speak directly into the mike, provide us your name, organization that you represent. Once you're finished with your testimony, if you can at least stay there for a couple of seconds because some of us may have questions for you. So with that, we'll go ahead and provide . . . you to provide us with public testimony. First person to sign up is Deldrine Kauai . . . you pronounce your last name . . . followed by Lynn DeCoite.

. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

MS. MANERA: Kala mai my back. I feel bad my back is facing everybody but aloha, Chairperson Danny Mateo, Chairman, and to the rest of the Council Members, aloha. My name is Deldrine Kauinohea Kapuni Manera. I'm a life-long resident of Molokai. I'm here to testify on behalf of MEO's transportation service. I am not a participant in the service. I don't catch the bus but I know a lot of people that do, including kupuna and children. I think one of the things that we have to understand is that Molokai, being that we're going through these harsh economic times, gas . . . did you guys see how much we pay for gas on Molokai? Yeah, nails. Yeah, but you know that's part of life here on Molokai. We've learned how to adjust and to adapt. One of the things that MEO does so well is the transportation kuleana. They provide transportation for kupuna, children, students from the East coming to Central Molokai as well as the West coming

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to Central Molokai and it's an ongoing kuleana. So it's not like it's a one-time deal. I understand that there's multiple routes throughout the day. I ask that the funding continue because for some families this is the only mode of transportation, the only. And I know a lot of families struggle to pay the car payments, pay for gas, pay to maintain the cars so this is a real crucial kuleana I think for you folks to consider and to continue funding for MEO transportation.

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

MS. MANERA: Mahalo.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Oh, hang on, hang on.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: It's not a question for you but just Molokaian just so you know that I can appreciate what she said, last week on Lanai we pay \$5.79 for one gallon gas. \$5.79 regular.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: And regular too. Thank you.

MS. MANERA: You're welcome.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Lynn DeCoite followed by Mary *[sic]* Simmons.

MS. DeCOITE: Hi, you all. Aloha, Mr. Chairman, and County Council Members. My name is Lynn DeCoite. I'm the President of the Molokai Homestead Farmers Alliance, and I have some of the farmers that came with us. On behalf of our organization, we wanted to thank you folks for the funding with the Molokai Ag Fair. You folks along with MCC had contributed funding to put an event the past two years and we wanted to give our gratitude of what the fair on education-wise, on water, on farming, sustainability has done for us as well as educated the people of Molokai and the community. Much mahalo. Just recently . . . we had asked for a declaration for a drought that the Governor had just signed two days ago to the Head of the Secretary of Ag and we should be receiving the designation for the year 2012. And then I have Viola with me, Faith, Tuipolotu, and Noa Keoho, and Viola would like to say a few words. Thank you.

MS. MUNDRICK: Hi, Viola Mundrick. I'm the Treasurer of the Molokai Alliance and I just wanted to say, thank you to your staff. I'm the one that deals with all the paperwork that comes from you guys and they deal in return and they have been so courteous especially Tina Silva. They just do a super job. We get our monies right after we send them in and I just think that's remarkable. I've worked with four or five other grants and you guys are the very best, and I just wanted to say thank you to your staff members and yourselves.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay, Members, questions for the testifiers this evening? Seeing none; thank you again. Mary *[sic]* Simmons followed by Kata Lee.

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MS. SIMMONS: Aloha, Councilmen, Members, my name is Macy Simmons. I'm a single working parent of a three-year old in the Kaunakakai Head Start Program. Before my child attended this Head Start Program I had to pay \$400 a month for childcare services so that I could continue my employment and college education. Without this program, this would have been nearly impossible for all of us parents. Along with my child and other children attending this program they have learned many new skills, such as, writing their names, counting their ABCs, and the sounds of the letters. They have also learned many social skills, such as, self-control and expressing their feelings appropriate to others. Head Start has also helped parents with the transportation with all the different locations - Maunaloa, Mana'e, and Kaunakakai. And the parents also want to express our appreciation to the much needed all day program from 7:30 to 3:00 p.m., if not, we're only left with 7:30 to 12. So, us parents appreciate it. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, question for the testifier? Seeing none; thank you again. Kata Lee . . . followed by Ana Ludgate.

MS. LEE: Aloha and thank you for your time. My name is Kata Lee. I'm the Director of the Molokai Youth Center here and I would like to first thank you for your continued support in helping us to provide a safe place for our youths of Molokai to come on a daily basis. We see an average between 60 and 80 youths a day, and without your help of funding it wouldn't be possible for these youths to come and socialize and enjoy the activities that we provide for them. Myself and my staff ask you to continue to think of us and please support us in future funding so that we may continue to support our youths here on Molokai. Mahalo.

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

MS. LEE: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Ana Ludgate followed by Kai Magdirila.

MISS LUDGATE: Hello, my name is Ana Ludgate. I am here to represent Molokai Youth Center because I think it's a great organization. What I like about the youth center is that it provides me to meet other kids and also helps me with my homework. It also provides foods like snack and dinner. Also, it's a safe environment for all of us. Thank you for listening to me and I hope you continue to support our youth center. Mahalo. Thank you for your support.

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

MISS NISHIHIRA-AKI: Hello, my name is Kennilyn Nishihira-Aki. I am here to represent the Molokai Youth Center. Molokai, throughout the years, has provided a lot of help with our youth in the community, with education, community service, and a lot more. Molokai is an awesome place for every children to come to. We learn a lot from independent living skills and prepare us for our future and continuous education activities. Please continue to help support our Molokai

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Youth Center as it continues to provide a safety environment for our children of Molokai. Mahalo.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none; thank you. Po`okela Moses-Espanto? Tanner Mosher?

MASTER MOSHER: Hi, my name is Tanner Mosher and I am here to represent Molokai Youth Center. Molokai Youth Center provides a safe environment where my friends and I can hang out and get also our homework done complete and effectively, work as one, without distractions. Molokai Youth Center also provides nutritious meals to keep me energized so that I can participate in my favorite part of Molokai Youth Center -- the outdoor activities which help me stay fit. Molokai Youth Center also encourages me to take part of community service programs, such as, drug-free programs. Thank you for your time. Have a good day.

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

MS. HALINIAK: Aloha. Welcome to Molokai. I'm happy to see all of you here. I think everyone is here, right? My name is Barbara Haliniak for the record. I'm President of the Molokai Island Foundation and we're the organization that puts on the annual Christmas Parade, Ho`olaulea and Senior Dinner Dance. So I'm sure everybody in the audience enjoys that. How many people enjoy that?

AUDIENCE: (Applauded)

MS. HALINIAK: Okay. The reason why I turned and I said how many people enjoy because it's the biggest event on Molokai. I think this past December we had over 2,000 people watching the parade. And if we don't do that, it's going to be a dark December. So I'm asking the Council members to consider approving our grant again because we can't do anything without monies from the Council, and I'm sure the community will appreciate that. I just want to plug in also the Maui Hotel and Lodging Association we do the annual charity walk here on Molokai. I chair that event. It's going to be on the 5th of May. I'm suppose to go to Honolulu to attend my granddaughter's wedding but I'm sacrificing to do the Charity Walk in the morning so consider that. Also, Maui Economic Development Board cause they support . . . it used to be Project EAST but now STEM at the high schools and robotics at the elementary schools so I'm putting out a plug for them. And I think I . . . I don't want to leave because I normally run out of time. But that's it. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Barbara. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Big sacrifice, you know, not going to your granddaughter's wedding.

MS. HALINIAK: I going though.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Yeah, okay. Next testifier is Dallin Tancayo.

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MASTER TANCAYO: Hello. I'm here representing the Boy Scouts of America Maui County Council. I'd like to thank you folks for supporting Camp Maluhia. It has helped me personally as a scout earning merit badges and going summer time spending a few weeks there bonding with the boys and it's a great place to go and learn different life skills and things which will help you through the rest of your life. And I'd like to ask that you continue to support Camp Maluhia. Thank you.

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

MISS PALEKA: Hi, my name is Daisy Paleka and I'm here to support Molokai Youth Center. I like the fact that they have very nice and awesome staff. They help us when we have problems and MYC is a safe place for our youths to be at instead of getting in trouble. Please continue to support our MYC as they continue to better our youths of Molokai and continue to provide us with support, love, and education for our future. Also, we would like to continue funding for MEO. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none; thank you. Charleen Tinao . . . followed by Amy Maeda.

MS. TINAO: Aloha, Council Chair Danny, as well as Maui County Council. Welcome. We appreciate you coming to show your concerns of Molokai. I'm here tonight to speak in behalf of Kuha`o Business Center. About eight years ago, I got involved with the Center because I was patenting a product that I invented. And that went well. They pointed me into the direction where I should go to patent my product which I had that done. I ended up doing a kids show in Vegas taking my product. It was a child safety vest and I apologize for not bringing the sample but just recently I made my mind up to give the rest of my product to Family Support because I closed that business down. And I did that decision because I take care of kupunas and I could not leave to go market. It was a decision -- should I go make money or take care of my old people over here. I decided to take care of them. So I did away with that but I continued to use the services at Kuha`o Business Center because they do consulting, they help us do research. We're allowed to use the computers there as well as the machines there and it affords us that opportunity so that we don't have to stress ourselves out when we're doing research. As far as where we want to go next, this is down I can become another entrepreneur. And also, we spread the word. There's a lot of people who are becoming entrepreneurs that get the direction from that office. So it's really important to please make a way to continue to support them and Annette Ahakuelo-Pauole. Mahalo.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none; thank you very much. Charleen, by the way, Danny and I going be unemployed, you know, January 1st, 2013.

MS. TINAO: Let me think about that. You know other people who have become inventors but, you know what, let's create our own shark tank.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Amy Maeda?

MR. TANIELU: Aloha, Board Members. My name is . . . Amy is right here but my name is Iese Tanielu. I work for M.O.C., the Yard Superintendent. I have a crew of 13 people that travels over thousand miles a month to clean six County parks, just from Halawa to Maunaloa and Kilohana, Onelii and Kakaha`o. Gas is 5.37 to 5.45 and still increasing. HMSA is increased to 423.00 a month per person and increasing in July 2012. Also, our vehicles and our equipments, our trailers we need it attention. Our water mound has not increased since 2008 so please support an increase for M.O.C. this year, and we sincerely thank you.

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

MR. PALEKAI: Hello, my name is Robert Pelekai. I'm here to represent Molokai Occupational Center. I am an employee and a yard supervisor for the yard service and for the Parks and Recs. Like Iese said, our gas is a crucial part of our services because we need gas for transportation and for our equipment so it would be nice to have our budget raised or maybe re-negotiation on our contract. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, question for the testifier? Robert, can you go sign up because you provided testimony we need you to sign up, okay.

MR. PALEKAI: I signed up.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Oh, you did?

MR. PALEKAI: Yeah.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay. Who else signed up?

MR. TOLEDO: Howzit! My name is Tino Toledo. I work for M.O.C. We work at the parks. Help support the increase of funding. Thank you.

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

MR. PUA-SPENCER: Aloha, my name is Jake Puaa-Spencer. I work for M.O.C. I clean the parks and I want to continue my job because Zachary said I'm doing a good job and I'm showing Zach I can do a good job. So that's why I want to continue my job so if I keep on doing a good job Zach keep on checking the park and I doing a good job maybe I can work directly for Zachary. That's my goal. And please continue to support M.O.C. Thanks.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

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MR. PUAA-SPENCER: Bye-bye.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay.

MS. MAEDA: Aloha, I'm Amy Maeda, Molokai Occupational Center Executive Director. This is my crew and we're here to speak on two areas - the Parks and Rec. for our increase, and the second is the Community Partnership Grants which is going to be coming to your desk shortly and this is a grant that focuses on job creation, food, and Molokai Health. This is a farm to table food bank program that provides healthy food and distributes fresh produce to 4,500 Molokai people at no cost for the reduction of obesity-related health problems. Please fund Molokai Occupational Center to allow us to help Molokai. Molokai has consistently the highest hospitalization rate with obesity diagnosed since 2004. Native Hawaiians have the highest death rate due to obesity, heart disease, and diabetes in the United States. Out of 24 communities throughout the State of Hawaii, Molokai ranks fourth worst in social economic, poverty, and health risks. Kaulapapa residents rely on Oahu vendors for fresh fruits and vegetables and we would like to provide that for Kaulapapa residents through coordination and the Community Partnership Grant. So I will be passing out this for you to take back to your office. Any questions for me?

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Ms. Maeda. I've got a question. All of your members that are here tonight I know they went out of turn but you know there's some over here that I have and I really don't know if all of your members have provided public testimony. I've gotten Robert's name and that gentleman's name.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Tommy and Tino.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Tom.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Tom Galano.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay. So everybody provided their public testimony. Okay, fine, thank you. Next to provide public testimony is Merrily Burgin.

MS. BURGIN: Hi, my name is Merrily Burgin. I recently joined the Board for Molokai Humane Society and I have a letter to read from a co-member who is unable to be here tonight, and I have some comments of my own to add. This is from Luann Cefola.

Dear Budget and Finance Committee Council members, thank you for the support that you've given the Molokai Humane Society. This organization providing a critical service to the island of Molokai, her residence, their pets, and all animals yet to find forever homes. The Molokai Humane Society has made great strides forward in the past year, including the expansion of the facility to include a surgical area and the addition of a full-time veterinarian. MOHS is sponsoring monthly spay-neuter clinics and community outreach and education programs. We are optimistic about what lies ahead and we have a great opportunity to continue to improve the

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level and quality of care provided to the animals of Molokai. Your funding allows Molokai Humane Society to do this as well as address issues related to the feral cat colony management, community education and the provision of low or no cost services to the residents of Molokai. MOHS understands that it takes a human and financial resources to be successful. We are encouraged by your attention and support of this critical need and respectfully ask for your continued financial support. Thank you again for the opportunity to share these remarks with you and above all, thank you for your commitment to the well-being of the animals of Molokai.

I just wanted to add for myself these are my feelings as well but I've been here on Molokai for almost eight years now. All these years I've been afraid to have a pet because no vet. If your animal gets sick, you fly to Oahu or to Maui and it's really expensive. By getting Dr. Stewart here we are able to now get care when we need it; office hours or not. It gave me the privilege of being able to add this little sweetheart to my life and an example of the good that it does to have this funding to keep our Humane Society open she was ill on Christmas Day. Stewart came. That's a privilege that we've never had here on Molokai. So I really want to thank you for your funding and hope that you'll continue to fund us and support the programs that we have to grow.

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

MS. BURGIN: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Karen Holt . . . followed by Betty Gene Dudoit.

MS. HOLT: Aloha, I'm Karen Holt. I'm the Executive Director of the Molokai Community Service Council. And we're here first and foremost to thank you for the support that you've given to our programs for many, many years. They benefit a lot of people and they also employ a lot of people. So BJ is here as well; she's going to speak about one of our other programs. We came specifically tonight because we got a call from the Grants Management Division who said that you folks were going to have a meeting on Maui, the 23rd and 24th I think, so you could ask questions of people who had submitted grant proposals. So she suggested that we come here tonight and BJ, if you can do the honors, we have paperwork that explains. This is . . .

MS. DUDOIT: I gave it.

MS. HOLT: Oh, never mind. It's coming. They send us a form that they wanted us to fill out with financial information for each of these programs so Ella will be giving it to you. And I think on the 23rd and the 24th what we were told was if the Council wanted to ask questions about any of these projects that this would be an opportunity. So thank you so much for listening to us. I'll make my presentation short. We are kind of an umbrella organization so we have a lot of different programs that run under us, and if you're looking at this piece of paper you'll see four on the top and another one at the bottom. We run a little program for mentally ill adults and it's a Drop-In Center. It's a partnership with Department of Health. They provide the staff, we provide the space and all the supplies. It's a very small grant but it's been an immense help to

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folks who are struggling with that problem because they have a safe place to go where they won't be stigmatized. And before this place opened up it was so much pan handling in front of Pasco Store. So I think everybody appreciated that this program has been working long time and it wouldn't really have worked without your support. We also have a philosophy of business where we consolidate administrative expenses for a lot of different programs under one umbrella, and so we have provided that service for many programs in the community. We have a 501C(3) so they can apply for grants, they can solicit funding under our tax exemption so you'll see the amount here that you have contributed this program. Every year we raise at least that amount and more. It also helps us to run the local Friendly Isle United Fund and through that program we fund at least 25 to 30 programs every year with small grants. So it's immensely important to our community, I think. Hale Ho`omalua Shelter and anger management programs you folks have been stall worth supporters through a really hard time. We might have had to close the shelter if you hadn't given us funds for the last few years for this one. It's a place where people can go when they have no safety at home - women and children. And then finally the Youth Center, and you already heard from the kids and we're very proud of that program and the woman who manages it - Kata Lee. So these are all programs that you have supported for many years; we really appreciate it. And if you can continue to help us you're not only will be helping these programs but you'll also be putting a lot of people to work. We employ between 25 and 40 people at all times. And then finally, we have had a line-item in the budget.

MR. KANESHINA: Three minutes.

MS. HOLT: Okay, sorry, for the immigrant kids. And so if you guys can continue to provide that line-item we would really appreciate it. And BJ it's your turn.

MS. DUDOIT: Okay, my name is Betty Gene Dudoit. They call me BJ, and I've been working for Molokai Community Service for 11 years. Apparently, I'm stuck here for the rest of my life, if Karen still stays here. For the past . . . for 11 years I worked for Legal Aid Services and then for 11 years I worked for the Shelter, and 11 years I'm working for Karen Holt with MCS but I love working for nonprofit organizations. I believe in the mission. I'm talking on behalf of Hale Ho`omalua, the need for the shelter to be stayed open. This past year we've been very, very busy with women and children and also what happens is that I'm a part-time Director also as well as a Fiscal Director and I'm also a Programming Director. I oversee a lot of programs. So as you can see our jobs here are multi-tasking because the funds are . . . (*inaudible*) . . . I'm not going to say we're underpaid because you know what if you're a nonprofit you work. You volunteer, there's a lot of volunteerism and we do that too. So again, I would like to request that you fund all of our programs. One of the things I wanted to say about the Molokai Youth Center we are open from 12 to 9 o'clock at night, okay, that's Monday through Friday. And then on Saturday we open from 9 to 6, so our hours are long. When there are school breaks we open from 8 till 9 at night. So that's Christmas breaks, Spring breaks, and whatever breaks the kids get. If they have holidays, we also open during the day. So we close at night. So we open longer than any other shelter with the monies that we have and we'll stretch that dollar, that's what we believe in doing so on the island because there is a need and so we want to meet that need and that's why we're here. Thank you.

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

MS. DUDOIT: BJ.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: BJ . . . this information that was provided to the nine Council members the total budget for your organization is the first column?

MS. DUDOIT: For each program, yes.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Of the different programs?

MS. DUDOIT: Yes. That's the total that we are requesting for each program to the left, yes, it is.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay.

MS. DUDOIT: And also for the line-items. And actually these are not final numbers and we got it just today, invited to come tonight so I'm glad I came though because this is great. Danny has been very helpful. Years ago, we used to come to the Grants Management Committee and Danny was there and so I've been here for about 33 years.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay, thank you.

MS. DUDOIT: Sure.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Members, any more questions for the testifiers? Member White?

COUNCILMEMBER WHITE: Thank you. Can you hear me out there?

MS. DUDOIT: Yes, I can.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITE: Looking at our budget we show you on the list but it doesn't have numbers and I can't tell from your spreadsheet because it's split out. What's the total grant amount?

MS. DUDOIT: It's about, if you look at only the grants, we're talking about \$348,500 for the four programs.

MS. HOLT: The first column is what the form said we had to fill in for each program and so that's a collective number but each program is the first column and it's not the total agency budget. We match every one of these programs.

MS. DUDOIT: Yeah.

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COUNCILMEMBER WHITE: No, no, I realize that. I'm trying to tell what the County portion of your funding is. In the far right-hand column . . .

MS. HOLT: The first column, the left-hand column those are the requests that went in, and they're roughly similar to what we're already getting.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITE: Okay.

MS. HOLT: So that first column is the amount that the County would be providing.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITE: Okay, so that's the total budget request, not the total budget.

MS. HOLT: No, not at all.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITE: Okay, great, thanks.

MS. HOLT: Sure.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any more questions? Thank you very much for the handout and again, this will save you some travel time to Maui because all nine Members are here we just heard your request.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Eight. Bob Carroll is not here.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: I'm sorry, eight. Mr. Carroll is not here.

MS. DUDOIT: This is not final. I think we have a deadline of April 9th to get the full-on thing to you folks, so that's when you'll have it. Okay.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay, fine, thank you. Vanessa Joao?

MS. JOAO: Aloha, Council Chair Danny Mateo and the Maui Council, County Council. My name is Vanessa Joao and I'm one of five employees at Hale Ho`okupa`a. Hale Ho`okupa`a is the community-based nonprofit organization that provides outpatient abuse treatment services to adults, adolescents and their families on Molokai. The Hale was established in 1992 by the Molokai community to provide substance abuse treatment services for its people. Its mission is to foster, strengthen, and support all resolutions that reduce the sovereignty and disabling effects of alcohol and other drug abuse for the people of Molokai. On behalf of Hale Ho`okupa`a, I'm here to express our sincerest appreciation for a grant we receive from the County of Maui, Department of Housing and Human Concerns. The grant has enhanced our work performance by providing us with the resources to upgrade the hales, outdated computers and laptops. Thank you. Chair Mateo, your endless support for Molokai remains an imprint. The Hale would also like to extend a special thank you to Grants Management Specialist Lynn Britton for her

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professionalism and guidance through the grants process. We thank you. And one last thing, I support MEO's Core Four . . . the Core Four Business program. Thank you.

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

MS. WHITTED: Thank you for making the trip to Molokai. My name is Jennifer Whitted and I am the Executive Director of the Molokai Humane Society. I want to thank you for your support. You've always been our life line and there is no doubt in my mind that we would not be here today if it wasn't for your support. Last year we stood up here asking for funds at a time when our future was unclear. Your funds last year sparked a new light for us and what a difference a year makes. We were able to secure a private donation matching Maui County's contribution and now we maintain one full-time staff veterinarian, three support staff, and two administrative positions. We are open five days a week with a vet instead of one day. And recently we added a second 40 foot container to serve as a surgical unit and recovery space. However, more services equals more expenses but we are working towards becoming self-sustaining. We are not yet to that point. With your support, we are able to make steps in this direction so I thank you and the animals of Molokai thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER WHITE: Current level of your proviso, what's the current level?

MS. WHITTED: Seventy-five thousand.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITE: Seventy-five. Okay. That comes directly from Maui Humane Society?

MS. WHITTED: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITE: Okay, thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Members, any more questions? Seeing none; thank you again.

MS. WHITTED: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Matthew Goodrich?

MR. GOODRICH: I'm Matthew Goodrich. I'm the Molokai Humane Society Board Chair, and I'd just like to ask you for continued funding. And I'd especially like to thank Danny for all of his help this year. We couldn't have done it without you. I did want to say a little bit of what she was saying is that the money that you got us last year really allowed us to take off and we have pretty much raised through fees, donations, and services around \$3.00-\$3.50 for every dollar that you gave us. And we couldn't have done it without you guys. Thanks.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none; thank you. Amy Makaiwi?

MS. MAKAIWI: Good evening, Council Members. My name is Amy Makaiwi. I'm currently a case manager at MEO. I've been there for 12 years in transportation. I'd just like to say as an employee there they have treated me very good especially in times of need. I was going to read one of my client's testimony but I'll turn it in because I have other clients that would like to speak on behalf of MEO. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay.

MS. AKINA: Hello, good evening. My name is Kauai Akina and I'm currently receiving assistance through MEO's County Rental Assistance Program, a program that helps families with their rent for at least six months. I also received assistance through the housing placement program for my security deposit and first month's rent. By being in this program I was able to find a place that was in my budget for my family because at that time I was in a desperate situation. The services that is provided for me has been a tremendous help to me financially because with another baby on the way I will be able to buy the necessities that I will need to care for my baby. With the help of my case worker, Amy, I have learned to do a monthly income and expense sheet that will help me to budget my money and track where my money is spent. I ask for your continued support in funding the MEO's community services as well as the other services that they provide, such as, transportation, Head Start, and the Business Development Class. All these services that MEO provides are very important to our community because of our economy. Thank you.

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

MS. STONE: Aloha, my name is Vonda Stone and my family and I are consumers of the many services offered by MEO. My family was blessed to be recipients of the Theresa Hughes' Grant which enabled my children to receive school uniforms and other clothing such as jackets, footwear, et cetera, all of which I am very grateful for I believe it enabled my children to feel good about themselves and have a positive outlook on the new school year. With no doubt, I believe that by receiving this grant it contributed to my children not one by two of my children receiving students of the quarter, of the first quarter, at Kualapuu's Hawaiian Immersion School on island. And it sometimes bothers me that I forget or just don't have the time to simply go beyond a simple thank you by baking a cake or buying a case of juice in exchange for services received, and so I would like to thank you for allowing me this opportunity to stand before you to say, thank you, MEO for all that you do, and thank you, Council Members, for funding which I hope will continue. Mahalo.

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

MS. STONE: Thank you.

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MS. PA KALA: Aloha, my name is Hala Pa Kala, I am the Interim Driver Supervisor at Maui Economic Opportunity here on Molokai. I'd just like to read a written testimony from one of our transportation clients. It says . . .

Aloha, Budget Committee, Mayor Alan Arakawa, and County Council. My name is Kealoha Laemoa. I am not here to waste your valuable time so I will get to my point of my testimony. I am here to advocate for the MEO bus as they have been a vital aspect in our community and vital in my transportation to and from work. With gas prices rising excessively, I can't say enough as to how much MEO has helped me within my budget. So MEO has been able to take the brunt of taking care of the cost and I can't say enough how friendly the drivers are and very helpful they are to our first-time riders getting them to their destination including our visitors. I hope you can find it within your heart to support MEO and their vision in providing services in the community of Molokai. I hope that one day in the near future they can expand their transportation services but that is another conversation to have. I just want you to know that I have benefitted with MEO and their services.

And for myself, our transportation services really helps a lot of people in the community from youth up to our elderly and so I'd like to thank you, first of all, for all your support but I also want to thank you for your support of many of the other programs that are here tonight. With the Humane Society hopefully one day we'll be able to get a big animal vet to come to island because there are lot of us that participate in paniolo heritage, my daughter is one of them; with MCSC the youth center is an awesome place for my kids to go especially since both my husband and I work. So BDC has taught me a lot through MEO and I took those classes with Kuulei as well. So, personally and professionally, thank you very much.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none; thank you again. Nanao Parisa [sic]? Parsia.

MR. PARSIA: Aloha, Council Members. Thank you for coming here. My name is Nanao Parsia and I represent Ku`hao Business Center for Ms. Annette Pauole who requested me last minute to come here. I, as an inventor, appreciate this business center that provides opportunity for people like myself, there are a lot of people here who are business-oriented people, and there are a few of us who invent things that helps the progress. Even though Molokai is a setback island you will be amazed to see how advanced and active its people are in towards education and progress, whatnot. And the other thing I'm trying to do is put together a healthy cooking show in local TVs to promote good healthy lifestyle to curb down all the issues we have here in Hawaii - obesity and diabetes, et cetera. But above all, I know we always talk about budgets or shortages or a lot of it, it would be very difficult for anyone to convince me there's shortage of funding for anything because money is made out of papers. We print it. So if we had six hundred sixty billion dollars for _____ budget, I'm sure there's plenty of money for all kinds of budgeting that helps human beings too have a decent life and progress and make their lives better so they will be self-sufficient, self-reliant, and independent and have a happy, healthy life. And I thank you for your support in all aspects to keep Molokai, Molokai. Mahalo.

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

MS. ALCON, FROM THE AUDIENCE: Coming.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Oh.

MS. FORD: Hello, my name is Jessie Ford and Chavis and I are new business owners. We are here on behalf of the Ku`hao Business Center and for MEO's Core Four business classes. The Ku`hao Business Center has provided a lot of support for me in some detailed work. They also recommended that I, we enroll in the Core Four business class which was very comprehensive, very well taught, very timely and I believe that Molokai needs as much emphasis on small businesses because there aren't any large corporations, mostly not large corporations and not a lot of employment opportunities so one might need to create their own employment opportunity. Financial literacy is very important in that and for all of these reasons both entities have been very helpful. The Ku`hao Business Center also provides a space where we can meet with legal support and other specialists that can advise on patenting and some things like that, that might not know anything about. I don't know a lot of things with business so these services have been invaluable to us and we appreciate it and would request to continue supporting them. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Chavis [*sic*]. Members, any questions for the testifiers this evening. Seeing none; thank you again.

MS. FORD: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Lori Buchanan . . . followed by Susan Nartatez.

MS. BUCHANAN: Aloha, County Council. I came tonight to tell you guys I love you guys. Councilwoman Baisa, Cochran, Councilmen Couch, Hokama, Vice-Chair Pontanilla, Chair Mateo, White, Victorino, you guys got one award today but you guys never know. But I accepted it on your behalf and so I wanted to share it with you folks. For many years you have funded the Maui Invasive Species Committee of which the Molokai Maui Invasive Species Committee is a subcommittee. Well, I think we must be doing something right because Senator Gabbard and the 26th Legislature Senate recognized our work today at the Senate and so . . .

ALL: . . .(*applause*) . . .

MS. BUCHANAN: Thank you. But you know, who really needs the credit is you guys right here because without the funding from Maui County, that work would have never gotten done. And every chance I get to tell the Senate that believe me I let them know how much this County, especially on the island of Molokai depends on our County Council, our Mayor, his staff, and the funding that you provide to Maui Nui, I mean, Maui Nui who else get all that kind of problems that gotta deal with several islands? I also remind them that we need all the TAT, I remind them all that kind stuff, you know, and that they don't put in as much effort than they should in their

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capacity especially when it comes to the environment. And this County Council puts their money where their mouth is when it comes to the environment, and you guys need to be proud of that because you exceed every County in the State of Hawaii in environmental funding so kudos to all you guys.

ALL: . . .(applause) . . .

MS. BUCHANAN: And we thank you, we love you guys, we're happy with sustain funding. We're not asking for any improvements or whatever. Every year we try to work on sustain funding from the State and you know like they tell you guys good luck but we're not going to give up. And so we're going to continue to operate on soft funds from the State General Funds through the _____ but I really here to just merely thank you guys. Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you. I owe you guys big time. Love you guys, thank you.

ALL: . . .(applause) . . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for Lori? I guess not. Thank you for sharing though. Susan?

MS. NARTATEZ: Aloha, Mr. Chair and Council Members. Welcome to Molokai. My name is Susan Nartatez and I am an instructor-counselor at U H Maui College here on Molokai. I'm also a brand new MEO Board member and I'm here to give testimony regarding the services Four Core [sic] Business provides our Ku`hao Business Center and our MEO bus service. As a counselor, I see students daily who are trying to improve their livelihood through post secondary education. And many of them discover that they don't have the aptitude for college and the finances to pay for a college education. And so having options here on Molokai through the Four Core [sic] Business class and Ku`hao is very important. I, myself, last night am a recent graduate of the Four Core [sic] Business class. Kuulei is an excellent instructor. She provides through her experience important things that we need to know about starting a business and it's important to have that option. We have a lot of entrepreneurial people here on Molokai and having that option is important. And with regard to the MEO bus service, my mother-in-law without the bus services wouldn't be able to leave our homes. Every Tuesday and Thursday she looks forward to coming to Kaunakakai to meet with friends and to socialize, and so I encourage you to continue providing funding for those services. Mahalo.

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

MS. NARTATEZ: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: The next testifier is Jack and you got a wonderful last name which I get hard time pronounce. So, Jack, you're from Molokai Lifestock Corporation [sic].

MS. ALCON, FROM THE AUDIENCE: Spruance.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Spruance, I'm sorry.

MR. SPRUANCE: Hello, Councilman, Chair Mateo. I'm actually we're not a corporation. We're a coop, Molokai Lifestock Cooperative. And I just wanted to thank you guys for your past support for all that you've done for us to keep us alive. It's been seems like it always comes in at a right time that helps us get over the hurdles that we face in trying to operate that business. I wanted to thank you for your support in helping us produce a local food product that got fed beef, I think that's important within the State. I'm one of four employees, four and a quarter employees, so I wanted to thank you for helping get us through all that we have to get. It's very fluid business and we face a lot of challenges and I just wanted to thank you for your support in that. I also wanted to thank you for all the other things that you do for Molokai. It's pretty amazing to hear all of the testimony about all the good things that you help support. So I wanted to thank you for that.

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

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you for coming. You said you sell your beef here or all over the State?

MR. SPRUANCE: Well, we sell not only on Molokai but on the other islands also.

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: How many head do you usually sell your . . .

MR. SPRUANCE: We've gone from a high of about 18 to a low of about three per week.

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: Per week.

MR. SPRUANCE: And that's part of the problem.

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: Okay, thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Chair?

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Member Cochran?

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Thank you, Chair. Aloha, thank you for being here. And a prior testifier mentioned that there's no big animal vet so with your livestock who do you turn to?

MR. SPRUANCE: Dr. Morgan.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Oh, okay, so we do have one?

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MR. SPRUANCE: We do have one.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: I mean, Molokai does have one?

MR. SPRUANCE: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Okay, thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay. Members, any more questions? None. Thank you again. Manuwai Peters?

MR. PETERS: Aloha, mai ka kou. My name is Manuwai Peters and I've been a Hawaiian language immersion teacher on Molokai since 1992. I'm here tonight on behalf of Molokai High School to thank you for the line-item. On behalf of Maui Economic Development Board Women and Technology, since 2007 we've had a partnership with this organization on Maui and it has given direct support to our students to learn technology. Currently, STEM, science technology, engineering and math without these special funds from the County through MEDB we wouldn't have opportunities to help people like `Olelo, one of my students who just came back from a trip for the STEM Conference on Maui last weekend. So, we really appreciate the line-item that you have for MEDB Women and Technology and we ask that you continue that funding for that program. And before I let `Olelo speak I want to say also to thank you for your funding to Maui Arts & Cultural Center. Also, since 2006 we've had a partnership with MACC to bring high quality arts and culture to Molokai free of charge. And you know they're charging \$30-\$40 for these tickets at the MACC and here they bring it to us for free. So we really appreciate the extra funding you give to MACC because it does impact our community directly. We don't have an arts performance center here on Molokai but right here on these lawns we manage pretty good with this great . . . from all over the world that they brought to Molokai so really appreciate that. And now, `Olelo.

MISS POEPOE: Aloha . . . (*spoke in Hawaiian*) . . . This past weekend I attended a digital media workshop at Waianae Seariders Productions sponsored by MEDB where I was able to learn how to produce videos.

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

MR. PETERS: Mahalo.

MISS POEPOE: Mahalo.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Kirk Kiaha . . . followed by Kegal Joe Tancayo.