

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

April 16, 2012

Helene Social Hall, Hana

CONVENE: 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Joseph Pontanilla, Chair
Councilmember G. Riki Hokama, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Gladys C. Baisa, Member (out 6:30 p.m., in 6:31 p.m., out
8:12 p.m., in 8:14 p.m.)
Councilmember Robert Carroll, Member
Councilmember Elle Cochran, Member
Councilmember Danny A. Mateo, Member
Councilmember Michael P. Victorino, Member
Councilmember Mike White, Member

EXCUSED: Councilmember Donald G. Couch, Jr., Member

STAFF: Scott Kaneshina, Legislative Analyst
Josiah Nishita, Legislative Analyst
Yvette Bouthillier, Substitute Committee Secretary

Dawn Lono, Council Aide, Hana Council Office
Morris Haole, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Robert Carroll

ADMIN.: Adam Hickam, Officer, Department of Police
Brad Taylor, Office, Department of Police

OTHERS: Myrna Costello
Greg Braymen
Naponi Lecker-Tolentino, Youth Member, Hana Youth Center
Wanda Belville
Neil Hasegawa, Co-Chairperson, Festivals of Aloha for Hana
Colette Davies, Hana Arts Keiki Program
Martha Yacht
Sheila Wickey Hrast, Art Instructor, Hana Arts
Rick Rutiz, Ma Ka Hana Ka Ike
Mona Oliveira, Substance Abuse Counselor, Ohana Makamae, Inc.
Sheila Agnitsch, Senior Center Director, Hale Hulu Mamo
Sheila Agnitsch
Marni Aina, Friends of Hana Keiki
Timmy Satot, Outreach Program Coordinator, Hale Hulu Mamo
Gene Sansone, Board Member, Hana Arts

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Teya Penniman, Manager, Maui Invasive Species Committee
JoAnn Carreira
Loverleen Hoopai Feliciano
Ronny Santiago, Lead Counselor, Ohana Makamae, Inc.
Maurice Comeaux
Eileen Comeaux
John Villiarimo, Executive Assistant, Hana Youth Center
Diana Naihe, Youth Member, Hana Youth Center
Jasmine Oliveira, Program Manager, Ohana Makamae, Inc.
Brandon Naihe, Youth Member, Hana Youth Center
Terry Poipuni
Pomai Konahia
Tina Ames, Board Chairman, Friends of Hana Keiki
Kristin Gillette
Jim Williams
Richard Paul, Principal, Hana High and Elementary School
Chris Harrington, Board President, Hana Youth Center
Maka Lecker-Tolentino, Program Specialist, Hana Youth Center
Keala Sinenci, Program Specialist, Hana Youth Center
Stacy Lynch
Shawn Kroop
Layne T. Suzuki, Executive Director, Ohana Makamae, Inc.
Moses Bergau, Board Member, Ohana Makamae, Inc.
Chuck Gray
Douglas Ward Mardfin
Lehua Cosma, President, Hui Laulima O Hana
Loly Soler-Bergau
Joseph Oliveira
(10) additional unidentified attendees

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . .(*gavel*). . . The Council's Budget and Finance Committee meeting for April 16, 2012 at Helene Hall in Hana is now in session. Good evening everyone. Thank you for having us here this evening. At this time I'd like to yield the floor to your Councilmember Bob Carroll, who will provide us with the introductions of the Members that are here tonight. Member Carroll.

COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL: Mahalo. Aloha, everyone. As usual I'm sitting next to the pretty girls. Right over here we have Gladys Baisa from Upcountry, Elle Cochran representing Lahaina and West Maui, Riki Hokama from Lanai, our Budget Chair Joseph Pontanilla representing Kahului, and next to him is our Council Chair from Molokai, Danny Mateo. And representing the Wailuku area, Michael Victorino. And from Paia-Haiku, Mike White. Don Couch could not be here tonight. He took ill. He said to give you his aloha and he wished he could be here but he's just not feeling well. Mahalo.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Carroll. Also with us tonight we do have some Staff people. To my left, your right, we do have Scott Kaneshina as well as Josiah Nishita, both of, both of them are Legislative Analysts, along with Yvette Bouthillier who's our Committee Secretary. In the back supporting again this Committee, we do have Morris Haole from Councilmember Carroll's office and your...Dawn Lono, who is a Staff member for Council Staff.

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

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Tonight you have the ability to provide public testimony on Mayor Arakawa's Fiscal Year 2013 Budget. We're going to take public testimony. The Chair will allow three minutes of public testimony, one minute to conclude. When you come up to the microphone if you can speak directly into the mic, provide us your name, organization that you represent, the Chair will appreciate that along with the Committee. Once you're done if you could stay for a few seconds at the mic, Members may have questions for you. But before we start public testimony if everyone of us could put our cell phones to the silent mode or turn it off. Thank you. The first testifier this evening Myrna Costello.

...BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY...

MS. COSTELLO: Good evening. My name is Myrna Costello. I am a member of the Hana Lani Senior Club here in Hana and I don't have a script for you tonight, but I would love to just speak from my heart and let you know how, how I feel. Whenever I go to Honolulu my friend ask me did you drive all the way over from Hana? And I would say to them, no, I caught the MEO bus. What is the MEO bus? How much do you have to pay? You must have to pay a whole lot. No, it's free and it's, it's available for all of the people here in Hana to go on over and do our shopping, see our doctors, and it's something that is very unique here on Maui. And it's not that it's just for Hana. It's for all of the people on Maui. And I want you to know how proud I feel being a citizen of, of Maui because of the kind of services we have here. Obviously, the MEO service is very important to us in Hana. And I'm 70 years old now and I use it myself. But there are many people who don't drive and we use the service very often. And so I want to speak for MEO and thank you for continuing to give us that service. Another thing is I'm on the Board of Trustees for the Hana Cultural Center. We have a...it's very old. I saw it again today and it's termite infested. We're still using the courthouse and I would love to see...have you come walk through the Hana Cultural Center and see what we have there. It's been there many, many years and I would, I...I'm...I want it to be there for a very long time but it needs some help. So, come and visit and see what we're talking about. I want to also speak for Hale Hulu Mamo, which serves our seniors and I say this 'cause I have my mother. My mother is sitting back there. She's 97 years old and she was born and raised in Hana and she will always be here. So, mom, stand up. But basically the Buddhist religion which she belongs to tells you that prayer is not about asking for things. Prayer is about expressing gratitude. Gratitude when you have that things will come to you. So, tonight I'm here to express gratitude more than anything else and I appreciate being the first person to talk so I can say thank you, thank you, thank you.

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

MR. BRAYMEN: I got a lot of food on my plate so I'll try to keep it brief and short and, and let you guys work out all the things that are happening. Fiber optics--we are in extreme need of cable TV, Internet service, and phone service over here that is not sent over a wire through a transmitter that has microwave signals causing cancer in Hana. Need to try to get the fiber optics. It's been rumored for five years it's gonna be brought over here. The electric company talks about it. The telephone company talks about it. The Internet service talks about it. Please support them. The MEO--I am a disabled veteran. I get only \$700 a month in sustenance. I can't afford to drive. And with the new raises in registration and gas I can't afford to drive. So, I need the MEO service provider. I wouldn't eat. I wouldn't drink. In Lower Nahiku where I live we do not have newspaper. We do not have Internet. We do not have cell phone. The MEO service brings me to town which thank you for last year of supporting that. With now our local bus service that brings me to town so I can go to the post office, get my mail, so that I can go to the library, get my Internet, see the newspaper, and so that I can go to the store and get just a few things I need here, as well as I use it to go to the doctor in Kahului. The bus service is strapped. We are continually having a waiting list for each day. There's only seven to ten people allowed on the bus at a time each day. This is for going to Kahului. It's only three times a week we go. There's continually the bus is overloaded. You're on a waiting list. You're on a waiting list. There's no room. There's no room. We have one driver that's been part-time for two years that's been biting at the bit to be full-time. We have two part-time drivers now but only one is being paid for part-time. If we could expand the service out here. We have the buses. We have the drivers. We just need a little bit more funding so that we can spend more than 40 minutes in town trying to take care of all the things I told you about here in Hana and we could have more than three trips during the week--Monday, Thursday, and Friday. Maybe add a Tuesday or a Wednesday. Everybody wants to go on Wednesday for some reason but that's Keanae so that we can have enough room for all the people trying to get on the bus to go to town to get to their doctor's appointments. I am an American veteran--local veteran. Thank you for supporting our veterans. For one year we have not had a local representative come from Oahu that used to come once a month. I am on my disability claim. I can't submit any more paperwork 'cause nobody comes out here. I go to town to the meeting in town once a month. He doesn't show up. He doesn't show up or I'm not on the list when I was told I'm on the list. And I haven't been able to submit paperwork but once in the last year for amendments to my claim on my military disability. We need to get a representative out here in Hana again that used to come once a month before you had your last meeting out here. Then all of a sudden they disappeared. Please support our local veterans. Hana Health Center--I have been dependent on the Hana Health Center for my healthy food. Now I'm on an onion and potato diet 'cause I can't get my vegetables anymore. I can't get my salads anymore. I can't get my fruits anymore 'cause they closed our store at the Hana Health Center. There is no more source of food for myself and they were the only ones that accepted food stamps for prepared food.

MR. KANESHINA: Three minutes.

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MR. BRAYMEN: I'm starving because of that. Please help to reopen the Hana Health Center for their food service. Please continue to support for the Hui No Ke Ola Pono. Please remember that you're representatives for the County, but every State and every Federal project affects people in your district--very important--Hui No Ke Ola Pono saves lives. It's real important. We need to keep supporting them. Please release funding for our Community Center. Since our meeting last year, over a year ago --

MR. KANESHINA: Four minutes.

MR. BRAYMEN: --we still have a clock that doesn't tell time. We still have a hole where there should be a drinking fountain. And we still have our holder for our paper towels that's from the '60s and those are the minor things let alone the infrastructure. There is a \$350,000 proposal for our center in Lower Nahiku. I live in Lower Nahiku. I can tell you those people are mostly agoraphobic. We don't get together ...*(inaudible)*... that the Community Center will be unused. Let them use this one. Reopen it up for free instead of charging people and having all these requirements and deposits and everything to use this place like it used to be five years--reopen this place and make it free again. Put that \$350,000 towards this Community Center and the use of it instead of it being empty half the time 'cause people can't afford to use it. Thank you very much for your continued support.

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

MR. BRAYMEN: Is that all?

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Yeah.

MR. BRAYMEN: Thank you very much.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Jonas Honokalani Oliveira. Napono Lecker-Tolentino.

MS. LECKER-TOLENTINO: Aloha, my name is Napono Lecker-Tolentino. I represent Hana Youth Center. I'd like to thank you guys for coming to Hana. I really love the Youth Center. I really like to hang out there and without the youth center I would be bored. The programs at the Youth Center is very fun. Also, the Youth Center gives me an opportunity to go Kahoolawe. Kahoolawe is very fun and we got to see petroglyphs. Thank you. Aloha.

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

MS. BELVILLE: ...*(inaudible)*...

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Excuse me, can you start all over again? Give us your name.

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MS. BELVILLE: Wanda Belville. I'm live in Upper Nahiku and the bus service is very important to us. It's only six miles but it's a long way to walk and carry anything. So, I am hoping that we will be able to continue having the MEO service. More and more people are using it all the time and it really has--it's really a life saver. I'm not sure this is appropriate, but I had heard the area where I live at Upper Nahiku Market Place that there's some talk that it's going to be completely destroyed and something else there. I just wonder if there's some way it could be, be some kind of a compromise in that because if the housing is for, I don't know, if it's for older people there's--that would be places they could use and maybe enjoy. So just to think I'd like to know more about what the plans are 'cause that's just where I live and if there could be any kind of a compromise in the use of the property. Thank you.

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

MS. BELVILLE: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Collette Davies. Collette Davies. Oh, okay, fine. Neil Hasegawa.

MR. HASEGAWA: Aloha, my name is Neil Hasegawa and I'm representing Festivals of Aloha for Hana. We are called Festivals of Aloha, in Hana, Aloha Week and it's been a tradition that's been going on since the 1960's. The County helps fund the event so I just want to thank you for helping us continue the tradition. There's a lot of counties and islands that also have a Festivals of Aloha. Molokai does one. Lanai does one--Maui, Big Island, Oahu, Kauai. But we're the only ones in all of this that actually do this celebration for one week where we have one event each day or in the evening. And basically, we're trying to keep the true spirit of when Aloha Week was first brought to the...I mean was invented by businessmen was to share the culture, the Hawaiian culture with other people. So, this event helps us. What we trying to do is help bring money into Hana but also help the nonprofits in Hana make money and also to perpetuate the Hawaiian culture. So, again, thank you very much. There's a lot of...I gave you the letter and there's a lot of volunteers that, you know, help us put on the event. There's a lot of contributors so it's just not the County. And again, we thank you very much for the funding.

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

MR. HASEGAWA: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Colette Davies. Colette Davies.

MS. DAVIES: Aloha and on behalf of Hana Arts, we are very, very blessed to have your support with our Creative Keiki Program because Hana School has a furlough day on Friday's. We're supplementing that day with an art program for the children, grades K-6. They do an hour-and-a-half of music, art and drama. This year they put on three performances and we're looking forward to one at the end of the school year. One thing we would like to do with Hana

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Arts and this program is expand to the middle school so that when our sixth graders leave they can continue on in pursuing the arts. I'd like to introduce to you the children of Hana.

(Hana children sing)

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you very much. Members, any questions for Ms. Davies? Seeing none, thank you again. You know, for your information that, that's a first for Budget and Finance Committee. And I've been on the Committee four years now. This is the first so thank you very much. The next testifier is Martha Yacht.

MS. YACHT: That's Martha Yacht.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Oh, Yacht.

MS. YACHT: Yacht. I work for the Hana Cultural Center. What Myrna said earlier about our building, it was built in 1871 and the termites have had plenty of time to eat up the wood. Please come over and examine the wood and we could really just use a little bit of money to replace the door sills to fix up the koa. It doesn't take a whole lot. But in the courthouse itself the windows and the door jams are no longer square so when you open the door you can't close it. We're afraid to open some of the windows 'cause we don't think we can close them again. So, thank you for all the money you've given us. We hope we've spent it wisely. Also, since Hana Cultural Center is in charge of Aloha Week, I'm with Neil. We could really like to have some extra help for all of our nonprofits in Hana that benefit from Aloha Week. And that's everything I have to say. Thanks very much.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you again. Next testifier is Sheila Wickey Hrast.

MS. HRAST: Aloha, Council members and mahalo for coming to visit with us this evening. All right so Sheila Wickey Hrast. I'm an instructor--art instructor for Hana Arts--actually more like an encourager and an enabler for Hana Arts. As an art enthusiast I must say something like art enriches and expresses the human spirit. It speaks to and from our very soul. So, I've said it and I believe that's true. What makes my Friday though is a privilege to glimpse of na keiki of East Maui's vision of our world. I'm helping them with materials and techniques to show us this vision to their satisfaction. The lovely hale at Hana School recently built by Ma Ka Hana Ka Ike for use by Kauai Kanakaole's Hula Halau and Hana Art also houses a hallway gallery of student art, and this evening we brought about a third of the gallery for your pleasure. Will you be touched as we are by the children's art with tenderness, with humor, with concern which...of which they view their island home, and the living ocean, the moody heavens, their daily lives, their deep felt pride. Last year the class that's now fifth graders, among other projects, studied and painted the indigenous and endangered birds of Hawaii beautifully. This year these same students were assigned to paint, also with care and enthusiasm, the birds of the American continent and again they responded beyond my expectations. With obvious interest and affection do we sense a single gesture of aloha towards their larger worlds so needed in these times. Let's

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continue to provide them a little time set aside and some tools to create art, and hopefully they'll keep showing us what's important and true. Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration.

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

MS. HRAST: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Rick Rutiz.

MR. RUTIZ: Hi, my name is Rick Rutiz and I'd like to start this off with Myrna's words of gratitude. Thank you very much for supporting us and all of our nonprofits and groups out here which if I name 'em all I'll forget one or two. So, I won't do it. But the way that we're able to work together and help each other and collaborate is just amazing. So, thank you for all of that. And our...I'd like to tell a little story of, Danny, of your island. In July, 15 of my kids took a bus ride to Lahaina, jumped on a boat, one of the uncles from your island came up and picked us up in his boat, raced across the channel, got lots of air, had a great time. Sunday afternoon around 5 o'clock, Uncle Merv Dudoit and Kawila Hanchett came and picked us up, and he said you like to go to your house or check out the site. So, we said let's go look at the site. We got there 5:30. There were four uncles covered in sweat, cement--remember it's summer time, it's fricken hot out there--covered. And our boys just looked at the situation down at the fish ponds, took their shirts off, put on their tool belts, and said let's rock and roll. And they sat the uncles down, worked till dark, and for the next eight days got up at 6 o'clock, were working by 6:30. We picked up five Molokai boys from the high school and our youngest taught them. Our oldest taught the second oldest, taught the third, and we just had this hierarchy going. As far as Molokai, every 20 minutes another car would stop, another group of people come shake hands with everyone--mahalo--bring us food--bring us drink. And there's watermelon--every kind. And of course being so hot we started work at 6:30. We pau hana at 11:30--eat lunch 12 to 2:30. We went holo holo, went surf, dive, and everything. And as Uncle Merv drove us down the coast everyone wanted to shake the kids' hands. The more of that that happened the more the kids started just wanting to power this--wanting to kill it--wanting to, you know, get this job done. Motivation was not necessary. And as the days ticked by and they looked at what was being done and what had to be done, they just picked up the pace, picked it up. The last couple days they told me no more break in the middle of the day. We gonna power on through till night till we can't see anymore. The last day was supposed to be the luau. Four o'clock there were probably 50 people from your island came brought food for us. Boys weren't done. They wouldn't quit. They wouldn't get down off the roof until about 6:30 when the last nail was driven in the roof, and they have something that will be in their lives forever. And this collaboration this--they went to help but they felt the kindness and the malama and the love of your island all the way through and it was a really magic experience. They insisted that we go back in February. It was another just like that --

MR. KANESHINA: Three minutes.

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MR. RUTIZ: --and then we're gonna go back this summer and put in a solar system for them. So, bring their mahalo back to your island.

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

COUNCILMEMBER WHITE: Just one question for you. I can't read your shirt from here. What organization are you with?

MR. RUTIZ: Ma Ka Hana Ka Ike.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITE: Okay.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

MR. RUTIZ: Yes, we're begging for money too.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. The next testifier is Mona Oliveira.

MS. OLIVEIRA: Aloha, Maui County Council members. My name is Mona Oliveira. I'm a former client and counselor for Ohana Makamae. I'm here tonight to first of all thank you all for continuing to support our organization over the past years. Because of monies allocated to Ohana Makamae from the County these past years, we are able to fulfill our mission, which is to strengthen the families of East Maui using Hawaiian culture and spiritual values. Our services are unique to East Maui because we are the only organization which has programs to help the ohana or families who are in need of substance abuse counseling, education and treatment, parenting education, individual and family counseling, and a sober living home for men. When I was a former client of Ohana Makamae in 2003, I was able to obtain help through their parenting and substance abuse programs. These programs helped me make the changes I needed for myself and my family. I am forever grateful to the wonderful staff and counselors who helped me through those toughest times in my life. Today, I'm a program manager and substance abuse counselor for the school based program at Hana School. My job is to educate students who are at risk for drug and alcohol abuse and teach them skills which will help them make better choices in their life. Our clients could not be here tonight to testify, but some of them have written letters and I will be submitting them. Again, I thank you all for taking the time to come to Hana and for your continued support for Ohana Makamae. I also asking support for all the different organizations that is here tonight to ask for funding, especially the Hana Youth Center, Hale Hulu Mamo, Ma Ka Hana Ka Ike, MEO, the Hana Dialysis Home, and MISC. And I'd also like to read another letter if you don't mind. This is from an intern that's working with me and her name is Nakita Coelho-Villiarimo and she wrote. Aloha mai kakou. My name is Nakita Coelho-Villiarimo. I am writing on behalf of Ohana Makamae program, more specifically the school based program as well as the Keiki Makamae program. I will soon be at my last year of social work school where I will be gaining a master's degree in the social work field.

MR. KANESHINA: Three minutes.

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MS. OLIVEIRA: I was fortunate to be able to do my practicum with Keiki Makamae last year and I'm fortunate to be doing my current practicum at the school based. And she writes that she believes in this program because it's helping the kids to learn tools for substance abuse treatment and to do better in school. So, on behalf of her I will be submitting her testimony also. Thank you.

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

MS. AGNITSCH: Aloha, my name is Sheila Agnitsch and I'm here on behalf of Hale Hulu Mamo. Our center provides a safe and nurturing haven for the precious kupuna of Hana to meet their social, creative, cultural, and physical needs. And some of the ways we do that is through respite for the families. The many programs we have we offer for our kupuna: tai chi, aquacise, lomi lomi, acupuncture. We have arts and crafts. One of our newer programs is ashimomi. It's foot reflexology. So you want to be a kupuna in Hana 'cause we have all this wonderful programs. We also have computers for your use. We collaborate with Hana Health with a congregate meal through Mai E Ai, and we also provide services for our kupuna like Legal Aid. We have caregiver workshops, support group meetings, car washes, haircuts, and of course information and referral assistance. And one of our blessed things that we do here in Hana is we have our own little Hana Hospice and that takes care of our community's needs. We work with Hospice of Maui and we have in our storage from wheel chairs to hospital beds to you name it, we got it. We also do a lot of collaborating throughout the years, especially in our fundraising efforts with Hana Youth Center and Ohana Makamae. I'm not going to go into detail about what all these wonderful nonprofits do 'cause I'm hoping when they come up they'll share with you. Transportation and field trips just this year we're blessed with having a quarterly field trip through MEO. So, we've done two intergenerational. We've gone to the movies. We've taken our kupuna along with their mo`opuna to the movies and it's been just a blast. We've had a blast with the kupuna and their mo`opuna. So, we're thankful for MEO and these are just some of the agencies we support. You're going to hear from them tonight. Our dialysis home--Hale Pomaikai, MISC--a lot of us need jobs and that's a good job keeping all the bugs away. Kahanu Gardens, Kipahulu Ohana, Ala Kukui, Hui No Ke Ola Pono--Neil was here--we definitely support Festivals of Aloha in Hana. We have Kaunoa, Maui County Office on Aging. We...one of our staff is funded through them. We have Hana Arts, Hana Canoe Club, Pa`ani Mai Park, and Ma Ka Hana Ka Ike. You guys have any questions for me? No?

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Questions for the testifier, Members? Seeing none, you can go on to the second one.

MS. AGNITSCH: Yeah, 'cause I'm also here as a kako`o. And what a kako`o is, is a supporter--one who supports and for me in this case it's my kupuna. And this particular kupuna that I want to share her letter from is kupuna Auntie Daisy Ma`ilou Lind. To Whom It May Concern, which is you all. I am writing this letter in support of Hale Hulu Mamo and their services and programs. As of August of last year, I suffered a stroke on Oahu and was in rehab for therapy. I flew home to Maui in December and am now back home with my ohana. Since then it's been hard

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attending these meetings to show my support for all the nonprofit organizations here in Hana. Since my stroke, I am not able to come to Hale Hulu Mamo as I have in the past to participate in their programs such as aquacise, lomi lomi, acupuncture, ashimomi, Legal Aid, arts and crafts, and so on. With the help of the staff who set up appointments with the therapists, I am blessed to have acupuncture and ashimomi treatments as they come and do home visits here at my residence right up the street --

MR. KANESHINA: Three minutes.

MS. AGNITSCH: --from Hale Hulu Mamo. Hale Hulu Mamo has blessed me and my family who are now my caregivers with the health care equipment I needed such as a hoist, shower bench, commode, wheel chair, hospital bed mattress, and personal care items. My being an active kupuna advocate has been limited due to my stroke, and I hope that my words will still carry on as though I am physically present with you all. Words cannot express the gratitude I have in my heart for all that Hale Hulu Mamo has done not only for me and my family but also for our community as well. I, along with my family, ask for your continued support of Hale Hulu Mamo and all the nonprofit organizations here in Hana. Mahalo a me ke aloha nui, Daisy Ma'ilou Lind. Mahalo.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you. Marni Aina followed by Tim Satot.

MS. AINA: Hi, thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is Marni Aina and I've lived in Hana for 16 years. I am nervous. I'm a mother--working mother of six children and I'm here today to ask for you to support a daycare program here in Hana. We have no certified daycare programs here at this time. And as you know the economy both parents need to work and also students need to go to school. So, we--there is a program Friends of Hana Keiki who they'll be people coming up to talk more after this. One of the programs that they support is the daycare center here in Hana and we've been working on that for a long time with support from many other groups as well as the early childhood group for the County and Kamehameha Schools has been their resource. Maui Family Support Services--working on the planning and the training. But what we don't have is enough funding of course. So, I would ask that the County please keep that project in mind when putting your Budget together not only for next year but in the years to come--whatever resources you can put towards that program. It's a very important program to support especially in a community like ours where parents are trying to be self-sufficient but they lack the support of the family--the working family and the students in order to be independent and not depend so much on public assistance. So, through my own experience I have seen that in the schools it affects our graduation rate. It affects our ability to work. It affects parents in general. There's nothing harder than choosing to leave your child with somebody else to put food on the table. So, I just want to ask your support from the County as much as possible or if you could direct any other funding sources that might be available that way since I know budget is tight and there's lots of other really good programs to support. Whatever resources you can direct towards Friends of Hana Keiki to support daycare here in Hana would be really great. There is Childcare Connection; however, families in Hana who qualify for that there's no

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certified taker here that can receive it. So, even if you qualify you can't take the assistance. So, it's kind of a...kind of a difficult situation. So, I just wanted to express my support for that project through my own experience and the experience of many other families around me. Thank you for your time.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Can you come back? Member Baisa.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you very much Ms. Aina for being here tonight. I'm just wondering--do you have an identified facility where this could go if you could get the money to operate it?

MS. AINA: We do. We're working in partnership with the school, and the school has already identified several rooms actually on campus that can work for this project. We also have training resources that have been provided through the County Early Childhood Department as well as Kamehameha Schools have committed to devoting their time and resources to training the staff and making sure that we qualify for the license and have all that in place so it can be a very high quality facility.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Any idea about whether or not there are like about 15 or 20 youngsters who would be eligible because you need a certain amount in order to make it work?

MS. AINA: I think here in this community it depend on the year. Some years we have 15 plus and some years we have below 10. It just depends on the number of births that year. But, I know, having it on campus would be a good...good place for it. That way we could support the students in general.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: And for a transition it would be wonderful. I have a little bit of experience 'cause I worked with Head Start at MEO.

MS. AINA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: But I'll try and look around and see. I'll try to talk to people. No promises --

MS. AINA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: --but I'll see what I can do.

MS. AINA: That would be very much appreciated.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you.

MS. AINA: Thank you.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you very much. Next testifier is Tim Satot followed by Gene Sansone.

MR. SATOT: Hi, my name is Timmy Satot. I'm the Outreach Program Coordinator at Hale Hulu Mamo, which is a program of Maui Adult Daycare Centers. And as Sheila had mentioned, I'm...part of my job is to provide the outreach work on behalf of Maui County Office on Aging. And I'd like to express my appreciation for your continuing support in funding. I do realize that with the Hawaii State they did cut back on the funding for our kupuna--our seniors. It's been a great blessing that the County Council and the Mayor has made up that difference as much as they could. At Hale Hulu Mamo we're, for some, we're considered the hub, even the informational directory assistance. If you need a phone number you can call or if there's a difficult Hawaiiana question then our Senior Center Director can probably answer it. And so we get odd questions, even people calling from the other side to ask for the phone number for Kaunoa Senior Center. Yeah, I guess, we're listed first under senior centers. But, I think, we really appreciate the funding that we've had at Hale Hulu Mamo as well as two other nonprofit agencies in Hana, because they...because of the funding they are able to provide services that allow our kupuna to age in place. With Ma Ka Hana Ka Ike providing housing or retrofitting their homes when as their...as their conditions change, like they're able to put in ramps or grab bars. We're grateful for our Kaunoa Senior Services through the congregate meals and their home delivered meals program for those who are home bound. We're also grateful for Hale Pomaikai--the Dialysis Home, which allows our kupuna who find that they have need of dialysis. They can do it here in Hana rather than endure the two plus hours of traveling, you know, especially if they have to go every day for treatment. And so, I'm very appreciative. And gotta think now--oh, and then also we have the MEO Hana Lani Club that I collaborate with as far as sharing information about the services that are available not only to the seniors but also to their caregivers. And also Ohana Makamae plays a good part in that because with the service that they provide it is a benefit to our kupuna who at times because of drug abuse they end up having to take care of their mo`opuna. And so...and so I'm so grateful that even though Hale Hulu Mamo is the Hana Senior Center in Hana, the other nonprofit organizations within Hana help out a lot as well in serving our kupuna. Mahalo.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you again. Gene Sansone followed by Teya Penniman.

MS. SANSONE: Aloha, my name is Gene Sansone. First, I'd like to thank you so much for coming out here to support Hana. I'd also like to acknowledge that all of the organizations that are being represented here tonight, you know, we know that every single one of them are important and they help every one of us. But tonight I'm here to speak on behalf of Hana Arts. I'm a member of the board and more importantly I'm a grandmother. I think Hana Arts is important for our kids and adults in this community. But tonight I'll be speaking more about the, the programs for our children. I have firsthand experience as a grandmother of two. My oldest one is now involved in several programs in Hana Arts. She goes to the Friday school program and she also takes piano lessons and dance lessons. And she has opportunities that she wouldn't have if we didn't have Hana Arts. Of course being so far away from everything, you know, in Hana, we

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have to create our own opportunities for our keiki. I think our Friday program is so vital because as you probably know we are on a four day school week here in Hana. And so, Friday is...the Friday program offers our kids a chance to get involved in something healthy, something that, you know, keeps them learning and thinking and growing. They offer music, visual arts, and drama programs. And they also get the chance to have visiting artists to see displays and art from other places. They get exposure to other cultures and just, you know, people and places and ideas that they would never have the opportunity to have. And I think that's so important. Our Hana kids are so talented. They're so creative and they are very gifted musically and artistically. And I think we just need to keep supporting them. So, I'm just here tonight to ask for your support financially because we do have to have some...they have a lot of volunteers in our program, but we do have to pay our teachers and we have to have, you know, upkeep for our buildings and, you know, supplies and things like that. So, any help that you can give us we so appreciate it. And let's see is there anything else? I guess, it's just the idea that, you know, we're always telling our kids to stay drug free, and to make good choices, to stay healthy, and we have to give them the alternatives. So, thank you. Any questions?

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

MS. SANSONE: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Teya Penniman followed by JoAnn Carreira.

MS. PENNIMAN: Thank you. Good evening, Chair Pontanilla, Council members. I am Teya Penniman, Manager of the Maui Invasive Species Committee, and I am happy to be here tonight. I always like coming to the Hana Budget hearing for a number of reasons. It's the--the Hana Miconia program--this was the first project that the County started to fund for invasive species control. It's always been the largest project that you funded and it's certainly our biggest project. So, I always feel it's appropriate to come here to speak to you and to give you my heartfelt thanks for your support and for your vision in continuing to support our efforts. Your first, the first testifier tonight said it very well that thank you is the most important thing to say, and to understand that each one of you really gets it in terms of how important the work is that we do to control invasive species and to stop them from taking over the lands and our forests and watersheds. So, how are we doing? You know, we spend a lot of money and a lot of resources on Miconia and I think it's a logical question. We're being successful at what I would call our containment strategy of keeping it out of our forests and watersheds, but it's a challenge. We've never had the adequate--the full amount of resources that we've identified but we're still succeeding at keeping it in the lower already somewhat degraded forests. So, that's a very good thing. It's not true in other places such as the Big Island where it's definitely going to get into their forests and watersheds. The other thing is that we have, we have, you know, despite that success it's getting denser in some of the areas where it is. And we have new challenges because we have species--you're familiar with the rose apple die off that, you know, common tree that was hit by and not intentionally introduced pathogen that really decimated it, and with the. . .with those trees dying off you have a lot of invasive shrubs underneath it that have come up,

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Chlamydia, which is a relative of Miconia, Turkey berry, and that's making it a lot harder for our Miconia crew to even get through the areas they used to get through just to find the Miconia. So, we have new challenges as well as funding challenges. Our State funding has never come back up to what it was. Our Park Service funding is going down. So, we're adapting. We're shifting our strategies, our ground and aerial strategies, to adjust to those realities as well as looking for some natural enemies to help us with Miconia--trying to find some things in it so the things that would keep in check--as Art Medeiros likes to say, put some rocks in its backpack to help slow it down. We had the opportunity in January, Senator Kalani English had invited the delegation from Tahiti to come to Hana and we were fortunate to be included in that invitation, myself and the Hana Miconia crew, which was--that was pretty remarkable to be able to gather here at Kahanu Gardens with the President of Tahiti and several of his ministers and to talk about some of our common problems, not only Miconia, but also a little fire ant. But also to realize that we have different outcomes here then they have in Tahiti where a little fire ant is spreading and Miconia is certainly. I'm not sure how much control they're doing at present. But we don't even have to look all the way to Tahiti. We can look over at Big Island where the little fire ant and Miconia are both spreading out of control. So, I just give a big huge mahalo to you for your vision and your continued support so that we don't end up in that same place as well as for your work on other...some of our other species like coqui frogs. We are in the, in the Budget for level funding for last year and we appreciate that again this year--very, very grateful for that. Also looking at other ways to generate funds and thinking what we need is a rock concert and we would call it Quiet Nights. So, you know, we would have loud music, but it would be dedicated to the Quiet Nights that we all love and appreciate here.

MR. KANESHINA: Three minutes.

MS. PENNIMAN: The other thing that I want to close with is just that my job is comparatively easy. It's the work of our crew who are out there day in, day out, in the forest, in the hot muggy conditions working to find and control the plants. And we have three of our Hana crews here tonight--Floyd Helekahi, Tanya Vasquez, and Daryl Taua. And I'm going to give a big hats off to them and thanks to you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you. Sorry, Mr. White.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITE: Where do we still have coqui frogs? 'Cause I know they're--you guys have done a lot of work on that. I know Maliko Gulch was one of the places that we had a pretty significant infestation. How are we coming on that?

MS. PENNIMAN: We still have out of 17 identified population centers, we've eradicated 11 of them, and that's a site with five or more calling frogs, and eradicated means more than a year without hearing any frogs there. Maliko is still--we still have a couple of--we have a number of them that are on track for eventual eradication. A few revolving doors where we keep getting them from the Big Island as well as numerous sites where we get single frogs that come in and we control. But as for Maliko Gulch, we have now completed installation of about--they spread

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from the top of the gulch all the way to the terminus of the ocean. So, down three-and-a-half to four miles of the gulch, which is huge. But we--what we've done is we've installed now about--just completed installation of about three-and-a-half miles of pipe--PVC pipe down the center of the gulch with stations along that pipe, that then we hook up fire hose type hoses to and then gravity feed the citric acid solution to it. So, we're probably three, four, five years out before we could really call that done, assuming we have continued funding to support it. But we're working on it every day, every night.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITE: I just have to say 11 out of 17 is pretty darn good. So, thank you very much for all your work.

MS. PENNIMAN: Thank you. We'll get the rest.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any more questions? Seeing none, thank you again. JoAnn Carreira followed by Loverleen Hoopai Feliciano.

MS. CARREIRA: Aloha, everybody. You guys need water or something? Okay. I'm here representing myself. My sister and my nieces and nephews tell me to come. So, in support of all the nonprofits that's coming before you and those who cannot make it tonight, I really support them. And this past weekend Hui No Ke Ola Pono had a health fair that was very thorough, and I just hope one day you guys can all attend this fair 'cause it was really good and they can tell you your stress levels after all this meeting. And then the Rick Rutiz program is the Best Practice program so just wanted to support everybody here. But the Youth Center--the Youth Center had a program--I don't know how long it lasted but my niece and my nephew was part of it and it had to do with training from *Akaku* and they just graduated from that program. But they were really good in this program. They did that one minute news or video just like, you know, KHON news. But now that they have finished the program, *Akaku* took all their equipment back. So, if they can have money, the Youth Center, where they can provide all this equipment for the youths to continue this program, Hana will have their own live news. And I asked them if they brought a little thing for you guys to see what they did. They didn't because *Akaku* got the equipment. But anyway, I really want to support, and I don't even know if the Youth Center...and I'm just talking on behalf of my niece and nephew. But that is a really good project that they were very involved in. And they were good. And the other, the other thing that I was looking over this book--this thing. I noticed that the Capital Program proposal is for six years and for Hana it's--there's only been budget for Hana for next year for the landfill, the preschool, and Hana source. But what about more than just next year if it's a six year program? And then I also wanted to ask if you guys saw the down road, the damage on the down road that's probably not in the Budget or anything, but it's really a concern to me because the up road got the bridge right by the Fire Station that this is a five or ten ton bridge limit. And now that road is the only road that is being used and if you can see all the trucks and the weight that's going over that bridge it's kind of...anyways, please support the Youth Center for that new program that, that is working. Thank you.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you very much and we'll follow up on the down road. Could be a State highway, I don't know. Loverleen Feliciano followed by Ronny Santiago.

MS. FELICIANO: Aloha, my name is Loverleen Hoopai Feliciano. I'd just like to thank you for supporting Ohana Makamae in collaboration with the Salvation Army and Hui No Ke Ola Pono for our Christmas drive that we had this year...last year. Me and my family as well as 70 other families here in Hana was able to receive Christmas gifts. Please continue to support our Keiki Makamae program as well as all of our other Hana programs that we use here in Hana, especially our kupunas. Keiki Makamae program has helped me and my children over the years. With me not working, only one, my husband is the only that works and I have five children. So, Keiki Makamae program has really helped me out throughout the years. Thank you.

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

MS. FELICIANO: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Ronny Santiago followed by Eileen and Maurice Comeaux.

MR. SANTIAGO: Good evening, Members of the County Council. My name is Ronny Santiago and if I may have your permission to read a testimony from a co-worker who could not be here tonight.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Go ahead.

MR. SANTIAGO: Okay. And this written by Gerard Oliveira. Aloha, Mr. Mayor and the County and the Maui County Council. My name is Gerard Oliveira. I work for Ohana Makamae and I am the house manager for the sober living home for men. Thank you all for supporting Ohana Makamae and our programs that we offer here in Hana. My job at Ohana Makamae as house manager is to ensure that the men have a clean and sober environment where they can learn how to live with other men in recovery and prepare themselves for returning to society. I am also responsible for making sure they have transportation to and from AA or NA meetings, doctor's appointments, probation visits, and counseling classes. Since the sober living home opened I have seen men come and go. Some still out there. Some doing really good. But regardless of the statistics, I know that Ohana Makamae has planted a seed in each and every one of those men, and by doing this they now have a choice to make a change. I was once a client of Ohana Makamae so I know that their programs can help because it helped me with changes in my life. I thank you all for coming to Hana and for your continued support of Ohana Makamae. I also ask for continued support for Hana Youth Center, Hale Hulu Mamo, MEO, Ma Ka Hana Ike *[sic]*, and the Hana Dialysis Home. Mahalo. And then this is my personal testimony. I'd like to take this time to express my sincerest gratitude for the support the County of Maui and this Administration has shown towards Ohana Makamae and all of the nonprofit agencies in Hana. Although I have been employed by Ohana Makamae for less than a year, I am aware of the needs rural communities face each year. As a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor and helping professional, I am without a doubt committed to Ohana Makamae's mission statement. I am also

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committed to helping this particular rural community heal from its numerous maladies. My personal belief is that although it may not work for some, substance abuse treatment still works for many. During my brief tenure here in Hana, I have witnessed firsthand the necessity of certain programs to preserve...to preserve the invaluable cultural history Hana has to offer the world. I would like to take this time to implore of you to continue your support of Ohana Makamae along with all of the other nonprofit agencies, not only financially but also spiritually. Please keep the community of Hana in your prayers as we greatly appreciate all you have done, all you have yet to do, and all you are doing now. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you again. Eileen and Maurice Comeaux followed by John Villiarimo.

MR.. COMEAUX: Hello, I'm Maurice Comeaux.

MS. COMEAUX: Thank you for the money.

MR. COMEAUX: Thank you for the money for the Skate Park

MS. COMEAUX: And the Youth Center.

MR. COMEAUX: And the Youth Center.

MS. COMEAUX: And the Hana Art Barn.

MR. COMEAUX: And the Hana Art Barn.

MS. COMEAUX: And we're looking forward to the funding of the Skate Park.

MR. COMEAUX: And we're looking forward to the funding the Skate Park.

MS. COMEAUX: All right. Thank you very much. Thank you very much for the Skate Park. We're really looking forward to getting off the road and that's what it was all about. Right, we wanted to get these kids some place safe and really we are so looking forward to it. In fact, a four year old now just got a little skateboard. So, it's opened up a whole new...a whole new life for us. Thank you. I also want to thank for the Hana Arts and the Senior Center. With the Hana Arts, you know, it's the past for my kids that were in it and now my grandkids are using it. So, the Hana Art Barn is very important along with now the Senior Center is very important to me. So, that's, you know, everything, all the health, arts, we definitely need that. Hana Makamae that's very useful. Everything out here is very useful. Also, the Maui Flower Growers. We sent a lot of flowers to Philadelphia and appreciate the support from the County and Maui Flower Growers always needs your support as a farmer also. So, and, you know, we're still struggling with that one but we did well. We could've done a little bit better, but we got our name out there and so for farmers the industry for the flowers is getting bigger and there'll be more farmers around because we gonna need 'em. I thank you very much for your time and thank you for coming out.

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

MS. COMEAUX: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: John Villiarimo.

MR. VILLIARIMO: Aloha County Council members. Mahalo for making the trip to our isolated community. My name is John Villiarimo and I'm the Executive Assistant of Hana Youth Center. We are celebrating our 26th year operating and currently have about 219 members from 8 to 18 years old. As always I want to show our gratitude for continuing to support our community and our many nonprofits. At Hana Youth Center we are so fortunate that we continue to get support from you folks so that we are able to provide quality programs and activities for our youth. In the recent months, we were able to take a group of youth to Kahoolawe to experience a once in a lifetime opportunity. We collaborated with *Akaku* and just wrapped up our Youth Mobile Journalism program this past weekend, and if you want to see any of the videos that they created just go to mauitube.org and click on Hana Youth Center. *Akaku* also helped us with filming a music video that we learned our song from our community member, a Japanese song that she wrote, and we're going to take that music video--she's going to take it back with her to Japan to the victims of the tsunami and the earthquake to give them some encouragement and support. And we look forward to the busy months of summer. Without your support, we would not be able to offer these experiences for our keiki and opio. I ask that you continue to support the different nonprofits that we collaborate with--MEO transportation, Hale Hulu Mamo, Ohana Makamae, Hana Canoe Club, Hana Cultural Center, Ma Ka Hana Ka Ike, Hana Arts, Kipahulu Ohana, Kahanu Gardens, Ala Kukui, and Alu Like YAPP. We appreciate all the support and we would also like to thank Hana's Park and Recreation Department for all their kokua towards our center. On a personal note, I would like to ask you to support our Hana Dialysis Home. In January my grandmother got very ill and her kidneys shut down. She is doing much better now but needs to do dialysis three times a week. And if it wasn't for our dialysis home she would have to travel all the way out to Kahului just for her treatment. Mahalo once again for being here and have a safe trip back to the other side. I'd also like to submit a letter. Dear County Council members. Aloha mai kakou. My name is Nakita Coelho-Villiarimo and I'm writing on behalf of the Hana Youth Center. I am truly grateful to the Hana Youth Center and its staff members for allowing me to become a volunteer. The environment is filled with aloha, respect for one another, educational programs, and life skills development workshops, just to name a few. I believe that this program is vital to Hana and its youth members. Without such a program you could have little to do and no direction in life. The Hana Youth Center really cares for each individual member and does a good job of making positive and long lasting impressions with each youth. I will be entering my last year of social work where I'll be graduating with my masters degree. Volunteering at Hana Youth Center has helped me to make a connection with my studies and problems youths are faced with on a daily basis. It is always a humbling experience to learn firsthand. I hope to one day benefit the Maui community...Maui County community with my knowledge and experiences. At this time, I'd like to humbly ask that you

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continue to fund the vital youth program. I also want to give a warm mahalo for funding the Youth Center in the past. By doing so, you have changed and impacted a lot of lives. Mahalo nui, Nakita Coelho-Villiarimo.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for Mr. Villiarimo? Seeing none, thank you again. Jasmine Oliveira. Jasmine Oliveira. Diana Naihe.

MS. NAIHE: Hi, my name is Diana Naihe. Thank you guys for coming here and that lady--this beautiful and lovely lady who was--she was talking about her niece--I'm her. Yeah, I am a youth member of the Hana Youth Center and we just finished a YBEAM program that taught us filming with youth pre-production and directing and actually getting on the field and filming ourselves. The Hana Youth Center is a great place and we learn and everybody gets a great, great--get a long great over there. And they give me opportunities and experiences that I would never think I would even have in my life. Like we went to Kahoolawe and I fell in love with the beach over there, Honokanai`a, it's like very beautiful. And I'm in this program called Hoomaka Hou and they host it at the Youth Center where we learn about water quality and soil quality and the GPS navigation or whatever thing. And we learn a lot from that program and I'm also in this other program...oh, that's it. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you again. Jasmine Oliveira followed Brandon Naihe.

MS. OLIVEIRA: Aloha. Hi, my name is Jasmine Oliveira, Program Manager for Keiki Makamae. One of the programs that Ohana Makamae has to offer for women pregnant and have--for women who are pregnant or have children three years of age and younger. I want to thank you for your continued support and ask that you keep supporting Ohana Makamae as well as MEO for transportation. They go to the school, pick up my kids, take them to Hana Youth Center. I am a sole part-time worker with Hana Youth Center, Hale Hulu Mamo who collaborates with Hana Youth Center, and Ohana Makamae, Ma Ka Hana Ka Ike, and Hana Arts. Again, thank you for coming out to Hana and thank you again for supporting all of our nonprofits out here on the East side of Maui. Mahalo.

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

MR. NAIHE: Aloha, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Brandon Naihe. Believe it or not no matter how handsome or mature I look, I'm ninth grade. I am here to represent the Hana Youth Center. That place--you could say that the Hana Youth Center is a second home for almost every youth in Hana. So, it's real supportive. I remember seeing kids come panting inside the Youth Center, "ho, where you came from"? Oh, I running away from home. So, they came to their second home. This beautiful lady over here on the end--she said her niece and nephew. That's the niece, I'm the nephew. Yeah, we just graduated from the *Akaku* YBEAM program yesterday. Fun program--you get--you get to learn a lot of new stuff about technology and just filming. But back to the Youth Center. The Youth Center--we just got back from Kahoolawe, like you heard

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so many times. But that place--that was probably the only chance I'll ever get to go in there so thank you. And just that just--I hope you guys keep funding the Hana Youth Center 'cause in the past for the summer I was an employee there for the time being and I hope to be again in the future. So, I thank you for funding them and I hope you keep doing that. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Thank you and I do agree. You look good but I didn't think you was that old anyhow. Okay. Now we got that one straight. You said you worked this past summer and at the Hana Youth Center. Was that part of the Summer Pals program or was that a direct program with the Hana Youth Center?

MR. NAIHE: Was under Alu Like.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Oh, was under the Alu Like program?

MR. NAIHE: Yeah, but then I was posted at the Hana Youth Center.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: I'm sorry.

MR. NAIHE: I was put at the Hana Youth Center to work.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Through Alu Like...Alu Like? Okay, that's what I was gonna question. Okay, thank you.

MR. NAIHE: Oh, wait, uncle?

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Yes, sir.

MR. NAIHE: Molokai, beautiful place.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: I know that.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: You saw Molokai, I know that. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Terry Poipuni.

MS. POIPUNI: And I number 18, I think. Good evening and thank you all for coming. Oh, you cannot hear me? Ai, mic, okay. Good evening. I'd like to just thank you guys for coming here. You guys all look good and it's kind of late now. Gosh, it must have been a long day. But anyway, I'm not trying to make you guys hoomalimali, yeah, but I'd like to reiterate what everyone said about the many nonprofits and they depend a lot on you. And MEO, Gladys, thank you. I know

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you came from MEO. You played a big part in that and it is very important here. So, I want to state that you folks will continue to support and probably add more. I realize the Budget is not so great. And, of course, another nonprofit I want to recognize though tonight is Ma Ka Hana Ka Ike. You know that they help the school. They help the students. They also help Hui No Ke Ola Pono, which I am a part of. I work at that organization. They've come in and they've helped us remodel Parks and Recreations' old school where I went to, and I won't tell you how old, but the thing is we needed a face lift and they've done magic to a lot of our old buildings. So, you know what, I say support them and I realize Budget is, you know, very tight. And, of course, Hale Pomaikai, and Hale Hulu Mamo, the Hana Youth Center, and I can go on all night but I know you guys tired so I won't. And also the highway, the makai highway is a big thing, but I want to also try to support our County Highways Department. You know, I'm not sure what kind of equipment they have. I know they've been trying to work on the lower roads, but without the equipment to work these areas and help us to get to one part of our destination and get to the other, they cannot. They are in a tight budget and so if you can support the Highways Department, we'd really, really appreciate that. And I also want to say thank you for the park, because initially we were talking story about that park before it started, and I know it went through a long time ago, everybody was talking it. We were talking about it. We never did anything. Thank you. It's finally--you can see that. I'm quite sure you guys saw it. So, thank you for that. And I'm going to say Hale Pomaikai. I hope I don't get diabetes but so far I don't have, but that is so important if you guys can continue to also support that because we need that. And on behalf of Hui No Ke Ola Pono, I want to thank you folks. Parks and Recreation and in collaboration with us held our tenth annual Health Fair this weekend. We is kind of piula but anyway we had to make it to this Budget meeting. But we want to thank you guys for that partnership. It is very important to the Hana community. And last and foremost, I want to thank Robert Carroll, our East Maui Representative, for gathering the Na Mamo Mu`olea group of people. They're at his chambers and I sit on the board and I want to thank you for that, too. So, mahalo and have a good evening and we so appreciate you guys for coming out. And you're right it's not only about the money, it's about the spirit. Thank you, Riki. Good to see you again and Elle. Maybe we see you in church again at the Taro Fest. Nah, I just joking. But thank you, a hui hou, have a good evening.

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

MS. KONAHA: Mahalo. Aloha ahiahi and thank you for this opportunity to listen and express just how thankful, like you've heard many, many of voices before me. You guys made the trip, number one. You guys got out here safely. I, like Terry, work at Hui No Ke Ola Pono. And again, we've been there since day one at the old Hana School known and it's the Hana Community Center. We always get mixed up, people think we're Hana Health Center, but we're not so please remember that. And as you guys know, old Hana School is probably a historic site now and on the list of the registry. But whatever it may be, its old, it's a fire hazard I'm sure, and if it wasn't for Rick Rutiz and his awesome program, Ma Ka Hana Ka Ike, we wouldn't have the facelift that Terry spoke about, and the services we try to provide as health services. We've got our medical doctor that sees patients. They do pap smears. You want to make sure you have

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a clean office, that no more bugs all over, and if it wasn't for Rick and the awesome kids, that wouldn't happen. And our dentist is trying to also make his way here and just like that, guess who we call? We no go look for one construction worker or some big time contractor. Who we call, 911, Ma Ka Hana Ka Ike. We going go for them first because number one we're from here. That's our own kids. And you guys see the quality work that they produce? It's amazing, you can pick out their building from the DOE building two shakes. You guys--you see the murals and the beautiful stories that it tells and it's all from the children. So, I want to thank Rick Rutiz for coming into our office this morning and sitting down so patiently and requesting and asking, and he's asked numerous times for our support and it's just amazing. Words cannot express how much that program has done for me on a working level with Hui No Ke Ola Pono. And, again, thank you guys for those offices 'cause now we get three offices. Pretty soon we'll take over old Hana School, but we're just so thankful to be able to provide as much as we can to our community. But on a personal level as well, Ma Ka Hana Ka Ike has been a blessing to my family and long story short, six months ago my partner was in a really bad accident that left him paralyzed from the waist down. And after the rehab process, eh, we never think about returning home. We were just in the moment. Okay, doing the rehab process, getting that done as much as possible, and we didn't think about coming home. We're like eh, once we get home, how the heck you going get up to the--into the house? We're not equipped with a ramp. You know, where you going take a shower? We no more roll-in shower. Well guess who we called? In fact, we never even call. In fact, they just came and made it happen. We told Rick when we were coming home, Black Friday, November, after Thanksgiving. And just like that. two boys from --

MR. KANESHINA: Three minutes.

MS. KONAHAIA: --Rick Rutiz' program came and built us the ramp. So, again, because of that program my family can live comfortably as well as Tutu Daisy, like Sheila mentioned, that's also another ohana who had a stroke. And again, on a wheel chair, how the heck she going get into her house, in and out. Well they made a ramp and in the shower--same thing. So, more than just building kupuna housing, Rick's program is meeting needs that how else are we going to get access. So again, thank you, Rick. All the programs, I just work for you guys. You guys gotta split up the Budget amongst everybody and I know you guys will do an awesome job, but I'd like to help you do that and you correct me if I'm wrong. I heard that you guys will be putting monies aside again for the Public Works, County of Maui, for paving. We weren't meant for that. Leave that up to the Maui Paving Company--leave it up for those who know what they doing. I heard that's big bucks for us to start paving roads now. They giving us kuleana to keep the roads open so we can pass to go through Kaupo. So, just an idea maybe that where we can save money so you can support all this other awesome programs. And continue to support them because County, the Public Works, they no more tires for their vehicles. How they going do their regular routine jobs? Paving--I don't think so. They need to run their dump trucks. We need our landfill opala trucks to be running regularly. They need to be kept at the, you know, maintained. You guys know how much one tire cost--three hundred, four hundred bucks. So, thank you again. Is there any questions? And I sorry if I missed you folks.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for our testifier? Seeing none, by the way you belong to the Lions Club?

MS. KONAHA: How you know? Yes, I'd like to throw that in--East Maui Lions. You said you was going be one Lion. We still waiting, brah.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you very much. I belong to the Kahului Lions Club. Okay, next testifier is Tina Ames. Oh, Ames.

MS. AMES: Good evening. My name is Tina Ames and I'm the founder and Board Chairman of Friends of Hana Keiki. The Friends of Hana Keiki was formed in 2009 because of the challenges Hana School and the community faced in providing services to area children. I moved here in 2007, and Hana School budget has been reduced over 38 percent since I've moved here. With such a tight budget, the school is only able to offer bare bones programming to our children. The Friends of Hana Keiki's mission is to provide additional support to the children of the Hana district by developing, promoting, and funding programs, which enhance academic achievement, social and emotional development, cultural enrichment, and helpful recreation and physical fitness. One project that we've been actively pursuing and which was one of our founding initiatives is the Infant and Toddler program on the Hana School campus. We've been working closely with Maui County Early Childhood agencies to secure funds for the Hana School to operate a quality childcare for high school students who have children, school staff, and area working families. This will enable students to stay in school, staff to focus on their work, and families to be employed. Funding of daycare will help increase the high school graduation rates, help recruit and retain quality school staff, and it will reduce the number of area families that are needing public assistance. The Friends of Hana Keiki Board knows we need to form a public-private partnership in order to make these services available to our community. We're committed to pursuing grant money and private donations to contribute to the funding for the personnel that are needed to run this valuable program. Recently Friends of Hana Keiki applied for and was awarded a Central Contractor status with the Federal government. This makes our organization eligible to apply for and receive Federal grant funds. I'm also personally meeting with Paul Mancini and a Central Maui resident, a friend of Hana Keiki supporter, and a part-time resident of Hana, this weekend to discuss funding opportunities through the Weinberg Foundation, Hawaii Community Foundation, and other potential funding sources. Ideally, we will secure 30 to 50 thousand dollars in private foundation funds for this project. Friends of Hana Keiki have accomplished many things in the short time since our organization was formed. I personally know a young woman who did not graduate from high school because she did not have family support or daycare for the baby that she gave birth to her senior year. Her...she dreams of becoming a nurse but has no way to pursue her dream. But providing funds to operate an Infant and Toddler program at Hana School, we can make a difference in her life, her child's life, and those who will be faced with a similar challenge. I respectfully ask that you budget funds to operate the Infant and Toddler program on the Hana School campus. Rick Paul, the school principal, will also give more details about this project in his testimony to come. One of our other goals --

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MR. KANESHINA: Three minutes.

MS. AMES: --organization's goals is the commitment to help with recreation and physical fitness for our kids. Because of this we have been asked by Maui--the Hana Maui Trust to take over the fundraising efforts for the children's playground area up Pa`ani...Pa`ani Mai Park. They're in the process of transferring the \$24,000 that--it was raised previously and earmarked for the children's playground...playground equipment to fund for Hana Keiki. We're exploring matching grant funds from playground equipment suppliers who support economically challenged communities. We're also pursuing a corporate donation to transport the playground equipment to Maui. With the completion of the Hana Skate Park, it's critical that we resume fundraising for the children's playground at Pa`ani Mai Park. First and foremost, it's important that we have other options for children's to play. The Skate Park is an amazing asset to our community, but we need a fun and safe area for children who don't skate because of their age or ability. The current lawn swing set does not give our children what they deserve and need. Secondly the Skate Park brings a unique interest and momentum to fundraising activities surrounding the park. Realization of a true community park in Hana has been a long time coming. Past donors have been frustrated by the timeframe of the park's development. We can now show progress towards the goal, and it's a perfect time to revitalize the fundraising for the children's playground. We're asking of you today to fund the grading and fencing of the park according to the Master Park Plan for this Budget. This would allow us to install the playground equipment as soon as we are able to fund and purchase and transport it to Maui. According to Bill Sides, the general contractor coordinating the project, who is unable to be with us this evening because of health issues, this work can be accomplished for around \$10,000. This would include the installation of a single parking area where the future parking lot is planned. With this work completed, we feel confident we can raise the funds to purchase and install an amazing children's playground for everyone to enjoy for years to come.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you again. Kristin Gillette followed by Jim Williams.

MS. GILLETTE: Good evening, nice to see you all here again. Thank you for coming. Thank God you had a safe trip. My name is Kristin Kit Gillette. I live here in Hana and I'm here to encourage you to continue to support all the various nonprofits that you've heard us talk about this evening. We're sounding like a record and I think the reason for that, as you probably understand, is that all of us who live here are so involved in all the agencies that you've heard mentioned, who may be volunteers or we're clients or we're staff. We're just, you know, we're...when we have a small place like this, everybody has to put on many, many different hats. So, I would like to just say that I'm mostly here to talk about Hana Arts and I do have a letter to read to you. But I urge you to support Hale Hulu Mamo, whose services to seniors are invaluable and the Hana Youth Center, which provide safe and enrichment activities for Hana youth. I'd like to read a letter from another Hana part-time resident, Diane Buck. I am writing to you as a part-time resident in Hana with a request for Maui County support for Hana Arts program. As a retired art educator, I have an understanding of the importance of art in the lives of young and old. Hana Arts programs of music, theater, dance, and fine arts are an important part of education for Hana

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youth. These programs are critical replacements for the fifth day of school each week, and the program is the only genuine art education for the young people of Hana. Hana Arts are the zest that helps to makes Hana special for children as well as adults. For adults, the important components of Hana Arts programs are the classes for the community, which are given at the Art Barn. Classes are posted each month via e-mail and on bulletin boards around Hana. These classes have increased in number and quality over the years. The careful...carefully selected classes give community members an opportunity to interact with each other and forge friendships between generations besides enriching their lives. All of this is done without a full or even a part-time administrator for Hana Arts. Custodial and repairs on the Art Barn are done by volunteers. Art Barn classes are given with a plea for support, and teachers in the community are often volunteers. This has become a desperate solution because of inadequate funds--situation, I'm sorry--because of inadequate funds. Hana Arts needs County support. East Maui is rich in talented artists, writers, yoga, dance, painters, musicians --

MR. KANESHINA: Three minutes.

MS. GILLETTE: --yoga and meditation leaders. Hana Arts could attract even more talent if there were adequate funds. Please support Hana Arts. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you again. Jim Williams followed by Rick Paul.

MR. WILLIAMS: Good evening. Thanks for making the trip out to visit with us. I'm here representing my family and testimony for the Infant and Toddler program. As you can see, our families who represent a typical Hana family, multiple children, where both parents both are full-time employed not just 'cause they want to 'cause we have a need to get by. And childcare is, you know, one of the top discussions on a daily basis. You know, who's picking who up, what time do they have to be there? You know. Is our babysitter helping? Will he be able to make it or do I have to take a day off? With the Infant and Toddler program, and with the commitment from Hana School, it gives a safe environment, a great learning, you know, stepping stone, you know, where, you know, just taking them and dropping them off at the babysitter, you know, for one, they're on the road all day. Then are they safe? Is, you know, did they get their lunch? Did everything go all right? You know, where with a program, you know, at the facility at the Hana School, we know that the--a lot of this stuff is being taken care of. It's like--and so you're at work, you know, your mind is clear. You're able to concentrate on the, you know, task at hand. And, our children, you know, like I said, being there around the facility that's a great stepping stone education wise, you know, 'cause they're already by the time they hit kindergarten, you know, in preschool, they're already, you know, in the education, in learning mode, in the...I'm, you know, I'm a firm supporter of that. You know, as we always hear about, you know, children, you know, fall on the way side because for other things. But like I said, I'd like to support this program. I think it would be an asset to our community as well as, you know, the other programs that have, came before you this evening. So, I'd like to thank you guys for coming. Thank you. And thanks again for the Hana Skate Park.

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

MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Rick Paul followed by Jay Alman...Hayman.

MR. PAUL: Good evening, everyone. I've had the pleasure to work with several of you in the past and it's been a great experience. My name is Rick Paul. I'm the Principal at Hana High and Elementary. We're a K-12 school. And as I was sitting here, I was struck by a couple of things. I came in here kind of focused on what I had to say, and then I realized that I'm a very fortunate man because every one of these organizations that came up here tonight to speak with you are interconnected to the school--every single one. I mean the Youth Center, the Hui, Rick Rutiz' program, and if you dole out just a little money we are going to benefit from that, because they are all embedded in our school working with our keiki. And the children here, everybody just surrounds them. When I first moved to Hana, eight years ago, you know, you always hear Hana is a special place, but then what you really hear it's not the place, it's the people. And the other thing I was struck by is everybody's not up here grabbing for money. It's support, support, support each other because it all comes back to us. Well I do have a special interest tonight that I'd like to talk about and you've heard a lot about it and I'll try not to repeat those things. It's the Infant and Toddler program. We do have a facility at the school. We got a permit for an Infant and Toddler program. Because we're the Department of Education, they don't fund anything over, you know, under three years old. We have a great need. We...last year it was a little bit ...(*inaudible*)... We lost a young lady that her life has changed because of this. She comes into my office and says please help me. Help me get to school--lives in Nahiku--had a baby--no childcare--nothing. We lost her. Hopefully, we can do something about that in the future. You know, we sent computers home--tried to enroll and there's no Internet service down there--sent social workers down to try to see if there could be arrangements. Nothing could be done. We just lost her. Two years before that lost two seniors--didn't graduate. They had children and their parents were working and they had to stay home from--stay home to take care of their children. And the one issue we have here or the big issue is because we don't have a licensed program, our immediate families cannot get subsidies and there are subsidies out there. And your...I need to tell--your Early Childhood people at the County are all over this. You know, very...they realized how important it is. And those of you, like Ms. Baisa, that probably knows this --

MR. KANESHINA: Three minutes.

MR. PAUL: --for every dollar spent on early childhood education, you save seven in the future. Our special...we started our own preschool program. It's been very successful. Our Special Ed rates are going down. Kids...some kids just need more time. There's nothing wrong with them. They just need more time. And so, we would like your support in that if at all possible. The Williams who were just up here--Kristine is a teacher at our school. They have...I hope you don't mind. They have to like lure relatives from the mainland to babysit so she can come and teach at

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school. And of our ten elementary teachers...four...we have four long-term substitutes because they had babies and, you know, and that really affects education. And I know if their children were there at school, right next door, we could get them back sooner 'cause they want to work, but they have to take care of their children, too. And it really is a--really is a great need. And in any event, like I said, I feel very fortunate because if you support any of these organizations, I'm a winner. Hana School is a winner. The kids are a winner. A nod to Rick Rutiz. He's somewhere. And like, I'll give you a couple of examples. He built a building on our campus that Hana Arts uses. And so, we get their services for free because they have a place ...*(inaudible)*... Mona and I have had some--she's gone with the substance abuse place on campus. Rick and his kids built a building. We get free substance abuse treatment. It's pretty rare that we have an event at school, but when we do we get to save those kids because they're out of school for 90 days, which is a ...*(inaudible)*... unless they can get into a substance abuse program and get on the right track. And that's what we can do. If they get busted, they're in that program in 15 minutes and they're in school. They don't miss school. So, the thing that I'm struck by this community is everybody leans on everyone else. Everybody supports everyone else and it's like no place I've ever seen. And I would be surprised if everybody else was saying give money to everybody else at your Budget meetings. But any way you can support this community, we're at the end of the line. We're small. We don't have a huge voting bloc, and we're usually the first place that the services are cut. And so, the strength of this community is they pull together, jump in, and solve the problem. So, I'd like you to support the Infant and Toddler program. It will have a lot of reaching effects, but in supporting everybody else, I'm a winner. So, thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Just a quick question, Mr. Paul. Thank you. How much funding are you looking for?

MR. PAUL: Well, we're trying to get it from several different sources. You know, we're trying to work with the Legislators. As Tina Arues said, the nonprofit is trying to...we've got the building. We've got the place. We've got...there's so many resources that we can leverage. I'll get to your question. We have a police officer on campus. We have a health aide. We have a cafeteria. We have all those things, but we got no money to fund the positions. That's what we need and, I mean, just any amount we can get. But we think to sustain it we're probably gonna have to have 150 to 200 thousand. You know, we don't expect you to write check for that, but we're trying to leverage all these resources to do that.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you. I understand how expensive it is. I put one together at MEO with the help of the County and a lot of other resources. And it's an expensive facility to run because of the licensing requirements and the need for special teachers with special credentials.

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MR. PAUL: And we have all of that in place. The training from your folks Early Childhood, I mean, we've meeting for years, that's all in place. We just need funding for the position. And so, any way you can help would be appreciated.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Maui Family Support Services, have they been able to kick in any early head start money?

MR. PAUL: Well here's who we're working with--Ka Lima, well of course that's Maui County Early Childhood, Maui Economic Opportunity Director, PATCH Coordinator, you know, Kamehameha Schools. And they're coming to us because they realize...I mean, it's like they call me to say don't forget to come here tonight, because they see it as a powerful model that we can replicate.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: I'm sure that you've got the right people on it, but I will talk to a few people. I don't know if it will matter but I'll try.

MR. PAUL: Okay, thank you very much.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, anymore questions? Seeing none, thank you. Jay Hellman. Jay Hellman. Jay Hellman. Chris Harrington.

MR. HARRINGTON: Hi, I'm Chris Harrington. I'm the new Board President for the Hana Youth Center and I'm excited and happy to be here. I think on my left that she was the past Board President. I just wanted to take a moment to thank her for all of her years of service to the Hana Youth Center, and she had to leave because of personal reasons that you all heard tonight. And, and I'm happy that she trusted me to take over her role, and I hope I do as well as she did over the years. Coming out here tonight, I just was shopping on the other side and drove so I know what you're feeling coming back, but I don't have to drive back tonight like you guys do. So not only will I try and make it brief, but if you think about it, the services that all of these nonprofits provide out here are the spectrum of services that any small community needs. And any individual who lives here is touched by one or many of these nonprofits during their life in Hana. If you had to drive to the other side to get it, it would be impossible. So, we need all of these services. There are here for a reason. They may be nonprofit but they profit us in many ways besides money, and that's why not only do we provide employment it would to work with them. But as a community member, I think, it's very important to volunteer my time when I can't earn money to help with these services. So, I'm very happy to be on the board. And one of the things I just want to tell you, we all need money obviously, and I hope we get what we all ask for, and in a perfect world we would. But sitting there deciding where this money goes, and when I think to myself what would you want to hear from me as a board president, I want to share with you that my commitment to the Youth Center is to grow what we do. With your money, it provides the foundation for us to stay open, to pay for our employees, and to provide the base services. I feel it's my job as a board member and the rest of our board, which I hope to grow with people that are as enthusiastic about moving it forward, that we'll raise extra money to provide services and experiences that go beyond what the Youth Center can do at its base level. And part of that

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we're already having success. We started a program to not only raise money which we're doing and we've increased the amount of donations that we get. And it's going to help us to do trips like you heard tonight to Kahoolawe and other things that provide--these other organizations like the school and things provide education. We do too but more so I want to open the opportunity for experience. Hana can be isolating for our kids who don't get the wider view of the world, so just figuring out how to balance a checkbook, going over and visiting behind the scenes in a restaurant or doctor's office, that may not seem like a big deal really, or, you know, that can inspire a kid. And who knows if we have the next actor or president or whatever, but giving these kids the experience to do that not only is going to make Hana healthy in the future but also who knows what's going to come of that. And I know that there are lots of things I would've loved to be in my life, and if somebody had just told me when I was young you're good at that I may have had a different life, not that I'm not happy with my life. I live here, it's great. But I want to make sure that every kid in Hana has that opportunity and that's going to provide a healthy future for Hana. So, thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for testifier? Seeing none, thank you again. Maka...Maka Lecker-Tolentino followed Keala Sinenci.

MR. LECKER-TOLENTINO: Aloha, County Council members. My name is Maka Lecker-Tolentino. Growing up as a youth, I would always look forward to going to the Hana Youth Center. I would go there almost every day to do my homework and hang out with my friends. Going to Hana Youth Center was a way for me to stay out of trouble, because it's a drug and alcohol free program. Now that I'm an adult, I wanted to give back to the youths and the community of Hana. So, now I work for Hana Youth Center, but I'm employed under Boys and Girls Club. From Monday through Thursday, I, along with my co-workers, help the kids out with their homework before they participate in any activity. On Friday's, we usually leave the center to go do a beach cleanup. Last week Friday, we picked up over 300 pounds of rubbish, such as plastic, ropes, and like little bit broken pieces of carpet. Then we went to Hamoa after that to go swim. On behalf of the Hana Youth Center, we just want to thank you guys for coming out and for the continuous support.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you again. Keala Sinenci followed by Stacy Lynch.

MR. SINENCI: Aloha, Maui County Council members. My name is Keala Sinenci and I'm a part-time worker here at the Hana Youth Center. Thank you, guys, for coming out. Thank you for all your support. With all your support we can continue doing all these fun and safe activities for the kids, keep them out of trouble, and keep them coming back, such as our Kahoolawe trips, field trips to Kahului, and activities around the Youth Center. So, again, I'd like to thank you guys for all your support to the Hana Youth Center, for all the community continued support to our community, and have a safe trip back. Thank you.

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

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MS. LYNCH: Hi, good evening. My name is Stacy Lynch and I want to thank you all for coming out. I'm a founding board member of Ohana Makamae and when you were traveling the road out to Hana, which I know is a very long road, you could imagine, and you will be I gather driving it back this evening, doing that when you're sick or have different issues going on in your life. You can understand why the services of the nonprofits in Hana are so vitally important to everyone and why we're all interconnected. Most of these services would not be available in Hana, and a lot of times if you look at Ohana Makamae if a person has a DUI and they have to go to classes on the other side, they can't drive. How can they do this? How can they get the support? So, it's just very important. I thank you for your continuous support of Ohana Makamae from helping us with our 501(c) at the beginning to your guidance in helping us when we've had tough times. The County has always answered questions and helped our Executive Directors when they need it. And I won't list all the names of the nonprofits. There have been other nonprofits. They've been listed so much but they're all very, very important and thank you very much for coming out.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you again. Shawn Kroop followed by Layne Suzuki.

MR. KROOP: Aloha, my name is Shawn Kroop and I am on the Board of Directors with the Friends of Hana Keiki. I also...aloha, Bob. I kind of helped spearhead this whole Skate Park thing. I started it about eight years ago with Officer Dennis Clifton who's now I hear him on the radio talking about all kinds of stuff. But I would like to first of all thank you guys. The Skate Park is just truly amazing. It's been said that, you know, just when you thought nothing could be done to improve Hana with its beauty, well now we have a Skate Park. And I'm here representing a lot of parents and even more importantly a lot of children. And unfortunately they couldn't be here 'cause it's school night, this and that, and they gotta eat. I have helped raise a lot of money for a lot of nonprofit organizations, such as Ohana Makamae, Friends of Hana Keiki, the Sober Living House, Rick's program--Ma Ka Hana Ka Ike, which in the last four years have totaled over \$300,000, to help raise a lot of money to get this park going, and this park was done at a fraction of what it would cost anywhere. We were able to accomplish a six, seven hundred thousand dollar project with \$150,000 of County money. It's truly amazing. It's truly amazing. Cement is over \$5 a yard. We can't even get a whole--yeah, yeah, \$500, right. And we can't even get a whole truck out here 'cause the bridges will only let us bring three yards in an eight yard truck. So, things get challenging. We're on fire right now--on fire. You guys know this project the way it's been done, the time limit has been done in the timeframe. This kind of project in Hana could never ever get to where it was without major community support here. We are on fire. Rick's boys helped build that park. That's another thing they've done. Everybody from all local contractors. We had so much community support. And I ask that we have a little bit more to do and we're tapped with funds and we would really like to see a guardrail go up. We need fencing. We need parking. We need to make sure that it's safe. It's very safe as far as the skate park goes, but we have some issues. We have a tight road right there. You guys drove by. You saw it. Imagine ten parents trying to drop their kids off, cars coming around. Everybody that drives by, hoo, they all stop--they wave--all in the middle of the road. It's a

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scene right now, you know, and we cannot have a catastrophe. We just can't and we need a guardrail. I know it's the State's responsibility. I've been told it's already in the process, but it's been in the process. So, let's get--maybe you guys can help get that process over with and get the guardrail up. And maybe somewhere we can dig and we can find so more funds, because I got more people that want to donate money --

MR. KANESHINA: Three minutes.

MR. KROOP: --but they don't want to donate money when they're told that we're gonna come back to this park in 2014. Because I know that or I don't know, but from what I understand, we kind of don't have any money allotted for the Pa`ani Mai Park projects or the Skate Park projects up until 2014. And if there's any way we can find, you know, even if you guys can throw us 50 grand I'm almost sure we can match it. I'm almost positive. We got a lot of people that want to help out. We've gotten this far. We were able to raise almost \$70,000 in private donations for the Skate Park. And thank you guys very much.

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

COUNCILMEMBER WHITE: I can see why it got built with your energy, but I just want to warn you if any of us show up at the Skate Park with a skateboard, make sure you put us in full body armor.

MR. KROOP: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. And it's going to be wheelchair accessible as well so, you know. Right, right.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITE: I think, I think Elle could probably handle it but none of the rest of us could.

MR. KROOP: Yeah and we're shooting for, I believe, it is May 10th for the ceremony, and I just, I really hope you all can be there 'cause it's just gonna be a really special thing. Thank you again.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, we'll try.

MR. KROOP: Yes.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Next, next testifier is Layne Suzuki.

MR. SUZUKI: Hello everybody. My name is Layne Suzuki and I am the Executive Director of Ohana Makamae. Right now, I'd like to take this time to personally thank the County of Maui for the continued support throughout the years. For past year...year-and-a-half, Ohana Makamae have been going through transition, which is so with the change in leadership. Through the transition Ohana Makamae as an organization deserve resilience to withstand the storms of life. The winds has changed to continue serving our community. Yes, we are still here serving our community as Hana's Family Resource Center and the only substance abuse treatment providers in East

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Maui. And the other guys is Aloha House. For me, the most important question is sustainability for Ohana Makamae. We're having to deliver behavioral health services to a community as well as developing Work Force Development programs. Our substance abuse treatment providers in the State ...*(inaudible)*... behavioral health to keep up with the growing needs of our consumer and their families. Work Force Development is also essential in our remote rural community because there are few jobs. It's easy to fall back to old behaviors and to provide for oneself and more importantly...more importantly one's family. The vision is if there are jobs in palm, treatment outcomes will be better. Furthermore, if more jobs, I foresee a more prosperous community. I believe that this is the way to self-sufficiency for Ohana Makamae. However, this is not an easy task and to develop a behavioral organization of the Work Force Development programs is like ho. And right now, I will also like to acknowledge all the nonprofits in Hana community who continues to provide quality assistance to those in need of their service. I think they tell me it's about 50 or more nonprofits in Hana. All us nonprofit organizations in Hana have to work together as we are to continue to provide services to our community. We work with Hale Hulu Mamo, the Hana Youth Center, to provide a monthly movie at the park. Event is drug and alcohol free event. We also like to appreciate the Ma Ka Hana Ka Ike for helping out with last year for rebuilding our wheelchair access ramp. They did a really excellent job. And I would like to thank --

MR. KANESHINA: Three minutes.

MR. SUZUKI: --they also go out to Kahanu Botanical Gardens and Mahele Farms weekly to assist and they know about malama aina. It's all about, you know, community sustainability and right now I'm working with trying to get like . . .*(inaudible)*. . . to come out and try help us out here. Last but not least when we was in transition, right, for the last couple years, I'm polishing initiatives but on June 9th will be our coming out party. June 9th is the first annual King Kamehameha Day celebration. We having John Cruz come out and play 90 minutes. We're going have Brother Nolan and he going have one six piece band to come play for us. _____ coming in from Kona and George Kahumoku. Going have food, crafts. We're going have like the Drug Free Coalition coming in to do interactive booths. We going have the Department of Health . . .*(inaudible)*. . . that coming in. We going have HIV, Hep C testing free. The event is free. Mark it on your calendars. Then hopefully _____ Mr. Correa if you can ask him to speed up our permits so we can start advertising our event.. So, thank you very much for your time and thank you for coming.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you again. Moke Bergau followed by Chuck Gray.

MR. BERGAU: Aloha, Council members. My name is Moses Bergau and I'm a board member of Ohana Makamae. And I just want to express my sincere mahalo for supporting the organization throughout the years and helping it grow. Well as you know, at this time and day, it has gone to a point where it needs enhancement, and finances is one of those main topics here. But we do appreciate your support. You know, it does help the community. It has vital...vital programs for our Hana community to be used and also during the school based system with the program that

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they have there. But what we have do...what we have today is the leadership--is the leadership in Ohana Makamae that leading that--leading that program, and all we ask from you folks is that the finances Budget take a look at it. And if you could 'cause all our programs now they need enhancement. It's not able to sustain itself the way it is and need a little work on other aspects like adding more services to the organization. But thank you again very much and we do really appreciate your coming in tonight. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you again. Chuck Gray followed Ward Mardfin.

MR. GRAY: Good evening, Council. I really appreciate your coming out here this evening and listening to what has been very educational to me as well. And I'm sure it was a lot of interesting things. On behalf of the Hana Arts, I want to thank you for your presence and your continued support for the Hana community. Any questions? That's good.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you again. Ward Mardfin followed by Lehua Cosma.

MR. MARDFIN: Aloha, thank you for coming. Saw a lot of familiar faces here. I want to air a couple of things. I'm no longer...I just retired from the board of directors at the Hana Cultural Center, but I urge you to continue to support them and the other nonprofits. It hasn't been said tonight but the nonprofits in Hana work together. Hale Hulu Mamo, Ohana Makamae, Hana Cultural Center, and Hana Youth Center have a program with the hotel to recycle. The hotel and the restaurant put, get the glass containers together and aluminum and plastic. The nonprofits take them to the other side and get the money there. So, we're helping ourselves. We also have ten nonprofits that formed the Hana Community Endowment Fund, and we're trying to get a million dollar goal so that the revenues from that can help support. We're looking for, as a previous speaker said, looking at sustainability and trying to find other means other than just County support and other types of grants. I'm going to give you some good news. I have nothing but the greatest respect for the Public Works Department. They keep that...the Hana Highway--they do an amazing job of keeping Hana Highway clean from the landslides and the trees falling over and everything else. Really good people and they're out and they'll go out at any time to keep the road clear. They do a great job. I've just finished four and a quarter years on the Maui Planning Commission. I have the outmost respect for the current and the long-range planners. The County of Maui gets their monies worth from those people. They're professional, hardworking, dedicated civil servants. I want you to support all the nonprofits. I...especially MEO provides transportation services. You're keeping some of the people off the road, that's a good thing. And it, you know, it's an efficient way to have things done and it keeps the roads safer probably. The...I'm going to mention an organization that hasn't been mentioned tonight--Hui Malama Learning Center pays for a GED teacher for Hana. I happen to be that GED teacher. It's only two hours a week, but I've gotten three people through this year alone, some, and close to 40 people over the time I've been here, and one more person is right on track and ought to be finished in about a month. I know money is tight. If there are funds for land acquisition that I recently saw in the Maui paper, there is one place that we would really need to

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acquire and that's...Robert Carroll...Councilmen Carroll knows about it, excuse me, by Gary Stice's place out by Koki Beach across from --

MR. KANESHINA: Three minutes.

MR. MARDFIN: --Alau Island. It's really important to somehow get a County-State program together to get that. The County has beach. . .Koki Beach there. The State owns where...it's where the old Hana Airport was beforehand when it was grass, and it would be really great to get it together and do that. Thank you very much for coming. If any of you feel like coming again we have the Taro Fest for this weekend. There's the Hana School Centennial coming up at the end of May. The Hana Cultural Center has its hoolaulea in August and the Aloha Week Festival lasts for a week in Hana. I hope you'll come back. Mahalo. Thank you for all your help.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for Mr. Mardfin? Seeing none, thank you again. Members, the next person to sign up for public testimony this evening is Lehua Cosma. If anyone that hasn't provided testimony and would like to, you can see the people in back and sign up. Thank you. Go ahead, Lehua.

MS. COSMA: Aloha and good evening. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity to come here and listen to all about our nonprofits. It's really funny because I told my husband I gotta go 'cause I like sign in early. Come to find out, I was the last and it was like only ten after six. So, this tells you it's a good meeting. We have a lot of people came out to support each other. But first and foremost, as founding board member of Hui Laulima O Hana that oversees Hale Pomaikai, Hana Dialysis Home, mahalo, mahalo, mahalo. Through your wonderful and ongoing support we are able to provide the essential dialysis services to our kupuna. We have two kupuna now receiving treatment. Our program is preparing to come to Hale Pomaikai and that's what it's all about. It's overseeing that we are there to support them in whatever we can, and your County fundings that we receive helps to pay our two health aides that provides all these services to uncle and aunties. And without your support I don't know how we would do it. But I thank you for that. In fact, they couldn't be here to tonight but they wrote a letter and said if I could read it to all of you. It says we would like to extend a big mahalo to our Maui County Council, Budget Committee, providing us with the finances needed to keep dialysis going in Hana. It means literally the world to our patients to be able to receive treatment at home in Hana and not have to endure the four hour drive to and from Liberty Dialysis in Wailuku. Our patients are blessed to have more time at home with family and friends or just being able to rest after a long day of dialysis and not to have to bear the winding road to Hana. As health aides, we're also grateful that you have given us the opportunity to further our experience in this field and are thankful that by doing so we have now become more skilled in our field than most dialysis technicians are at a normal facility. Being that we are a home based unit, we have been trained to not only perform dialysis treatments like a normal facility, but to also learn any other side jobs that concern treatment. At a facility, you will have a dialysis tech, water technician, nurses, receptionist. Whereas here in Hana, we are trained to learn it all. In other words, they do everything. They're still learning as we take on different patients who each have different needs. So, we thank you for your wonderful financial support that we are able to keep Hale Pomaikai running and are

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grateful for the opportunity to further our skills in this field. Mahalo nui loa a kakou, Hale Pomaikai, Hana Dialysis Home Staff, Kainoa Sinenci and Loretta Oliveira, and our patients, Uncle Francis Lindell and Aunty Christina Villiarimo. And Aunty Chris is one of them usually here that will be testifying. She always said at the past meetings, I might need it one day and she has it now. And it's all about taking care of their needs. So, this is just one of the many things that we are here for, and I thank all of you for being a part of this wonderful model. Because we've had so much calls from throughout the nation where other rural and isolated communities can follow what we do. So, that, it took all of you to help with that to make it our reality. It is a home based dialysis home --

MR. KANESHINA: Three minutes.

MS. COSMA: --and people call from all over. How come Hana people no like us? How come we cannot be treated at your center? It's not a center. It is a home for our residents and it's something that--it's the first start. We've taken baby steps, but eventually if we do grow then we can lead to that direction. Otherwise, thank you again and mahalo Ma Ka Hana Ka Ike, Friends of Hana Keiki, Ohana Makamae, Hale Hulu Mamo, all of those. They help us with the dialysis with transportation. MEO, Aunty Christina needs wheelchair. MEO has all those, you know, accessibility for her, and Liberty called me one day and said, oh, Aunty Chris coming over, we don't have a ramp. You guys have to make one. I said pau--Ma Ka Hana Ka Ike did it, 'cause we always had to think one step ahead, you know, to make things work. So, mahalo all of you.

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

MS. COSMA: I have something for each of you. Can I hand...

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Sure. Next testifier is Loly Soler-Bergau.

MS. SOLER-BERGAU: Loly Soler-Bergau. Thank you. Thank you very much for coming. I was not planning on speaking but after seeing Lehua coming up and talking about our home dialysis and the service that is being provided there, I have to come up and try say something. I'm a practicing family nurse practitioner and I formally was with Liberty Dialysis and I ran the CKD Clinic over there. It's the first CKD Clinic _____ dialysis, and I got to experience folks before, and before and after dialysis, and a lot of the patients at the time were people from here, and they kept waiting for the time where they could come home. And unfortunately many of them did not make it to be here and have dialysis, but we're very grateful to have the home here for those folks that need it. Furthermore, Hui Laulima has asked me to come and help them with CKD prevention, which of course starts with diabetes. Hypertension--it's the number one reason for our kidneys breaking down, so I'm assisting them, us to bring up the consciousness and see if we can keep it down to just two and prevent dialysis. I've also been asked to help with assisting all kinds of prevention in Hana. So, we do have another option available and that's the little cottage. And thanks to you--to Ma Ka Hana Ka Ike, they have _____ us, and my lovely husband putting in his time, guiding the children through that summer. We have another County building that is looking pretty sharp, and I welcome each and one of you to come and take a look at it.

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And also I want to say thank you for supporting all the nonprofits, because we really do malama each other and depend and do a lot for this community. And thank you so much for being here. Aloha.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier. Seeing none, thank you again. The last person to testify tonight is Joseph Oliveira.

MR. OLIVEIRA: Aloha, thanks for coming. I'm Joseph Oliveira and I hope I not going lose my job over this by testifying. But, you know, I'm still on probation for the County of Maui, Highways Division, and I heard a lot of testifying that, you know, we're doing a lot of good work. And, yeah, we can do a lot of good work but we need good equipment. And, you know, every time I ask, I'm just three months--I'm still on probation. And we need new weed eaters. We need new chain saws. You know, we need equipment to keep the roads clean and the roads clear. And they say that the Budget zilch--no more. So, I ask that you guys put more funding in our Budget so that we can do better quality work. Thanks.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you for being honest with us. Again, Mr. Oliveira was the last person to provide public testimony this evening. Is there anyone else that want to provide public testimony at this time? Seeing none, Members, there's no more public testimony at this time.

...END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY...

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Before the Chair close the meeting, I just want to thank everybody that's here tonight, the ones that's not, thank you for having us, and thank you for providing your testimony on Mayor Alan Arakawa's Fiscal Year 2013 Budget.

COUNCIL MEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS. (excused: Member Couch)

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Members, with that the Budget and Finance Committee at Helene Hall in Hana is now adjourned. ...*(gavel)*...

ADJOURN: 8:22 p.m.

APPROVED:


JOSEPH PONTANILLA, Chair
Budget and Finance Committee

bf:min:120416-EastMaui:df

Transcribed by: Delfey Fernandez

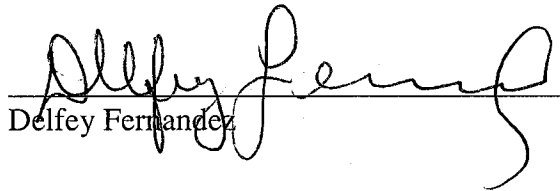
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CERTIFICATE

I, Delfey Fernandez, 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 this 8th day of May 2012, in Wailuku, Hawaii.


Delfey Fernandez