

# **BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Council of the County of Maui**

## **MINUTES**

**April 3, 2013**

**Hannibal Tavares Community Center, Pukalani**

**CONVENE:** 6:04 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councilmember Mike White, Chair  
Councilmember Gladys C. Baisa, Member  
Councilmember Robert Carroll, Member  
Councilmember Elle Cochran, Member  
Councilmember Donald G. Couch, Jr., Member  
Councilmember Stacy Crivello, Member  
Councilmember Don S. Guzman, Member  
Councilmember Michael P. Victorino, Member

**EXCUSED:** Councilmember G. Riki Hokama, Vice-Chair

**STAFF:** Michele Yoshimura, Legislative Analyst  
Josiah Nishita, Legislative Analyst  
Yvette Bouthillier, Substitute Committee Secretary  
David Raatz, Director, Office of Council Services  
Dianne Shimizu, Supervising Legislative Analyst, Office of Council Services

Darlene Ane, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Gladys C. Baisa  
Amanda Martin, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Gladys C. Baisa  
Morris Haole, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Robert Carroll  
Arthur Suyama, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Stacy Crivello  
Keoni Enriques, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Don S. Guzman  
Troy Hashimoto, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Mike White  
Miki Yokouchi, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Michael P. Victorino

**ADMIN.:** Michael Molina, Executive Assistant, Office of the Mayor

**OTHERS:** Lisa Rodrigues, Director, Boys and Girls Club of Maui  
Kiha Mossman, Member, Boys and Girls Club of Maui  
David Georges, Member, Boys and Girls Club of Maui  
Colby Hanley, Member, Boys and Girls Club of Maui  
Alexandra Kennedy, Member, Boys and Girls Club of Maui  
Bryce Corden-Yoshida, Member, Boys and Girls Club of Maui  
Aaren Soriano, Member, Boys and Girls Club of Maui  
Colin Hanlon, Chief Professional Officer, Boys and Girls Club of Maui  
Isabella Mosbarger, Best Buddies  
Feona Rehfuss, Best Buddies

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

Casey Hearl, Best Buddies  
Chantel Ratte, Executive Director, Ka Lima O Maui  
Buddy Nawaa, Ka Lima O Maui  
Crystal Nunes, Ka Lima O Maui  
Joseph Lawton, Ka Lima O Maui  
Kepano Panela, Ka Lima O Maui  
Michael Cabral, Ka Lima O Maui  
Alexis Ortiz, Hui Malama Learning Center  
Kamakani Alu-Ramos, Hui Malama Learning Center  
Pualani Enos, Hui Malama Learning Center  
Patrick McGoldrick, Best Buddies  
Keoni Lei Nakila, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. Underage Drinking Prevention  
Charlie Nakila, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. Underage Drinking Prevention  
James Sato  
Rita Silva  
Dan O'Leary  
Maggie Prevenas  
Emily Haines-Swatek, Maui Economic Development Board  
Lotus Chen, Maui Economic Development Board  
Vinnie Linares, Board President, Maui Academy of Performing Arts (MAPA)  
Mabel Lopes  
Scott Obley, Hui Malama Learning Center  
Dave Ohta, Maui Oral Health Center  
Joanne Gabot, Dentist/Co-Clinic Director, Maui Oral Health Center  
Vajra Evison, Boys and Girls Club of Maui  
Colby Hanley, Boys and Girls Club of Maui  
Tabitha Thomas, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. Rental Assistance  
Timothy Hills, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. Rental Assistance  
Steve Sutrov  
Aubrey Becker, Hui Malama Learning Center  
Dawn Hall, Executive Director/Co-Founder, Hawaii Animal Rescue Foundation  
Leonard Hasse  
Annette Niles, Upcountry 4-H and Ag Tour  
Nancy Johnson, University of Hawaii Maui College Dental  
Carver Wilson, Maui County Farm Bureau  
John Wilson, Board Member, Kula Community Association  
Fred Rawe, Board Member, Kula Community Association  
Kathleen Phillips, President, Kula AARP  
Ann Cua  
Sydney Smith, President, Maui Coffee Association  
Peter Kafka  
Hope Tavares  
Anne Masuda  
Koa Chang, President, Alii Kula Lavender

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

Max Tornai, Executive Director, Mediation Services  
Marie Lowre Ankawa, Noni Maui  
Janeane Maglinti  
Carol Petez-Zubiack, University of Hawaii Maui College Dental  
William Jacintho, President, The Maui Cattlemen's Association  
Kekuanaoa  
Francis Spalluto, Director, Haiku Aina Permaculture Initiative  
Harold Cambra  
20 additional unidentified attendees

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CHAIR WHITE: . . .(*gavel*). . . Good evening. . .off to a great start. Good evening, everybody, and welcome to our public hearing for the Pukalani, Kula, Upcountry area and to make the introductions this evening I'm gonna turn the microphone over to your representative, Gladys Baisa.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you very much, Mike, and welcome, everybody. Thank you for coming to our hearing tonight. We're very excited to see the room full. I'd like to introduce the folks that are here tonight from the County Council and the Staff that are here to help us with this hearing tonight. And, of course, we are led by our Budget and Finance Chair, Mike White. And I'll just start at the end so that I don't miss anybody. I'd like to introduce the Council Vice-Chair, Bob Carroll, our Councilmember Mike Victorino, Councilmember Don Guzman, Councilmember Don Couch, Councilmember Stacy Crivello, and Councilmember Elle Cochran. Not with us tonight because he's covering us on Oahu, you know we're dealing with the Legislature, I was there all day today but he's there tonight, Riki Hokama, and that's why he's not with us tonight. So we're all here to listen to what you want to talk to us about tonight. Thank you for coming, please feel comfortable. We want to hear from you. It's important to us as we put together the budget and I'd like to welcome all of you to please partake of the refreshments. Get up and help yourself during the meeting. My volunteers have lots of snacks and we have water, juice, and coffee, and tea, so please make yourself at home. We want you to be comfortable. So, we're ready, Chair, let's go.

**ITEM BF-1:      PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2014 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI**  
(CC 13-100)

CHAIR WHITE: Still got all that energy after spending the whole day in Honolulu. Just a couple reminders, if you have cellphones, please turn them off at this time. I just turned mine off. And for the Members this evening, we're passing out the testimony, but at the end of the evening, please turn these testimonies, the written testimonies back in to the Staff, because otherwise they've got to make copies when we get back there. So, I'm insisting on that because the alternative was that they weren't going to pass it out to us and I said, we want the testimony from the people that are here. So that's why we have this and so at the end of the evening please turn it in to the Staff so that they can distribute it into our binders. With that, I would like to announce that we have our Committee Secretary, Yvette Bouthillier and Legislative Analysts,

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

Michele Yoshimura and Josiah Nishita. So give them a round of applause, they're the ones that do all the heavy lifting for us. And I . . .let's see, where the other Staff members are. . .we have Darlene Ane and Amanda Martin from Gladys's office in the back there. And if you guys would please stand up so the folks can see you, and Morris Haole, also in the back, Arthur Suyama from Stacy Crivello's office, at the sign in table. Keoni Enriques from Don Guzman's office. . .where are you Keoni? Okay. And Troy Hashimoto from my office at the sign in desk, Troy. And where is he? And David Raatz, our Director of Council Services, David. Okay, with that, I think we're ready to. . .we have, as you all have probably figured out in the past, we always allow the children and the elders to go first. So, that's this stack and then we have. . .the also testifiers in this stack. So with that, we will give you three minutes to testify and then give you an additional minute to finish up if you need it. We have 56, no, 50 people signed up this evening, so we look forward to hearing from all of you. So with that, without objection, Members, we'll open public testimony.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR WHITE: And the first person up is representing the Boys and Girls Club and that's Lisa Rodrigues. Of course, I'm not sure you qualify as an elder, but I guess you qualify because you're here with the kids.

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

MS. RODRIGUES: I am here with all of my kids, yes, and I appreciate your time and thank you very much for having us here. Good afternoon and aloha, my name is Lisa Rodrigues. I am the unit director, the club director at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Maui, the Makawao club, which is located right by Kalama School. I've been there for over four years already and I'm just here to talk a little bit about it. I'm not the highlight, my kids are. They're going to tell you here in a minute what the club means to them and it's very impactful on them and our community and especially their parents. Just to give you a little bit of stats on our club. We currently have 332 members. We average approximately 86 members a day, that's our average daily attendance. Our club boasts the State Youth of the Year, he's sitting in the back. You might have seen him in the paper the other day and with that we also have a track record. The Makawao club alone. . .yes, applause, thank you. . .the Makawao club has a track record of saving lives. Over the past 11 years, eight of the Youth of the Year, coming out of Maui, Maui representative Youth of the Year came from the Makawao clubs, so we're very, very proud of that. Thank you very much. And of course, two of them, two of the three, went on to represent the State in California, actual one is about to, so we're very, very excited and very proud of that. One of the main things that I wanted to ask from the Council is at 4 percent increase over the allotted budget for the Boys and Girls Club and this is mainly for merit increase. From what I understand, we haven't had any merit increase for over six years and I know I haven't had one for. . .since I've been there. And so anyways, there's been a freeze on the raises for seven. . .for over six years and yeah, so anyways and I also want to talk about. . .give our support for MEO Transportation. They're very, very important to our clubs. They transport our kids to the club from the schools and a lot of them home. I know personally my sons come from downtown to come up. They

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

catch the bus to go Upcountry to meet me at the club, mainly to work out with our exercise program, but also so I'm not late picking them up as well. So that transportation issue is very important. And I'm gonna cut myself short here for now and I'm going to let the kids explain what the club means to them. So I believe the next one is Kiha.

CHAIR WHITE: That's correct.

MS. RODRIGUES: Kiha Mossman.

CHAIR WHITE: And Kiha will be followed by David Georges.

MR. MOSSMAN: Hi, my name is Kiha Mossman and I've been going to this club for about one year now. I really am happy to come to this club because they support me and care for me. They treat me just like a family member. They are kind, they are very kind and also funny. My dad is a firefighter in Hana Station and my mom works in Kula. They work a lot and I have no place to go until I heard a friend talking about the club, then I tried it out and I loved it. They have many sport activities such as basketball and football. I used to be disrespectful, but this club changed me a lot. I love this club because when I first came here they asked me to join their weight lifting club. I've been lifting every day. Now I'm stronger and more active than I ever was. This is why I love this club. Thank you for listening to my speech and about how grateful I am to have this club.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you. That wasn't so hard, was it? Okay, thank you. And are you David? Okay, any questions for Kiha, Members? Seeing none, thank you very much Kiha. Next testifier is David Georges followed by Colby Hanley.

MR. GEORGES: Hi, I'm David Georges and I've been at the club for about four years now. I'm so happy I came to this club. If I didn't come to this club I would be out on the streets or even worse. I love this club because it's my home, my family. I go there every day after attending Maui High. I stopped coming to the club at one point in seventh grade. I thought hanging out in Makawao Town and making troubles in the community was fun. Then one day, I got arrested for stealing. I had 30 hours of community service. I did it at the Boys and Girls Club in Makawao. After I was done with my hours, I remembered why I loved coming to the club. In the club, I felt safe and I knew I belonged here. Then a staff, Ola, saw me and encouraged me to come into the weight room. Now because of the club, I'm bigger, faster, stronger, and smarter than I ever was. I am active every day now. I ask that you continue to help fund the Boys and Girls Club. Thank you for your time.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you. Any questions? Okay, thank you very much. Our next testifier is Colby Hanley, followed by Alexandra Kennedy.

MR. HANLEY: Hi, my name is Colby Hanley and I've been going to the club for almost four years now. I almost come to the club every day, because my dad is a firefighter and he sometimes. . .and sometimes I don't see him for days. My mom has to work from 7:00 a.m. to

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

4:30, so I have nothing to do if I don't have the club. I like to come to the club for. . .I like to come to the club because I have fun and feel safe. All of the staff member are great and very kind. The club has lots of activities for me to do. In fact, so many I can't count. . .even count. One of my favorite games to play at the club is dodge ball. So, please keep supporting us and thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Colby.

MR. HANLEY: Okay.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much. Our next testifier is Alexandra Kennedy, she'll be followed by Bryce Corden-Yoshida, I'm sorry.

MS. KENNEDY: Hello, my name is Alex Kennedy. I'm 13 years old and I go to Kalama Intermediate School. I come to the Makawao Boys and Girls Club at least three times per week. I like that they have bistro on Fridays and kid café on Wednesdays. I enjoy reading under the beautiful trees and hanging out with friends. I'm one of the oldest of my six siblings and I noticed how much fun they have at the club and how much they enjoy it there. If it wasn't for the club, I'd be at home with my oldest sister. If my parents could afford it, I would be playing soccer, but at least I have the Boys and Girls Club and their staff to help me keep on track with my athletics. Sometimes I have a hard time at school and I love being able to come to the club and be able to talk to one of the staff about it. The staff really listens to what you have to say and they make you feel better no matter how bad your day is. I recently joined the Makawao Boys and Girls Club and to be honest, at first I was upset with my parents for making me go here. After a few weeks of coming to the club, I realized I enjoyed coming a lot. Many of my friends from school go to the club, so I go to hang out with them a lot too. All my siblings go to the club and they really love it. Thanks to the MEO free bus service, my family is able to safely arrive home on the days our parents was late and are not able to pick us up. Two and a half years ago, my family moved here from New Port Richey, Florida, and this is my fourth middle school. Last year, I went to Iao Intermediate School and my parents signed me up for Boys and Girls Club Central. I never went because I didn't think I'd like it at all. So when I realized I didn't have a choice whether to go to the Makawao Boys and Girls Club this year, I actually went and I really like it. On most Tuesdays, we have college bound. We meet in the dining area with all kids above sixth grade to talk about our careers and what we want to do in life. I plan on joining the Army services then college. We also have Torch Club which meet in the homework room on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Torch Club is a captain/leadership club that teaches you to be morally correct and support your community. We have SMART Moves which is on Wednesdays. SMART Moves is like a DARE Program. It talks about how to make smart moves like don't talk to strangers, don't to drugs, or drink alcohol. Every day we have a brain teaser when we walk into the club. The first three people to get the brain teaser right gets a prize. In the homework room, every week there's a word of the week. This week's word is verdant, which means being in tint or color. I tutor the kids that need help with their homework, including my little sisters, Ashley and Mikayla who are there every day. Thank you for the Boys and Girls Club and thanks to my club as well for being there for me and my family.

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

CHAIR WHITE: You're really fast. Thank you very much, Alexandra.

MS. KENNEDY: Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: And Members, I'm going to keep moving unless if you want to ask a question, please let me know, okay. Alexandra. . .the next one is Bryce Corden-Yoshida. . .I did the same thing again, Yoshida, followed by Aaren Soriano.

MR. CORDEN-YOSHIDA: Hi, my name is Bryce Corden-Yoshida and I've been coming to the Makawao Boys and Girls Club for about four and a half years now. At first, it was just a place to hang out after school when I was going to Kalama Intermediate. Then it was a place to work out in the weight room. Now, when I go to the Makawao Boys and Girls Club, I am entering my second home. I know that it is filled with family, love, compassion, and friendship. I love. . .I absolutely love the Boys and Girls Club from the staff to the young newcomers. I love everyone and everything the Makawao Boys and Girls Club has to offer. I want to thank you for your support and understanding of what the organization means to us, our parents, and our community. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, very nice. Okay, the next testifier is Aaren Soriano, followed by Colin Hanlon.

MR. SORIANO: Aloha, my name is Aaren Soriano. I'm honored to be selected as the Hawaii State Youth of the Year for 2013. First, I would like to thank the Maui County Council for your continuous support over 12 years for this organization, Boys and Girls Club, but tonight, I would like to ask you to continue that support for this reason, the impact upon our keiki, our future. As our members that preceded before me and testified before me, they are shining examples of what the Boys and Girls Club does. They talk about the staff. The staff is our practically parents; loving, caring, compassionate. They also talk about programs. Practically, lessons that we learn from, that we could use, and apply to our lives daily. In all, our club is an ohana, which makes it very unique. In conclusion, I would like to ask you guys continue supporting the club for it is this organization that secures the best that is yet to come for the County of Maui. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Aaren. Colin will be followed by. . .

MR. HANLON: Yeah, definitely not who I want to follow, but I'm gonna stumble through this. My name is Colin Hanlon, I'm the Chief Professional Officer with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Maui. Most of you know that I am passionate about this organization. A lot of times, way too passionate about this organization. I understand that I push really hard. It's not because just because I love this organization. It's because I grew up at a boys club. It was a boys club back until 1986. It turned into a Boys and Girls Clubs back then. Not in this community but back where I grew up. The one resounding thing that all members, all graduates, all alumni of Boys and Girls Clubs will tell you is a staff member that changed their lives name. Mine was Mike Cassidy, the guy who ran the gym where I went. Alright, absolutely saved my life. So,

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

that is why I'm completely passionate about what I do. I know what it takes. The buildings are great. We buy the best commercial quality equipment for our kids to make sure they have it at their club houses. We have the best practice programs that are designed, that are brought here. We have trainers that come and train our staff and to be honest with everybody here, that is very, very little, the smallest part of the equation. The equation is the staff that we put into those buildings that change kids' lives, alright. We have Cathy Rudew, we have Lisa Rodrigues here, and I'm gonna just make sure you guys know we have done unbelievable work to diversify our funding to bring in new funding and it's getting tougher every year, but you will have turnover even when this is the passion and what people are. . .their calling to youth development, if you don't give merit increases. And like Lisa said earlier, we have been at that place for a while now. So that I am in front of you asking that if you could take a look at the Mayor's Budget and increase the Boys and Girls Club's allotment. Even the slightest amount is gonna make sure that we help to really fight any turnover that we have because consistency in staff members is what's gonna change and gonna be a game changer for the kids here in Maui County. So, again, thank you so much for your time, thank you, all, for your past support, and please also remember MEO Youth Transportation is how the majority of the kids in every one of the communities get to the youth centers and to the Boys and Girls Clubs. Thank you very much.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Colin. Our next testifier is Isabella Mosbarger, followed Feona Rehfuss.

MS. MOSBARGER: Hi, my name is Isabella Mosbarger and I'm here for, like, the Best Buddies organization. I go to King Kekaulike and I'm a freshmen. I joined the Best Buddies club this year. Well, I guess last year, whenever we started school and it's already, like, changed me so much. I joined it because I thought I'd be, like, helping people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, but they really just changed me to grow into, like, a person that understands them more. My best buddy is . . .*(inaudible)*. . . and she's one of my favorite people in the world. She's already changed me a lot and I'm going to be in Best Buddies for, like, the rest of high school, and I think I want to take on something that involves working with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities when I get older, because I really like it and it's one of my favorite things to do. I see . . .*(inaudible)*. . . every single day, at least once. I try to see her at recess and lunch because we sing together and that's why we were paired up together. She's my best buddy and I love her so much. So I'm going to. . .this summer I'm going to a leadership conference so it's a really important thing to me and Best Buddies, it's like my favorite thing. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: It shows. Thank you, Isabella, for doing that. I wish Best Buddies were around when most of us were in school. So. . .and you must be Feona Rehfuss?

MS. REHFUSS: Yeah.

CHAIR WHITE: Did I pronounce that. . .

MS. REHFUSS: Hi, I'm Feona Rehfuss. I go to King Kekaulike High School and I'm a junior and I'm in Best Buddies and I've been in Best Buddies since I was a sophomore. And I, just like



**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

Isabella, I thought I was joining it to help people get more integrated into the mainstream social mainstream, but actually they helped me become more patient, they helped me grow as a person, and helped me realize the injustices in our community, and helped me have the courage to go out and testify or not testify, but, like, spread the word about people with disabilities. So, I think it's really good for the community and I hope you keep on funding it, 'cause yeah. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you for volunteering. Our next testifier is Casey Hearl, and she'll be followed by Chantel Ratte.

MS. HEARL: Hi, I'm Casey Hearl and I'm a freshmen at King Kekaulike High School. And I'm testifying for Best Buddies also. And in the beginning of the year, we had a club day and people were like join this club, join this club, and I joined about five clubs. I'm like, you know, freshmen spirit, and then I didn't join Best Buddies at first. I was like, oh, I'm too busy, you know, I don't want to make that dedication if I'm not going to be able to do it, you know, I just. . .I thought it was a good idea and stuff and maybe I'd do it in the future. Anyways, so I joined all those clubs and then Isabella was like, why don't you come to visit my best buddy one day and I was like, okay, that sounds fun. And then I met Alicia and at the time she. . .I kind of stole her best buddy, but at the time she had a best buddy, and I just started visiting her and eventually, I became her best buddy and now I visit her every day. . .this is sounding bad, but I visit her every day and we really have a connection and she can always make me laugh and smile on my worst days. And I definitely think you should keep funding this program because it is life changing not only for the buddies but also for us, and it's a really wonderful program, and I definitely will be signing up next year and the years after that. And also maybe even when I'm an adult. I would like to continue it throughout my life. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: So who's best buddy are you gonna steal next year?

MS. HEARL: I'll steal them all. I'll steal them all.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you. Chantel. The next testifier is Chantel Ratte.

MS. RATTE: Hi, I'm Chantel Ratte. I'm the executive director with Ka Lima O Maui and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony tonight. Ka Lima O Maui has been around since 1955 and I believe for over 30 of those years, we provided service to the County of Maui through our landscape and custodial services that we do for most of the beach parks on the south side and in central. We also have contracts with the Police Department, the Fire Station, and Public Works at the landfill. A lot of it is nonglamorous work, but we do it with pride and I believe we provide a good quality service. All those contracts combined employ over 50 persons with disabilities right now. All of them are paid minimum wage or higher and receive full benefits like the staff do. I also want to just point out that, yeah, these contracts all provide employment for 50 persons with disabilities, but also what it does is they give us the opportunity to do a lot of assessments. For example, Buddy, here, many people thought that he couldn't work. We did an assessment and lo and behold he's become one of our laundry attendant and he keeps track of laundry for five custodial crews. I mean, you should see his operation, it's stacks, I mean, we've

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

got rags, mop heads, gloves, all kind of laundry, and he's downstairs keeping track of all color coded systems and whatnot. So, you just never know. You just never. . .you can't. . .you should not underestimate the capabilities of somebody and at Ka Lima we choose to see the ability in disability. So thank you for your support and I hope we continue our good relationship.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Chantel, for all that you guys do. Our next testifier is Buddy Nawaa.

MS. RATTE: Buddy's shy but don't let the shyness fool you. He's an incredible worker.

CHAIR WHITE: We can tell.

MS. RATTE: He is.

CHAIR WHITE: Buddy, you want to share with us what you do?

MR. NAWAA: I do the laundry.

CHAIR WHITE: Great. She says you do a great job. I bet you do. Well, we'll accept that you do a fabulous job. And if you want to share with us, you can. But if you like be shy, that's okay, too. Okay, thank you very much, Buddy, for all you do and thank you for. . . thank you to Ka Lima. And next we have Crystal Nunes.

MS. NUNES: Hello, my name is Crystal Nunes. I've been employed by Ka Lima for 15 years and it's amazing. I mean, how disabilities work you thought we never. . .you. . .I can't explain the way I feel. I mean, they helped me with so much, I mean. What a girl can ask for a great job, great bosses, the best place to work. I mean, we can have. . .all jobs can have their ups and downs, but there's nothing.

CHAIR WHITE: Well, sounds like they've got a great employee, Crystal. Congratulations on 15 years.

MS. NUNES: Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: And Joseph Lawton.

MR. LAWTON: Good evening to all the Council members.

CHAIR WHITE: Good evening.

MR. LAWTON: My name is Joseph Lawton, and I work for Ka Lima O Maui. Briefly, let me give you my story, I came to Maui about two years ago. I didn't plan on doing this, but I ended up here and that's what a lot of people tell me, too. With that, I started off as a client like Buddy and Ka Lima O Maui gave me my opportunity to work on a level playing field, you know, sometimes if you have a disability, people disqualify you automatically and here it's not. . .sometimes it's who you know versus what you know or what you can do. So that makes the playing field real

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

uneven but they even it out. They gave me a chance as a person to prove who I was and what I was capable of doing. I started off. . .Chantel, she started me off as a landscaper but due to a physical disability, I was unable to do those rigors of that job. Then she gave me a mechanic job, you know, and she. . .guess she tested me out, gave me a couple days here, couple days there, few hours here, few hours there. I hung in there. So then she gave me another chance. She was like, well, you work pretty good, let's give you a spot. She gave me a spot on the janitorial crew and we clean Kihei bathrooms, parks, we pick up the litter, and things like that. And she told me when she gave me the nod to go on the crew, she said, patience is a virtue and good things come from this, right. So I took that with a grain of salt, right, and I was like okay. If I'm gonna do these toilets and clean these bathrooms, I guess I'll be the best toilet cleaner and bathroom cleaner there could be, right. So, months later after, you know, I was balancing the mechanic job with the landscaping job, I mean with the janitorial job and. . .'cause there were in two different places, one was at the baseyard and the other was in the field. I learned a lot, you know, I learned how. . .I watched how the crew was managed and I watched how the materials and all our inventory was, you know, I'm a pretty smart person, you know, I catch on quick, let's just say, and the opportunity came. . .supervisor, you know, went his own way, he left. And she asked me, did I think I could handle it. They gave me a fill-in position, so from that fill-in position, I guess I got grounded and I guess I did a good job, because the same person that told me there was. . .patience was a virtue and good things come from this, she was the same person that hand me the keys to the truck, a work crew truck, and told me congratulations. I say that because I started off on this system, I came to Ka Lima O Maui through the SSA, Social Security Administration, through the ticket to work and through that ticket to work, I progressed all the way to a supervisor. I went from having EBT cards and getting a Social Security check to being on salary with full benefits and it just shows you from a person like Buddy and all the people behind us, behind me, that given the chance, we can prove to be an asset rather than a liability. You know, and I listen to the people who said about the Best Buddies. I'm a working supervisor of a crew who are, you know, they have their physical and mental challenges, so every day is a challenge for me. So when I was listening to the girls testify about how those people change you and they make you humble, but I can't say those people because I have a disability, I have a prosthesis. So every day I have a challenge too and I think that I've become, I don't know, maybe a mentor or maybe an example of what people can do when they really want to do it, you know--

MR. NISHITA: Three minutes.

MR. LAWTON: --okay, and in conclusion, I just want to say there is one unsung hero in our organization, that would be Chantel. We represent her in the field and she represents us right here. So I just want to say for the 55 years, since 1955, this organization is a very good organization and thank you for your support and continued support.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Joseph. Great thoughts. Joseph. . .Gladys has a question for Chantel. Thank you very much, Joseph.

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you very much, Joseph, for the testimony and everybody, it's excellent, but Chantel, I have a question for you. Obviously, you've been receiving support from the County for a long time, we're commenting tonight and taking comments on the Mayor's Budget.

MS. RATTE: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: In the Mayor's Budget is that what your request is?

MS. RATTE: We requested a 3 percent increase for our Department of Parks and Recreation contract. The Mayor did not include the 3 percent request in his budget.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: What does that mean to you? We need to know.

MS. RATTE: Well, what it means to us is. . .I'm sure you're all aware of the impending efforts of the raising the minimum wage. Many years ago, Ka Lima O Maui used to pay its workers based on their productivity. So, it was not uncommon for a person to be paid below minimum wage because we had a special certificate from the Department of Labor to do so. Seven years ago, the board and myself felt that, that was an old practice that needed to be updated. We wanted to become a role model in the community for hiring persons with disabilities, so we did not want to, you know, go to Safeway and say, hire Johnny here, you have to pay him minimum wage, yet Ka Lima O Maui was paying them 3.50. So we instilled the policy, everybody gets paid minimum wage or higher whether. . .regardless of your productivity level. So consequently we have quite a few workers being paid at minimum wage. If the minimum wage raises so does their wages, so it goes in conjunction with an increase for our contracts, our health care, our workers compensation. It's only normal that all these expenses are going up to maintain the service in the parks. There's more and more demands for our services in the parks, as you know.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Okay. I thought it was important that we understood your request and what is in the budget. Thank you very much.

MS. RATTE: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: And thank you for the good work.

CHAIR WHITE: Chantel, I won't ask you to explain the difference in the cost between your staff and County workers.

MS. RATTE: No, we don't to want to go there.

CHAIR WHITE: So is this. . .

MS. RATTE: We don't have retirement.

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

CHAIR WHITE: Is this Kepano? Kepano Panela is next.

MR. PANELA: Hi, my name is Kepano Panela. I work for Ka Lima for three years, but I central grounds worker. Thank you for the contract.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you. Next we have Michael Cabral. Good evening, Michael.

MR. CABRAL: Hi, I'm Michael Cabral and I work for Ka Lima O Maui, South Maui parks, yeah. I also worked at the MPD for about four years. I've been with Ka Lima for 20 years.

CHAIR WHITE: Well, congratulations. Thank you very much for coming tonight.

MR. CABRAL: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, all from Ka Lima. Next we have Alexis Ortiz from Hui Malama.

MS. ORTIZ: Hi, my name is Alexis Ortiz and I am 15 years old. I am a high school student from Makawao. I've been attending Hui Malama for a couple of months. I started attending Hui Malama because I had a hard time in a public school. Being in class with 20 to 30 students made it really hard for me to focus and learn. At my previous school, I didn't get the amount of help I needed to understand what we were learning. I especially had a hard time in math. At Hui Malama, I feel comfortable asking questions, and the teachers and staff would work with me until I could do the work on my own. I really get to understand math and science by applying what I learned in a classroom to the real world. I also enjoy going on excursions to local farms and businesses, because we get to learn and work outdoors instead of just sitting in a classroom. Going on excursions gives me the opportunity to work hands on. We go to farms, where we learn how to plant and harvest fruits and vegetables. We also learn how to take care of the land by doing things like making compost to feed the plants that we grow. When we make compost we use our leftover food, dead leaves and plants, so we can recycle things that would have been rubbish. Since I've started Hui Malama, I found myself coming to school to learn, not just because I have to but because I enjoy it. I have also realized my goal in life and don't feel so lost anymore. Ms. Chun, a teacher who makes our snacks and cooks our lunches at school helps me to pursue my dream of becoming a chef by letting me help in the kitchen and teach me about food safety, nutrition, menu planning, and why it's important to eat healthy, nonprocessed foods. What I learned at Hui Malama is meaningful to me because it's preparing me for my future. Not by just educating me in school subjects but in life and social skills, too. Thank you for supporting our school and making it possible for me to work towards my dream.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Alexis. Our next testifier is Kamakani Als-Ramos or Ake-Ramos, or maybe it's Alu-Ramos.

MR. ALU-RAMOS: Hi, my name is Kamakani Alu-Ramos. I am 12 years old and in middle school. I have attended Hui Malama for four months. I have come to Hui Malama because I did not do so well at my other school. At Hui Malama, I enjoy cooking and nutrition class because we get to

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

choose the menu for our meals, but we choose things that are healthy so we can concentrate and learn better. I have also learned that it is important to grow my own vegetables like how we do at school, because then we know that I'm not putting any chemicals into my foods. I also like aerosol art because we can learn how to use our skills to do positive art, like murals about not doing drugs or drinking instead tagging and doing graffiti. I also like the field trips because we learn about different plants and how to grow and take care of our own food. I, especially like learning about kalo because we have learned about sustainability, our Hawaiian culture and history, how to grow our own kalo, and take care of lo'i. Since coming to Hui Malama, I have changed my learning about agriculture and how to cook and I have started writing more. Hui Malama has helped me by introducing me to different jobs and preparing me to choose the right college. Right now, I'm thinking about going to college and I'm happy that I have the support I need at school. Thank you for giving us, giving me the time to talk about my experience at Hui Malama and for your continuous support.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Kamakani. And you next...next is Pualani Enos of Hui Malama, followed by Patrick McGoldrick.

MS. ENOS: Aloha, Council members, Budget Chair White. Thank you so much for giving us the time to speak with you this evening. We so appreciate your generosity to Hui Malama over the past years. You've been kind of a foundation for all of our funding. We really appreciate that and ask for your ongoing support. We also really appreciate it, the Be a Jerk Campaign, and all the money that came through that and Kamakani referenced some of the art that we got to do through that project. Since we have other members here to talk about Hui Malama, I also wanted to take a moment to talk about the Ka Ipu Kukui program. This year, I'm a fellow and we came and visited with some of you and I wanted to thank you for your generous support and also ask you for your ongoing support for future fellows. So as you know, it's a leadership program to help us to learn how to see the connections and try and leverage what strengths we have in order to improve Maui, and there's really no other educational experience that would be able to expose any person to any of the water, energy, land, business, tourism, all those issues that are intricately connected but tend to not always work together. And we really appreciate all of the fellows and Max is here tonight as well...that you all have the foresight and the vision to understand how important it is to bring us together and give us the time. And for me personally, it's the only place that I would have been able to justify and my board generously helps to pay for this but you also paid for part of my tuition and it wouldn't have been possible, but as an educator and as a leader of an educational institution, that is important to have those things that we can build ourselves and build the connections to work together. So, thank you very much for your time.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Pualani. Next testifies is Patrick McGoldrick, followed by Keoni Lei Nakila.

MR. MCGOLDRICK: Hi, my name is Patrick McGoldrick. I've been in Best Buddies for four years with Seabury Hall. In Best Buddies, I'm learning how to be a good friend. Best Buddies sent me to ambassador training in Indiana last year, where I learned about understanding, honesty,

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

and respect. I also took classes on how I do public speaking. For kids who have disabilities, Best Buddies teaches them to talk to other boys and girls so they can make friends. I use to have trouble talking to other kids, but not anymore. Some good things about Best Buddies is we get to do lots of different stuff together like go to Christmas and Halloween parties. We also go to dances and hikes. Everyone always has a lot of fun. Best Buddies is a great program for kids and we sure can use your support. Thanks for listening and please remember us at Best Buddies because we need you and you and you and you and probably all of you, and you and you and you. . . .(laughter). . . Thank you very much for listening to Best Buddies and have a nice day.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Patrick, very good. Keoni Lei will be followed by Charlie Nakila.

MS. K. NAKILA: Aloha, my name is Keoni Lei Nakila. I go to Kalama Intermediate School and I'm in MEO Underage Drinking Prevention. We meet kids from other islands and do MEO activities with them. We go to the beaches that I don't go to with my family. I made a lot of new friends and I made a lot of memory with MEO. At this program, I also got to attend the youth leadership training in Oahu and go to. . .and got to be on the KITV 4 News. I enjoy MEO because they helped me change my lifestyle and made me think positive thoughts. I like MEO because I do fun activities with them and they make every kid smile. The main part that I love about MEO is that we can all come together and change the community. I'm excited to be part of the planning committee for Camp Hope. We were. . .where we can help other kids learn about the six high risk factors so they can have happier and more positive lives. Thank you for supporting MEO.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you.

MR. C. NAKILA: Aloha, my name is Charlie Nakila. I go to Kalama Intermediate. I'm 14 years old and I'm in eighth grade. I go to MEO Underage Drinking Prevention. I have been in this program for about a year. We help. . .things we do in the MEO is do beach cleanups, sign wavings, sticker shots, car wash, and we get to be part of the planning committee for Camp Hope in July. The reason why I like MEO 'cause if it wasn't for MEO, I would be home doing chores and getting in trouble. I have been in the court three times 'cause of alcohol and drug related issues, and now I am. . .I don't do that stuff anymore, because I want to be a good role model and a peer leader. MEO means a lot to me 'cause if we didn't have MEO then we would be home doing nothing instead of cleaning. I am thankful for Nicole, Cassey, Amanda, and other. . .the other MEO staffs and made this program a better place to help the community.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you. Good job, Charlie. Our next testifier is James Sato, followed by Rita Silva.

MR. SATO: I'm strong tonight. Thank you very much. I hope I won't take too long. I hope John Suki was here. When you say John Suki, you think of Gladys Baisa. Why I'm here today? Because MEO and Agnes is the one that's taking your place. We're very, very happy of what MEO is doing. Thank you very much. Anyhow, my name is James Sato. I am born and raised in Puunene, good and healthy Puunene. After 25 years, living under the smokestack of that HC&S, the black smoke, we never did squawk, you know. We lived right underneath that

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

smokestack. . .that ashes was something that you couldn't walk, you know, it was so bad, but yet, at that time, we never did say anything but to sweep and mop the place. Good people. Anyhow, when I say when I was born and raised in Puunene, I grew up in Puunene but when I got married different place, yeah. I went in the Army, came back, and I played football for the University of Hawaii, yeah, that was a good time. And, what you call, after playing football in the University of Hawaii, I said, gee, I want to go into business and my partner and I, Mr. Watanabe and I got into business. So I don't know if anyone of you know Maui Recapping Service on Wailuku Lower Main Street, this is where we did our business for 40 years doing the tire business, okay. While my kids were growing up, I had two girls and a boy, my daughter went to University of Hawaii, she went to Japan to study the language. While they were going to school, she said, daddy, we need a place to stay. So I said, where? So anywhere else but we want a place to stay. So I bought the condominium in Waikiki of all places. So we tried there. My son says, what about transportation now? Okay, transportation, got a car for them. Two of them going to school now. After was done, what I'm gonna do with the condominium? So what I did after working for my business, I said, gee, the people supported me in my business, I'd like to give it back to the people of Maui. So what I did, I donated that condominium, lock, stock and barrel to the University of Hawaii. They must have made about quarter million dollars I think. I told Mr. and Mrs. . . .(*inaudible*). . . it was, so I want that money to come back to Maui, not to Honolulu, but all that money, I want the money to come back to Maui because the people of Maui supported me and this is why how I made that. . .I bought that condominium. So, what you call, Clyde Sakamoto is very, very happy about it. So they using my money, that money. For which reason, I belong to the University of Hawaii Foundation, which I'm very happy. Anyhow, you know, what I was. . .we in here, what you call, you know, business. . .somebody asked me if I want to join any kind of organization. They said, this organization is the Lions Club. I said, oh, but wait until I get my foot, what you call, established. So after about 10 years, I said, yeah I'm ready to join the Lions Club of Maui. And I got to tell you, all of you, that the Lions Club of Maui, now which I belong to the Lions Club of Maui, I am 50-year member of that club. My daughter Jackie is the president of that club.

MR. NISHITA: Three minutes.

MR. SATO: Yes, thank you. I have one minute more?

CHAIR WHITE: Yeah.

MR. SATO: Okay. So, this club, we have the White Cane Day. All of you know about that now. Yes, I want all of you to understand that, that White Cane Day was enacted back in nineteen seventy. . .when was it. . .when President Johnson was the President and he proclaimed that October is a White Cane Day. . .White Cane Month, okay. So I want all of you to remember that when the month come, the White Cane, that, in fact, I would like to ask the people to remember that White Cane Day so we can support that people with, who lost their eyesight, yeah. Not only that, hearing too.

MR. NISHITA: Four minutes.



**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

MR. SATO: Thank you very much. I'll sit down now. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you James. Rita Silva, followed by Dan O'Leary.

MS. SILVA: My name is Rita Silva and I want to thank you very much for funding MEO with all its programs. And especially their transportation programs where we are taken to the doctor and to excursions. We had a wonderful Christmas party for Kula AARP last year and we really enjoyed ourselves and the driver was very capable and you'll never hear of an MEO driver getting into an accident. I ask that you continue to fund MEO and all its programs and give it. . .give the employees raises, because the cost of living has gone up and they have needs. The next thing that I want to testify on is there is a need for a drainage system on Olinda Road and we can't have everything we want, but I ask that you work toward making a design for a drainage system and eventually to implement it. There is a turn by Tony Apo's gulch that is extremely dangerous. You can't see around it and it's very sharp. This turn should be cut back. I don't know if the County owns some of the land on that turn where they can just go and cut it, but it's very dangerous. I also ask that the road supervisor for Olinda Road take a look at Olinda Road and make recommendations of improvements that might make it safer. And I want to thank you for funding MEO transportation and I want you to continue to fund it. Their drivers go out of their way to provide exceptional service and the other employees with the MEO provide exceptional service as well. Please raise their salaries. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Rita. Next testifier is Dan O'Leary, he'll be followed Maggie Prevenas.

MR. O'LEARY: My name's Dan O'Leary. And what MEO means to me is freedom. I can move through the island, islands now, see my doctor, buy groceries, I don't have to ask my neighbors for a ride anymore. They would see me come and they automatically knew I wanted a ride. And all of a sudden you see. . .I've seen doors open up and close with no people around. All kinds of excuses. I don't blame them. Everybody wants to have their privacy, but now it's reversed. I mean, now they're paying \$5 a gallon and it's reversed a little. MEO is my lifeline. I use it six, maybe five times a week and I combine that with city bus. I hope you keep on supporting this. Okay, that's it.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Dan. And Maggie will be followed by Emily Haines-Swatek.

MS. PREVENAS: Hello, everyone. My name's Maggie Prevenas and I live in Haiku. And for the past 10 years, I've been a science teacher in the Department of Education here on Maui. I'm here to give my testimony and support of funding Maui Economic Development Board. Why? As a teacher in the DOE, Maui Economic Development Board offers my students workshops, competitions, and field trips. All of these activities are open to any student that want to go. They're all free, yes, free. The cost is for me or another responsible teacher to accompany them. All transportation, equipment, agenda, materials, and food is provided by MEDB. In return, my tweenagers, that's what I call my students 'cause they're intermediate aged, they get a glimpse of careers and technology enrichment which I cannot arrange and the intermediate schools of Maui

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

cannot afford. When my students return to school, their awareness of careers that could support them here on Maui have been heightened. As a teacher in the DOE, Maui Economic Development Board offers me professional learning experiences that are world class and I mean world class. There are STEM Works workshops and AMOS conference and a lot of acronyms. but by the time we leave it is all extremely meaningful and we pass this information on to our students. These professional development opportunities are amazing and they're so very needed by the teachers and the students of Maui County. What a huge loss to the future of Maui County if we were to lose their programs, which are funded in part through you in the Maui County Council. I wholeheartedly ask you to give continued support to Maui Economic Development Board and Women in Technology, their subsidy. Thank you very much.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you Maggie. Emily Haines-Swatek will be followed Vinnie Linares.

MS. HAINES-SWATEK: Good evening, my name is Emily Haines-Swatek. I'm also testifying on behalf of Maui Economic Development Board and the Women in Technology project. I am a teacher at King Kekaulike High School and I've been working with MEDB for the last 12 years through various programs. I am currently teaching the STEM Works program that Maggie mentioned and that curriculum was developed by MEDB. They have put countless hours and lots of funding into public education with the Maui County and as a public educator, they've provided us so many opportunities for my students that, you know, as Maggie said, they are available to all students, not just any certain profile of student. My students have attended technical training sessions in computer design software, geographic information systems, provided by...being taught by industry professionals from Maui. The students are offered opportunities to visit the technology park in Kihei and many of our students do not know that, that...that it exists. They were very surprised that there are so many technology companies on Maui and that there are many opportunities and chances for them to come home to work in Hawaii after they get a degree. They provide a STEM conference every year for all the programs in STEM Works to come together, for students to network and attend breakout sessions, that's coming up in a couple weeks. They provide internships, summer internships for students, paid summer internships for high school students in various technology companies as well as agriculture companies. They also have created the Ke Alahele Education Fund, and they do a fundraiser for that annually, and then teachers throughout Maui County can apply for those funds. I received multiple grants for the Kekaulike robotics team over the years, and that has allowed the students to compete and travel to Oahu in State competitions. Our agriculture department also just received a couple of weeks ago a grant to improve our hydroponic systems at the school. So, we're excited to get that program going. MEDB has been an amazing supporter of public education and I thank you for your continued support of their organizations. I have a student who signed up and wasn't called. Can she speak now?

CHAIR WHITE: She sure can.

MS. HAINES-SWATEK: Lotus Chen.

CHAIR WHITE: Yeah.

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

MS. CHEN: Hi, I'm Lotus. I'm a STEM Works student. I'm a senior at King Kekaulike High School and I'm also a member of Best Buddies. MEDB for the past two years that I've attended school here in Hawaii, it's basically been one of the greatest forces for good in my life. It's not just something that benefits me during the school year; it also benefits me during the summer. Through MEDB, I have been able to attend workshops from everything on Photoshop to ArcGIS to pretty much any sort of software that you could possibly use in your life. In addition to that, I've been able to attend STEM conference last year and I will be attending again this year, and the kind of connections that you make at these sorts of events, the kind of things that you learn are something that stay with you the rest of your life. It's not just about learning skills that have to do with technology, it has to do with business, it has to do with your interpersonal skills, it has to do with finding your path in life, finding which way you're going to walk toward the future. In addition to that, as I mentioned before, it affects me not only during the school year when they have all these awesome events but also during the summer. Last year, I did an internship with HC&S in which I worked with ArcGIS software and essentially helped them out, and they helped me out by introducing me to the kinds of professions, the kinds of connections that I can make through my use of technology in my life and the opportunities that I can have here and far from here. It's shown that it's not. . .technology isn't something that's limited to rich students in urban environments, it's something that every student who just wants to try, who's given the opportunity, something that every student has a chance to do. Because of this, I've realized many possibilities that were far beyond my reach before, and I just want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for supporting this organization and in doing so, supporting the students like me who benefit from all of the gifts that are given to us. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, very nice. Our next testifier is Vinnie Linares; he'll be followed by Mabel Lopes.

MR. LINARES: Aloha, my name is Vinnie Linares. I'm resident of Kula, a recently retired from the University of Hawaii Maui College after 37 years. I am currently, I am the president of the board of directors for Maui Academy and Performing Arts, which is a 37 year old organization that used to be called the Maui Youth Theater. I am here first of all to thank the County for the long-term continued kokua that you have given us over the years for grants. Those grants have helped MAPA, which we are called now, to become a part of the life of 16,000 children. Last year, 16,000 children on this island participated in a MAPA event. Thirteen thousand of those children saw our touring play. We visit school, elementary schools, usually we have a two-person cast and they go from school to school doing a play. It's often the first play a child's ever seen. And I just want to quickly comment on how I'm impressed I am by how some of these kids testified today. That's what we're about, teaching children to learn to speak and perform and be able to talk to others, that's one of our goals. So 13,000 children saw one of our touring shows. The remaining 3,000 participated in our theatrical wing. We have children in Voices, which is a high school program. We just closed a play last week called, Lock Up, which is about kids being locked up in a library when the school's being threatened. So was an examination of what kids think about that. And then we have summer camps, but 2,000 kids participate in those types of programs. And then our most long-term program is our 1,000 kids

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

in our K to 12 dance program. We have a 1,000 kids of every culture, every economic base in our dance program. So I'm just here to ask you to please continue your support for us. We've gotten support from the County for a long time. It's a bang for a buck. We reach a lot of kids, and our motto and our mission is to reach kids at this age so that they become productive citizens later on, being able to participate in events such as this. Thank you very much.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Vinnie. Mabel Lopes will be followed by Lotus Chen.

MS. LOPES: Good evening, my name is Mabel Lopes. And I'm here representing the Upcountry seniors, but first before I say. . .get into my testimony, I'd like to tell you that I'm one of the founders of the Boys and Girls Club. It was originally known as Makawao Youth Center. Okay, I was the president of the Makawao Community Association at the time and I'm so glad to see them being so successful. So please support them. Okay, I'm representing the Upcountry seniors, all the Upcountry seniors. I belong to the Pukalani Pensioners Club and the Upcountry Seniors Nutrition Program. We depend on the MEO bus system very much. It's our lifeline. We have 50 members at our nutrition program twice a week and once a month we have the MEO seniors at the pensioners club. We have 35 members. Now, they depend solely on the bus transportation to get here. Without the bus transportation, they couldn't attend. Most of them are not accessible to the Maui Bus, because this is a rural area and they cannot get to the bus stations. We have the house to house pick up which is the most important. We have members that are all in the 80s and 90s and they don't drive. Their families all work. So, this is their way of getting out and socializing because if they didn't have this, they would just deteriorate. So once again, I would like to thank you for all the former support. I ride the MEO bus, too. They take me to the PPC meetings and I'm representing my club. So anyway, I want to thank you for your support and ask you for your continued support. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mabel. Scott Obley will be our next testifier, followed by Dave Ohta.

MR. OBLEY: Aloha and good evening, everyone. Thank you so much for this opportunity to testify here this evening. My name is Scott Obley and I'm here in support of Hui Malama Learning Center, where I also sit on the board of directors and not coincidentally, I'm on the fund development committee there. As all of you know, nonprofits everywhere, most of them anyway, are always looking for new and creative ways to find funding. In this case, we really appreciate all the funding that you've provided and are looking for an increase hopefully of 4 to 5 percent moving forward next year, but you are a hugely important part of the equation for us as we try to fulfill our mission to inspire and empower students, our student citizens as they look to their future. Hui Malama, as you may know, is a nonprofit social impact model of doing business. We are really focused on being organizationally and fiscally responsible and sustainable, and I can tell you that the staff does a wonderful job of fulfilling that mission. The board of directors is very focused on that and we appreciate what you do as it allows us to fulfill that mission as well as the greater mission of taking care of these students and providing some direction and inspiration for them. That being said, I really just want to say thank you, again, for your past support. I encourage you to support Hui Malama moving forward. I can tell you that it's a wonderful organization. The kids there, they're inspired, they're energetic about what's

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

going on at the school. The staff is equally energetic. We have a very good board that are engaged with the mission there, and I can tell you have an opportunity to really experience and get a taste for yourself of what the students are up to and some of the things their learning if you happen to go by the Ag Fest this coming Saturday. The kids will be out there showing you what their up to, so thank you again for your support, really appreciate it, and we'd love to see more of it moving forward.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Scott. Next is Dave Ohta, followed by Vajra Evison.

MR. OHTA: Hi, my name's Dave Ohta. I'm retired now. I retired last year and my last job was with the Maui Oral Health Center. Standing next to me is Dr. Joanne Gabot, who's currently the director of Maui Oral Health Center. I was hired in 2007, to set up and coordinate the van when it was brought to Maui College. And the van was under the direction of the staff and the doctors and volunteer dentists, but it was under the Maui Oral Health Center. The van was primarily to give services, urgent care services to adults with Med Quest, people with no insurance, people with no income, low income, homeless people, addicts, the immigrants, the new immigrants who just were not familiar with the whole system in how to get services. Like everyone else when they get painful tooth problems, they suffer more than anybody else because they don't know where to go. If they go to regular independent dentist, they can't afford it, but the van offered them services for \$20, they get the full service for that. When we opened up the van in the morning at 7:00 in the morning, you gotta think of. . .look at this as. . .in the winter months, when the sun was just coming up at 7:00 in the morning, the wind was blowing, the rain was coming sideways, but do you know, these people are still waiting out there. I mean, they get wet, they don't complain. Why? Because they have no place else to go. Sadly, you know, the van is no longer in service to provide, you know, urgent care because budget cuts and the van cannot stay open on its own revenue. Well, with \$20 of service and all that. So, sadly there is no van today offering that kind of service. Up in Wailuku, they opened up the Malama I Ke Ola, the dental services, but without the help of the Maui Oral Health Center, you know if this place doesn't survive, I really doubt if they can give that kind of service, you know, to all these Med Quest adults, all these children that need services, and everything else.

MR. NISHITA: Three minutes.

MR. OHTA: So I guess I'm up here speaking for all these people that need help and just asking you guys to remember these people and that's it.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Ohta. Dr. Ohta? We have a question for you.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Yeah, real quick question. And I guess. . .yeah. . .thank you. Dr. Gabot and Mr. Ohta, thank you for your testimony. I've been to the clinic and I've seen what you do. The question that I have for you, without this van now, it's very dependent on people coming in to you, you no longer can go out to them, is that what you're saying?

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

MS. GABOT: Correct. Actually, we did start doing it on Tuesdays, just for a short period of time, because we knew that there was a need for emergency care. And then the service is the \$20 was very beneficial to the patients that can't afford dental care.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: So, where would you go with this van? I mean, where. . .

MS. GABOT: Actually, it's not very mobile.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Oh.

MS. GABOT: Because it doesn't have an engine, right? Yeah, MCC.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: So it's at MCC. That's where it was located at?

MS. GABOT: Yeah, it's still there.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: And so no longer you can use it?

MS. GABOT: We can't move it around.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Okay.

MR. OHTA: But the van is a real, you know, it's well stocked and, you know, up to date equipment and everything inside that. You'd really be impressed if you go into the van.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Dr. Gabot, when you're done this evening, talk to me because I want you to help me and help us, because our Legislators need to know, 'cause we were talking to them today, and we need to let them know and you need to help us let them know that all the services and monies we putting in to help the Maui Oral Clinic is also monies that they don't have to put in and that we're putting from the County for students at MCC, oh at University of Hawaii Maui College, gotta get that right, yeah, so I need to talk to you afterwards. Okay, please. Thank you.

MS. GABOT: Okay. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR WHITE: Our next testifier is and I'm not sure I'm getting this name correctly, but Vajra Evison.

MS. EVISON: Actually, you did get it perfect.

CHAIR WHITE: Okay. Followed by Colby Hanley.

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

MS. EVISON: Alright. Hi, I came a few months ago and talked to you folks. A little bit closer, okay. I came and talked to you folks a couple of months ago about the Boys and Girls Club of Maui, and my name is Vajra Evison and I'll try not to bore you too bad and just give you some of the information I think is pretty important that you know about. I'm here to ask for your consideration for the budgetary support for the Boys and Girls Club of Maui. I've been involved with the club since it was the Youth Center up in Makawao and have been involved for over 20 years myself. And I started as a member, then a teen volunteer, then a staff member, and now I'm a parent of a member. So I've been seeing the whole process and everything that has happened and what it does for these kids and for me as a person. So, you know, I wanted to let you know what you see when you go and pick your kid up. When you pick your kid up, the first thing that you see is the symbol on the club and it's a symbol of two hands holding each other. And that's the club's symbol. And they're embracing each other and the second thing that you see is a club full of kids of all ages and all backgrounds. They're all happy, they're all smiling, they're playing together, there's no fighting, and they are just being kids in a safe environment. And those two things are really important to me being so involved and being a parent, you know, knowing that, that's what they're going for. In order to bring honor to the club's symbol of one hand helping another, I'm coming before you to ask to join hands with our club and help us continue to enrich the children. The staff gives individualized assistance to children with disabilities including my son, who is autistic. He was almost nonfunctional when he first started going and now he is almost fully functionable. He's able to interact with children, go to school, he's able to do things he never would've been able to do ever, and they also help the parents of children like this. The groups and clubs and learning projects that are hosted by this club are extremely precious to the children. They learn about the dangers of smoking and drinking and drugs, and they come home and they tell the parents about it. They go, hey dad, hey mom, you know, maybe smoking a cigarette isn't gonna help you so much, you know, 'cause I don't think it's going to help me. They're really listening, you know, they're paying attention. So, you know what, they also receive is college preparation assistance. And not just for the kids in high school but for my 12 year old. He. . .they're helping him get ready for the FAFSA, they've got a folder for him, they're really going all out.

MR. NISHITA: Three minutes.

MS. EVISON: So, there's no doubt in my mind from anybody that the staff gives the commitment on every level, all bases, all the time. So, what we're requesting is continued support and funding for some additional staff so the club can be open on Saturdays, which it's not for the parents who have to work. And we're also looking to continue with support for the growing number of children that we're having that are growing up and becoming teenagers to eventually expand to include a teen center for them. And lastly, I just want to read you our club motto and that's, great futures start here. You know, so join us in our ongoing quest to enrich and support our most valuable resource and that's our children and thank you for your time.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Vajra. Next testifier is Colby Hanley, the elder, I guess.

MR. HANLEY: Yes.

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

CHAIR WHITE: Followed by Tabitha Thomas.

MR. HANLEY: Good evening, everyone. My name's Colby Hanley, Sr. My son spoke earlier regarding the Boys and Girls Club. This is my younger son Aiden Hanley; the two boys have been members for approximately the last four years. It's a real good facility for them with my work schedule. My wife and myself, both are also in the Air National Guard so we work unusual hours and it's nice to know that we have a safe place to leave our children. Lisa and the crew does a real great job, like the other parent just mentioned, it was a great speech, I wish I had something as much prepared as she does, but basically, she touched on all the points and I totally support and I just want to thank you folks for your time and the support of it. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Hanley. Tabitha Thomas will be our next testifier, followed by Timothy Hills, and after the next two testifiers, we'll take a very short break. Go ahead.

MS. THOMAS: Aloha ahiahi, my name is Tabitha Thomas. I'm here on behalf MEO Rental Assistance Program. I came to MEO for assistance because I recently came out from a abusive household. My husband left my children and I with all the household expense. Without MEO's assistance, I would be on the streets with my babies. The benefits I received from MEO was a financial literacy class to help me budget my money with only one income. I am grateful for the assistance MEO provided for me. Thank you for funding MEO's program and if you could please continue to support the funding's for future Maui residents. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Tabitha. Final testifier before we take a quick break is Timothy Hills.

MR. HILLS: Good evening, Council members. My name is Timothy Hills. I'm really not a public speaker and I've been sitting back there just spinning with everything that is going through my head in regards to my testimony tonight on behalf of MEO and the Rental Assistance Program. To be quite frank with you, I'm a little curious myself to see what I end up saying. . . .(laughter). . .

CHAIR WHITE: You must be a Council person.

MR. HILLS: Maybe a little back story might help. This is actually not the first time that I've testified in front of the city Council. About a year and a half ago, I testified. . .had quite long hair, I was imprisoned at the time, I spoke on behalf of the bus program. You know, so you recognize me. A lot has transpired, you know, since that time. I'm now. . .I'd like to think a contributing member of the community and society due largely to the assistance that I've had from MEO. They've been there very much with me every step of the way from when you saw me from a year and a half ago to other department within their organization, providing me with tools to help me in my capacity as a journeyman carpenter with obtaining employment. And then most recently, I was paroled last September and unfortunately two days later I was laid off from the job that I had. So I guess what is vital to me and what Ms. . . .(inaudible). . . when she first called me and asked if I would mind testifying, you know, about this. I think my words were,



**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

absolutely, you know, how could I not? Because just how important their work and how it has impacted me individually. I think I need to convey that to you that you understand that just at least this one individual were it not for their assistance, I quite frankly do not believe I would be here in the capacity, in the clean and sober state that I am today, alright, were it not for their assistance. I was actually recommended to the Rental Assistance Program by another department in the organization when we found out that. . .or I, too, was laid off and it goes beyond just the monetary amount the. . .about \$2,000 or whatever. That's a big chunk of change, you know, for a person to just. . .to be able to get out of what. . .for me it was a risky living environment because there were drug and alcohol in that environment and to get me into my own space where I could continue to utilize the tools that I've learned, you know. . .

MR. NISHITA: Three minutes.

MR. HILLS: Thank you. Basically, it just took me to the next level where it moved all these other obstacle and blocks out of the way where I'm just able to move forward from a point of, I guess personal power as opposed to a point of need, you know, from a needy place, self-esteem, all those other things that, you know, go hand in hand with that. I'm not the man that I was, you know, five, six years ago. And as I said it's due largely to. . .well, it has a great deal to do with the assistance that I received from MEO. They run around with their Band-Aids doing what they can and I think that they do a really awesome job. Thank you for listening.

CHAIR WHITE: Congratulations, Timothy. Okay, with that, Members, we will. . .Gladys would like to invite you to join us for refreshments in the back so we will take a 10-minute break. In recess. . .*(gavel)*. . .

|            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| RECESS:    | 7:34 a.m. |
| RECONVENE: | 7:51 a.m. |

CHAIR WHITE: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Please be seated. There's only one way to get a Council person to sit down, bang the gavel. Before we get started again with public testimony, Gladys has an announcement.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to make sure that everybody understands something. The refreshments that you're enjoying tonight are not being paid for by the County of Maui. They are being paid for and they were donated by Team Baisa volunteers, just to keep the record straight. Thank you very much, volunteers. I know that everyone appreciates it very, very much. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you for that clarification, Gladys. Okay, we will be starting our first testifier will be Steve Sutrov, followed by Aubrey Becker.

MR. SUTROV: Aloha and thank you, all, for, Council, for coming up here and dealing with another long meeting and it's much appreciated. And I want to. . .I'm sure you appreciate that I didn't come with 200 people to support my concern here because they were in the wings, and I told

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

them this was probably going to be long haul, so be there ready when we do need you. I'm here to support a CIP project, some funding for the master plan we have already in place for the Kula tennis courts. It was a master plan that was done back in 2002. At that time, we were. . .we had two courts already and the County said, okay, we're gonna going to give you two more courts. But the community said, wait, let's do a master plan of the park, let's do this right, make sure they're in the right place, let's plan an entire park out and so it's done correctly. Okay. And so it took another three, four, actually it took 'til 2009, before the second courts got built, but we had a master plan in place. Now we have a master plan and I'd like. . .it's been four years since those courts have been built. It'd be really nice if we could at least get funding for maybe a design consultant or maybe a cost estimator to come in, funding for that. If we could just get that much done. So we know what we're dealing with as far as cost for the next phase. It'd be much appreciated. Now, if there is a park assessment fees that can be used for this or if it's CIP, in the Mayor's Budget, I breezed through it real quick and he doesn't have anything for Upcountry for Parks and Recreation besides paving the Sun Yat-sen Park up in Keokea. That's the only CIP he has for all of Kula and Keokea or Makawao or Pukalani, I think, except for maybe some renovations, but there's no developments of new park developments I don't think in the County I saw, except for renovations and improvements. And so, this is something that I think it's time. . .I'd love to see just a little bit of initiative put forth for this master plan, which is already there which was money was put out for that master plan to be done and really likes to have that happen. We have a community partnership up there. We promised that when that second phase went in, the County and the community work together to maintain that park. You ask anybody in the parks East Maui district, we work together with them very closely. When they can't mow, we mow and trim. Graffiti up there, they give us the paint, we paint 'em. I got a crew of 60, 70 people if I need them in a week's time to get up there and work. We have two work days a week a year. And we get up there and we mow, trim, we make our own benches, we paint them, we do all the maintenance if necessary. I hang the wind screens when they fall down. It's a community partnership that is rare for this island and should be appreciated and it's gonna continue going because it's a real tight bunch of people that love that park --

MR. NISHITA: Three minutes.

MR. SUTROV: --and love those courts. And so I really ask for your help there. And so, yeah, it's. . .that's all I have and just one other thing I'd like to see. My kids appreciated MAPA and if you have. . .if you can support that, that company, they are great. They gave my kids a great self confidence in their life. It was such a positive organization, everything about it, and you should support that in every way you can. Thank you very much.

CHAIR WHITE: One quick question. Do you recall what the price tag was for the last two tennis courts that were added?

MR. SUTROV: The what now?

CHAIR WHITE: The last two courts that were added.

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

MR. SUTROV: They were added. . .they opened up in 2009.

CHAIR WHITE: Do you remember what the cost was?

MR. SUTROV: The cost of that, let me say first, the cost of that included a roadway that had a connecting upper property, a water line that had to be replaced, massive drainage improvements, and it was a 2.1 million, I think it was. And so a lot of those improvements are in place now for the next phase, hopefully. And so that's something that needs to be looked at, and so, hopefully it can be. . .and the third phase which is in the master plan, which would be, you know, in the master plan would be two more lit tennis courts, a gate ball court, a restroom/storage building, and parking so.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Steve.

MR. SUTROV: My pleasure.

CHAIR WHITE: Aubrey Becker is the next, followed by Dawn Hill. Dawn Hill.

MS. BECKER: Good evening, County Council members. My name is Aubrey Becker and I teach math and P.E. at Hui Malama Learning Center and I'm also the employer/mentor/coordinator. I'd like to begin by thanking you for your ongoing support and investment in our students through the County budget line and for taking the time this evening to hear testimony from the community. I was born here on Maui and raised in Makawao, which is where I live today. To give you a bit of background on my educational experiences, I attended St. Anthony School from pre-school through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, going from a traditional education there, I went on to New York to Sarah Lawrence College, and in 2010, I started a master's program in theory and practice of translation at Middlesex University in London. In the fall of 2011, after I completed that master's program, I returned home and almost immediately began volunteering at Hui Malama. The decision to later take a fulltime academic instructor position a few months later was an easy one. The focus on the student as a whole person was far removed from the education I received in high school, but it was very close to the type of education I received at Sarah Lawrence, which is one I did the most growing, I think, and I knew that this focus was something that could bring out skills and interest in the bright, young students at Hui Malama that a purely classroom based curriculum could never do for them. What works about Hui Malama's focus on every aspect of the student life's. . .on the student's life or on the whole person is that it challenges them. On our excursions to local farms and cultural sights, the students are expected not to simply pull weeds, plant starters, and harvest crops, but to apply the topics they learn in the class in math, science, social studies, and language arts to their outdoor experiences. For example, after a day working in a garden, most students would know that compost is important to a plant's growth. Our students are expected to know the ratio between nitrogen and carbon sources, which sources are carbon and which nitrogen, the elements the plants will receive from the compost as. . .and they will also need to be able to calculate how long it will take until that compost is ready. It's the challenge of learning more than they think that they are able to or more than they're accustomed to learning that empowers them to actually want to achieve or rather than being forced to. The

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

result is students like Alexis and Kamakani who spoke earlier, who constantly surprise me and the staff in their ability to think critically, take initiative, and engage thoughtfully with members of the local community. Once again, I'd like to thank the County Council for the opportunity to speak on behalf of Hui Malama and to ask for your ongoing support for the school.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, very good. Dawn Hall, followed by Leonard Hasse.

MS. HALL: I should have gone after the kids so I wouldn't have to move the mic. Good evening, Council members. Thank you for having me here. My name is Dawn Hall and I'm the executive director and co-founder for Hawaii Animal Rescue Foundation. It's also known by many of you as HARF. I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak with you this evening on behalf of our island animals in need. Our organization has been a no kill since its origination two years ago, and we have successfully rescued and rehomed over 1,200 dogs and one horse during that time. Our group is entirely run by volunteers and supported by private donations, grants, and corporations. We do not receive Federal, State, or County funding, so I'm not here to ask you for money for us personally. What HARF does in the community is provide numerous welfare services. These include pet adoptions, rehoming programs including inter-island and mainland relocation services, foster care programs, currently we do not have a shelter facilities so all of our animals reside with foster families until they find their forever home. And volunteer opportunities for children and adults within the community. We currently partner with other animal welfare organizations to bring animals to us. This helps to lessen the homeless pet overpopulation that plagues our island. Currently, 30 percent of the animals received by HARF, are owner surrenders or stray rescues; the remaining 70 percent are transferred to us from other organizations filled to capacity. These accomplishments may sound impressive for such a small group, which is what we are; however, it is only a finger in the dike. By providing low cost, spay neuter programs, we find that it is an effective method to reduce the number of pets entering public shelters. Programs targeting pets belonging to the poorest people in the community can result in nearly 50 percent fewer animals entering shelters in as little as three years. In the long run, increased low to no income spay neuter programs save tax dollars and help to reduce the unnecessary killing of dogs and cats within our community. We request your support in seeking additional funds for the County SNIP program. The handout that was given to you will provide detail on the SNIP program dating back as far as 1999 to date. Thank you again for your time and have a wonderful night. Hopefully, all your bums are not frozen. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Dawn. Following Leonard will be Annette Niles.

MR. HASSE: Aloha, I'm Leonard Hasse. I live on Piiholo Road. I've owned property there for 41 years. I've lived there for the past 11 years. I'm here to testify and support two programs. One is the water programs that are being proposed and the second are the road maintenance and the building programs. I support a proposal to increase the rate of water. I . . .the reason, I have home in Virginia, I pay a total of \$7.90 per thousand gallons of water. Maui I pay \$5.55, I get water cheap here. The big difference is service charge. In Fairfax, Virginia, I pay \$8.07 for service. Here on Maui, I pay \$11.25. We need to increase the capital that we gain from our water, and we need to plow it back in to water capacity and to bring our substandard systems up

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

to standard. I have a water line going in front of my property, an inch and a half . . . *(inaudible)*. . . I have two pieces of property that are side by side. I cannot get a water meter for the second parcel. I don't plan to build there in the near future but in 2002, when I testified before the water board or the special meeting there, I found that it took ten years to get a water meter, and the Director of the Water Department said for me to submit a request for a water meter even though I couldn't get one and in hopes that within ten years if I decided to build I could get a meter. I'm currently 518 on the water meter list. If my number came up today, I could not put a water meter on it without upgrading the line. The one mile line that would cost over \$750,000. That's more than the value of my property. All I ask in the current review of the water priority list is that because I've been on the list for 11 years, I would like to have. . . be able to get a water meter the day I decide to build. I don't have a plan to build for a while but when I do, I'd like to get a meter. The second. . . emergency increases in times of. . . increase of rates in times of emergencies, this is fine for the people that abuse the system. I save water; I collect cold water when I'm trying to get to the hot water. I use that cold water to water my plants. I wash my two cars twice a year.

MR. NISHITA: Three minutes.

MR. HASSE: Okay. Takes longer than that to wash the cars. The second is road repair. For nine years, I've been testifying about trying to get Piiholo and Olinda Roads the bumps at the top repaired. Y'all gave us a good program for the past couple years but not a single bump has been taken out. If you were driving the road today, the big change you'll see is they've gotten at least two to three inches higher. They didn't even get taken out in the storm, so I request that you support the Public Works Department's maintenance programs because if we don't maintain the roads, it'll cost us an arm and a leg to fix it. Thank you very much.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Leonard. And Annette will be followed by Nancy Johnson.

MS. NILES: Good evening. Hi, I'm here on behalf of the Upcountry Fair 4-H and Ag Fair to humbly ask for your support to give us a hand. We need help with our fair and also to support our 4-H and support our kids. You know, listening to everybody talk about, you know, the Boys and Girls Club and they're great, wonderful, and to think of our 4-H kids that have parents that spend time with them every day to get these animals ready for that fair is just a joy. And like Mabel, Mabel was the founder of our Upcountry fair. This fair has been running for 33 years and we would love for it to be running for another 33 or more years. So we really ask your support to help us, you know, and like I said with, you know, the kids, they have their parents. . . I'm a bus driver, I drop kids home, they go. . . they end up not going home, they end up going to their friends or wherever and their parents are looking for them. Why? Because the parents have two and three jobs, you know, so we're fortunate to have our parents there with their children so we humbly ask your support for our Upcountry fair. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Annette.

MS. NILES: Okay.

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

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CHAIR WHITE: And Nancy will be followed by Carver Wilson.

MS. JOHNSON: Good evening. I'm Nancy Johnson. I'm from UH Maui College. I'm here to testify for the Mayor's Budget item for UH Maui College, Oral Health Center. I know that you have supported us for the Allied Health Program and in the beginning, it was for nursing and dental. Now the money's all going to go to dental this year. As you've heard from Dr. Gabot and some of our other testifiers, we're really in a very precarious situation this year until we get into the new facility on campus. And today I gave you some information. Originally we started the clinic to...for our dental assistant and dental hygiene programs. We also have served the community since 2002, but one thing I wanted you to see is on this HMSA diagram. The fact that Maui has the fewest dentists per capita of any of the islands, and because Hawaii doesn't have a dental educational program, the residents that we bring to our clinic who stay and you met three of them and you saw Dr. Gabot again tonight, very amazing young people and they've chosen to stay in Hawaii. So by providing the dental residency program in our clinic, we provide additional service in addition to the patients. We're bringing young dentists to Maui and they're staying here to work in our community clinic. The bottom of this handout shows you really that the very, very disappointing results we have with dental care for our children. And part of it's because we don't have fluoridated water and that's a whole separate issue, but the fact is our children have twice as many dental carries at age 5 as children on the mainland and we need to take care of that. And on the back there's some really hopeful information. The Affordable Care Act has money for oral care for children for sure and for low-income adults. That's in...and the Governor has identified oral health as one of his priorities for the health innovation project that he's gotten, and one of his goals is to have all children have a dental home by 2015, that's very, very soon. And if we lose our clinic, we're gonna lose a resource to fulfill the Governor's goals and using the money from the Affordable Care Act. So there's a strong future for oral health, but right now this year, it's very precarious and we ask for your continued support. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Nancy. And Carver will be followed by Wes Anderson.

MR. C. WILSON: Hi, good evening. I'm Carver Wilson. I'm with the Farm Bureau and I want to thank you for having us here and I'm glad that you are here. You know, this is really a terrific venue, the stories are really moving and I think you really...we appreciate the support. Farm Bureau is active in the community and it makes us proud to have your support. You know, we work with 4-H, we work at Ag in the Classroom, we had over 15 or 100 kids in that. We had 1,000 kids that came to the field day the other day; this Saturday is the Ag Fest. It was a great opportunity for us to showcase the farmer's work, and we appreciate what you're doing in terms of developing the water system. I want you to know that we appreciate your support and I think even your encouragement of young farmers in trying to create self-sufficiency in the food over here. And I just want to thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Wilson. Following Wes Anderson...is Wes Anderson here? Okay, next will be John Wilson, followed by Fred Rawe.

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

MR. J. WILSON: Good evening, Council members. I'm here, John Wilson, as the treasurer of the Kula Community Association. I have a handout that's been passed around, I believe. I won't go all through that by reading it, but basically, what we're saying from the community association board is that our highest budget priorities for this coming year is water, and I want to thank Leonard because he's described some of the problems that we are all facing Upcountry with the water system. We appreciate and are encouraged by work that you as a Council have been doing carefully to implement our County's plans to make water available. I've been to several of their meetings and I really support the efforts that you're putting into the water system. Our second priority is the Kula bus. We'd like to thank the Council for funding and implementing the Kula bus route. You've also heard some comments about transportation Upcountry in a rural area. We now request that work be completed to implement the recommended full bus route to serve the Waiohuli Hawaiian Home Lands and help commuters, students, and visitors, as well as workers at the Kula Hospital. Our third priority is sidewalks and for children's safety, we would ask the Council to ensure that actions are taken to construct a connector sidewalk to the existing Waiakoa sidewalk in the vicinity of the Haleakala Waldorf School. In addition, we're encouraging you to fund work with the State to complete sidewalks that connect Kula Elementary School to residential areas within one mile of the school. And I think one of the first things it would be required is some connection from the Old Lower Kula Road down past the gym to the school where the crosswalk is on the highway. And fourth priority we have are road improvements and maintenance, and I appreciate the lesson I learned last year in talking about the budget for this, and I appreciate what the Mayor has presented and I hope you support that, including to improve the amount of money that we have for road maintenance. We want. . .we urge a priority list for roads to repave within each district be established to publish those details for community review, because there might be some that community thinks that are more important than the Public Works Department, and to fund the highest priority road upgrades. Personally, I would like to thank you for the first time in 32 years, Holopuni Road was repaved and as well as Pulehu Road and the other section, the old Pulehu Road. I included some examples just for priority purposes of what might be considered in our Kula residential area.

MR. NISHITA: Three minutes.

MR. J. WILSON: We'd also like to urge you to complete the planning and fund the construction of Hansen Road between the sugar mill and Hana Highway. With the closing of the Pulehu Road for the construction of the improvements there in the industrial area, that this road is a critical link between all of East Maui and South and West Maui and if you live Upcountry and go down Pulehu Road and want to go to Costco, you've got to travel that road which your problem is really the narrow bridges from a Public Works standpoint and that's really bad road. And I'm not. . .sure it could be easily improved with a little help from the State. Fred Rawe will follow and will present the rest of what we presented on this and if I have any questions, I'll be happy to try and answer 'em.

CHAIR WHITE: Seeing none, we'll look forward to --

MR. J. WILSON: Thank you.

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

CHAIR WHITE: --Mr. Rawe following up on the other items. Thank you, Mr. Wilson. Fred Rawe will be followed by Kathleen Phillips.

MR. RAWE: Thank you for having me this evening. I want to say that I'm ambivalent about living in Kula because on the one hand I think it's the best kept secret in the world. I love it up there. I also drove down Pulehu today and it is a treat. I'm Fred Rawe. I'm a member of the Kula Community Association. On the other hand, I appreciate the Council taking their time to consider those of us who live Upcountry, and I know you come from the wide ranging regions of the County but I know you're concerned about what we're concerned about. I want to emphasize the final four points on the sheet that you have before us. One is the . . . a bike safety issue. We're respectfully requesting that the Council work with the Public Works and the Corporate [*sic*] Counsel to accelerate work to address licensing and safety issues with the bike tour companies in the County. These were identified by the Kimura bike study, which the County paid for, and that study was delivered in 2010. So we're asking that the County look for opportunities to work with the State to implement pullouts within the Kula community. I think they're called standbys in Scotland or lay-bys, you know, the means by which you can pull off the road with safety and wait for cars to pass by. I want to support Steve who talked about the tennis courts and the quality of life that the tennis courts have brought us. I walk my dog around near the tennis courts, not on the tennis courts because you're not allowed to, but I walk my dog on those tennis courts. . .near those tennis courts and I do that every evening, and I can tell you they are a popular attraction, night time and day time. But we would like to implement the acquisition of the land on which the tennis courts and the community center are located. We're requesting that we have a recycling site in the Kula area and that curbside recycling be considered, and we also support the Council's efforts to find a solution to the . . .to reducing and controlling the axis deer in Upcountry and below really. I want to add a couple of things if I have a little bit of time. I want to tell Mike Victorino that he's not alone, that I'm a long standing Bo. . .Sox fan.

MR. NISHITA: Three minutes.

MR. RAWE: And I want to thank. . .

CHAIR WHITE: You just lost your extra minute. . . .(*laughter*). . .

MR. RAWE: The other day I sent a letter to Mike White. I didn't necessarily expect a return, but it was a highly personalized return about recycling. Mike, I want to thank you for addressing that concern so personally, and I want to thank Gladys because Gladys so often sits with us at our KCA meetings. She's a wonderful presence and she answers so many questions that we have for her. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Rawe. Kathleen will be followed by Ann Cua.



**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

MS. PHILLIPS: Good evening and thank you, Council members, for being here. Pardon my voice. My name is Kathleen Phillips, president of Kula AARP, and I live in Pukalani. I'm gonna be reading this so that I don't forget something. I'd like to thank you all for what you've done for the people of Maui County and for being mindful of our senior needs. I appreciate all your efforts to continue the MEO bus transportation for the seniors as well as the Kaunoa Center. I have been to several states and so far, I have not found anything that tops what we have here with MEO and Kaunoa. I believe this is such an asset for our seniors and it allows them to stay active and mobile. I would like to share with you a few concerns of mine as well as those who have contacted me, either at AARP meetings or by phone regarding the following items. The Maui Bus, presently the Pukalani area has just one. . .one. . .bus stop for this entire community and could stand to have more bus stops. Pukalani has many hills and the people in this community must climb those hills, rain, wind, or whatever just to get to this one bus stop. Having the bus stop below Pukalani School and at the Pukalani golf course, may be something to consider. Routes concerns, in the Upcountry area, we do not have any reversal routes. For example, if you lived in Haliimaile and wanted to get to Foodland, it is my understanding that you need to take the bus all the way downtown, past the airport, all the way to Kaahumanu Center, and back to get to Foodland. This is definitely time consuming and will deter people from using the bus system.

CHAIR WHITE: You told us you lost your voice, but it's coming back pretty fast.

MS. PHILLIPS: I have a concern. Another benefit would be having an express bus. I don't know if you ever thought about that but Honolulu has express buses that would go from Pukalani straight down to Kaahumanu Center. This would be ideal especially during the peak hours going to work and returning home. I'm under the understanding that you've heard the concern from the Kula community taking two hours on the bus trip. I believe making these requests a reality would definitely increase the number of people who ride the Maui Bus Upcountry.

MR. NISHITA: Three minutes.

MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you for taking your time out and coming out this evening and mahalo for making Maui number one. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Kathleen. Ann will be followed by Sydney Smith. I've seen you somewhere before.

MS. CUA: I think you have. Good evening, Chair and Members of the Council. My name is Ann Cua and I'm a resident of Makawao and first of all, thank you for coming up to our neck of the woods. It's nice to be able to drive five minutes after I testify tonight. So thank you very much. I'm actually here tonight to testify on behalf of Maui Economic Development Board and their college intern program. As a mother, my son was able to take advantage of that program last summer. He is a junior, third year college at the. . .in Arizona at Northern Arizona University, majoring. . .initially had planned to major in computer information systems. He participated in the program last summer and worked at the Pacific Disaster Center and as a result of working that summer and it wasn't easy, he said, mom, it's like going to school in the summer. He did

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

computer programming and data management, but as a result of that, he went back and enrolled to get a minor degree in computer science so he's now going to do a double major just as a result of that. And as a mom, that's huge for me, because I can talk and talk and talk but you have one experience like that and for him to do something that drastic, so for me that was overwhelming. And I think a lot of parents would love to be able to keep their children on Maui and we hear it all the time. I know you know where I work and I hear a lot when I'm at a Planning Commission meeting, when I'm at a Council meeting, when I'm at a Land Use Commission meeting about how there's just not enough jobs here to retain our children. And so I would love for my children to be able to live here and work here, and I hope that's gonna be a reality. And I think through programs like this, where they can feel like they can put their degree that they're working towards in use in an industry here, I think that's awesome. And, you know, whatever help you can continue to provide to make that happen would be appreciated and thank you for what you've done so far to help fund MEDB so they can provide programs like that to our youth. So thank you very much.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Ann. You can tell from what Ann says, she's one of our great planners. Sydney will be followed by Peter Kafka.

MS. SMITH: Aloha, my name is Sydney Smith and I'm this year's president of the Maui Coffee Association. I'm here to thank the Council, the Office of Economic Development, and Mayor Arakawa for the unflagging support of agriculture and more especially Maui Coffee. This is the bicentennial celebration year for coffee cultivation in Hawaii, and nearly 80 percent of the events taking place Statewide are happening here in our County, largely due to that support. We just presented the Molokai Coffee Festival the weekend of March 15<sup>th</sup> and got wonderful enthusiasm and involvement from the community of Kualapuu. The whole village came together and had a two day festival and they would love to make that an annual event. We participated in two events on the island of Lanai and have the Ag Fest at the Maui Tropical Plantation to look forward to this coming Saturday. So in an atmosphere of budget cuts and sequestration and all the other issues we had to deal with, I really want to thank you all, you know, for the support we've received from our grant issued through the Maui County Farm Bureau and the one we received through the Office of Economic Development. We also really appreciate the support and encouragement we've gotten and continue to get from Teena Rasmussen and Kenneth Yamamura of OED and he's here tonight. Thank you, Kenneth. And Kenneth comes to all the meetings, he comes to our meetings every month, and he's really a great support to us. When we began the Coffee Association in 2005, the number one question we got asked when we were at a fair or an event was whether we were growing Kona Coffee, and we always answer that Kona Coffee was grown in Kona on the Big Island and that Maui Coffee was grown here. And for years, some of our own Legislators would ask us that question, but now it's rare and that's because of the support we received from the Council and from the County, and I'm proud to say that we're getting more and more widely known and appreciated for Maui Coffee. And one of our new growers, Tama and Don Brandenburg of Kula Beans placed second in the Statewide cupping competition this past summer, and they placed first in the best Maui coffee division. And we consistently place high in the Statewide cupping trials, and we're competing against farms that are many decades older than we are. They've been at it for 50 years and we're always

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

getting in the top 10. And so we have a lot to be proud of here. Thank you, Gladys. It's a great example of an industry that's making a comeback here. So you have a handout that I gave to everybody, that has a history of coffee in Hawaii and it has our map and it has a schedule of some of the events coming up that we have and we have a lot of events happening. Almost every month there's one or two events that we're doing. We work with the Ag in the Classroom project, and we have children come out to the farm, and they learn about coffee even though they can't drink the coffee. They really get fascinated by it anyway.

MR. NISHITA: Three minutes.

MS. SMITH: They will all be distributed, all these pieces that you have they'll be distributed in the hotels and in the schools and in the locally owned coffee stores. And so moving forward into 2014, we see a bright future for Maui coffee and we'd love to continue funding to keep the events going that we're doing this bicentennial year and make them annual events. So I want to really thank you. Thank you for all the support you've given us. We really appreciate it. Aloha. Mahalo.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Sydney. Peter will be followed by Hope Tavares.

MR. KAFKA: My name is Peter Kafka, I'm a 24-year resident of Haiku and taxpayer. I have no organization behind me and I don't have anything prepared to give to you, but I do have a concern. I'm concerned about the deplorable condition of our public restrooms, particularly our beach restrooms. And I've noticed and I have a strong perception that we're losing ground. A good example of this is the second time in I believe eight years we've lost the restroom at Baldwin Beach and the response is to just replace it with portables for years. Why we can't build a restroom over by the soccer fields away from the beach? I have no idea. But we will probably put another one at the beach and lose it again in a couple of years. We have inadequate portable facilities at Keawakapu, we have one green portable there that you can't keep clean and maintain. We have a portable in Maalaea at Haycraft Park. We have portables up the west side. These are inadequate facilities. If we had restrooms like this in our own homes, we would be embarrassed or ashamed to bring a visitor or our own family into them. And yet, every day we invite thousands of visitors and our brothers and sisters and our own family to use these inadequate, disgraceful facilities. They're not all that bad, all bad, but many of them are. Earlier this evening, it was someone from Ka Lima O Maui who spoke about the fact that she requested a 3 percent increase in funding so that they could pay minimum wage for their contract to maintain some of the South Maui restrooms. When I heard that, it made...and she said it and it was denied. When I heard that, it made me sad. If anything we should increase the budget by 300 percent to be able to maintain, to be able to tile, paint, repair, fixtures when they're needed so that we have something that we're proud of, that reflect the pride of our community. Our beaches are number one in the world and yet, our facilities that surround these lag way behind. And as I said, I think we're losing ground. So that's my concern and I hope you'll join me in reprioritizing perhaps and doing something about this. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Kafka, very good points. Hope will be followed by Anne Masuda.

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

MS. TAVARES: Hello, Council members. I'm Hope Tavares. I was born and raised on Maui, Upcountry, Kula and I live in Makawao now. I'm a social worker by profession, a proud graduate of the University of Hawaii, School of Social Work. What I'd like to say tonight is to thank you for focusing first of all on our water and this has been a priority for many, many years, however it doesn't seem to ever get better. And I'm hoping that you'll support, continue to support in this budget improving the water so that people who've been on the list for years and years and years, waiting for water meter to give to a son or daughter or grandchild on their property, can finally be able to do this before they die. I know for myself, I'm a senior citizen now and I know people who've been on the list for 20 years. I don't know if you remember some time back, there was an article in the Maui News that Buddy Nobriga. . . someone wrote about him before he retired and he was on the Water Board. And I'm going to reiterate some things that from that article because I think it's really important and I'm asking you to support finding new sources of water that are known to us. And Buddy stated in that article that there are two natural springs always gushing near Kaupakalua, right near Hanzawa store, up that road. All the hunters know about it. And he had asked that the Board investigate this because it is a good source of clean water, and so I'm asking you to if you would please, somehow in your budget, find some time to investigate this. It might be a help to our water problem. The other thing is, I know that in order to have a good water system, maybe the rates need to be increased. And I'm kind of okay with that because some people can't afford it but there are families that have a house and a cottage and so the way these new tiers go. . . instead of it being per family, it's per meter, so if you have a house and then you have someone living in your cottage, that makes your rate go up because two households are feeding off the same meter. So I'm asking that you would consider investigating this and making this practice more fair to everyone so that people will be charged per family rather than per meter, because not everyone in our community is able to afford these new rates and they're struggling.

MR. NISHITA: Three minutes.

MS. TAVARES: The other thing is I'm very happy to hear about the budget including support to fix our roads, especially our Upcountry intersections here, Haleakala Highway, and Makawao Avenue. We definitely need a turn lane coming down and. . . near King Kekaulike. I wonder why we have money to build a police station that costs \$33 million, but we don't have money to fix the roads and our water. And that's really frustrating to me. Maybe if we'd reduce other areas of the budget like not donating so many. . . so much money to grants, a little bit less to HVB, I. . . maybe HVB doesn't need 3.5 million.

MR. NISHITA: Four minutes.

MS. TAVARES: So maybe we wouldn't have to increase our taxes and registrations. And lastly, evict Monsanto.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Ms. Tavares. Next is Anne Masuda, followed by Koa Chang.

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

MS. MASUDA: Good evening, thank you so much. I am Anne Masuda and she was a good person to follow because I thought I was at the wrong meeting. We do have four people who are concerned about water and more of us should be concerned and speak out. I'm one of the 1,300 people asking for a water meter, and I'm concerned that I'm going to have to pay \$12,000 for a meter. The current meter cost is \$6,000 and I understand the first 250 people of the 1,300 people will be paying only \$3,000. I'm okay with that but I'd like to pay the current rate today while we're talking about the budget. I saved for 10 years, I've been on the list for 10 years like that other gentleman, but I want to do it now before I die. I want to subdivide for my three children. They don't own any real estate in Hawaii. So I made it a point to save enough money. I do have enough money for those water meters so I'd like to have it for \$6,000, not 12 or 14 thousand, because there'll be other costs involved. And I'm concerned that I won't be able to do the subdivision for my family, so I trust that the Council will, you know, help to keep it at an affordable level for those of us who wants to subdivide. I think 10 years is a long time to wait for a water meter like the other gentleman wanted so that's what I'm here about. That's all. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Ms. Masuda. Koa will be followed by Max Tornai.

MR. CHANG: Aloha and good evening, Council members. Thank you very much for having us this evening. Thank you for coming after work so we can all be here and for dinner, too. My name is Koa Chang. I work at the small farm my father started Alii Kula Lavender, speaking on behalf of the company and on behalf of myself. I wanted to lend my support to the Maui Economic Development Board for all the fantastic things they do. We had a nice detailed list of what kinds of offerings they have for the community. As a business owner, they've helped me tremendously; they helped our organization with low-cost opportunities for skill buildings, such as social media workshops, all kinds of other facilitations. They've supported our business by taking us to trade shows and things like this so to support a local organization has been fantastic for us. I also wanted to mention my support for the Maui County Farm Bureau. Just to let you know, I'm also a board member so if that's an interest for you, but we have tremendous opportunities with the Farm Bureau and I think we also have challenges as you all know, there's a ton of things to spend on. We've had wonderful testimony to see there's a lot of different things so I totally respect your very challenging position here and thank you for your service and looking at all the options. But I think the Farm Bureau is a great way to invest in our future in terms of agriculture in the State. Also, our young people through projects like Ag in the Classroom and things like this. It's a huge importance I see personally, and I think the future of our local community really relies on agricultural education. Lastly, I would also like to lend my support to Hui Malama. I think they've done a fantastic job. I have a lot of experience with what they do and I've seen amazing things from their students, their kids are very respectful and very smart, very learned. So thank you very much for your time again. I appreciate you service.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Koa. Max Tornai will be followed by Marie Ankawa.

MR. TORNAI: Aloha, Council members. I'd like to start off just saying a token of appreciation that you guys are willing to spend long hours hearing what people in our community are passionate

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

and feel important about, you know, both programs and issues. I'm personally passionate about a lot of different things, but I'm gonna narrow it down to two programs that I'm directly involved with right now. First, being the Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows program. This program is run through UH Maui College and is funded in part by Maui County. I'm currently enrolled in the 2013 class and I really cannot speak highly enough about this program. Ka Ipu Kukui gives future leaders of Maui County in-depth background on a wide variety of issues that affect Maui nei. We covered issues as diverse as business, environmental, agriculture, scientific development, and infrastructure development. These issues are all very diverse but from a broader perspective, they are all related and intertwined. We also covered State and local government recently, and I wanted to thank many of the Council members that were part of hosting our group last month. This opportunity to have a frank dialogue and ask honest questions was really invaluable. Above all, this program fosters strong relationships among our future leaders and offers an unparalleled opportunity to forge relationships with Maui's current leaders and learn from them. I implore you to continue to fund this valuable program because it really brings future leaders from a diverse background that all have different parts and functions of Maui County together and allows us to network with people that we would never probably otherwise meet for a long time. So I know that you've been part of funding this previously and I really encourage you to continue funding it. I think it's a very important program. Secondly, also very passionate about. . . I wanted to speak to the Council about Mediation Services on Maui where I currently work as the executive director. Mediation Services has been operating for 31 years now and is funded in part through the County through the Community Partnership Grant, which is part of the Department of Housing and Human Concerns. Mediation is an effective, confidential and inexpensive way for people to settle disputes out of court. As an alternative to litigation, we are able to assist with. . . assist the Judiciary with their overwhelming case load. And although we are in the middle. . . Mediation Services is in the middle of our two-year CPG's grant cycle, I just wanted to thank the County and the Council for your continued support and I'll be back next year to testify again. Aloha. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Max. Marie will be followed by Jeneane Maglinti.

MS. ANKAWA: Dear, Council member, aloha. My name is Marie Ankawa and I'm here to testify for the MEDB. So let me tell you about our company and how they support us over, like, eight years all the way through. So we're currently. . . so the name of the company is Noni Biotech International also known as nonimaui.com and we are using the noni fruit from Hawaii and we're actually selling it to more than 50 countries over the world. We've been selected as best export company in the United States and we went to Washington, D.C. to pick up our award. More than 75 percent of our sell are to export. And MEDB has been helping us for all the time to helping us to go to trade show, get in contact with some clients, and beside the sale of the product, we also do some research in Haiku actually. And we're partnering with major U.S. university like, University of Hawaii, Pacific University in Honolulu, and also San Diego University, and University of California. And we're currently doing some cancer research and with very good results. And so MEDB is also helping on this side of the business. They went to trade show and soon are going to the BIO Conference. We cannot attend but they are going to

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

  speak on our behalf. So I wanted to ask you to keep funding the MEDB because they've been helping us a lot, and thank you very much.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Marie. Jeneane will be followed by Carol Petez-Zubiack.

MS. MAGLINTI: Hello, good evening. My name is Jeneane. I am disabled and I have been receiving transportation services from MEO for the past six years, about at least that much. Especially in the past when I was recently. . .when I was newly diagnosed, I would have not been able to get around without these services. MEO has helped me to get to classes, important doctor visits, work, school, grocery shopping, the laundry mat, and various other appointments. For example, this evening after transporting me to work today, I was also able to attend this meeting with the help of MEO, which would not have been possible otherwise. I now reside in Makawao and depend on MEO more than ever to transport me to places I need to be. It would be very difficult for me to live my life, however when feasible I do take the city bus. Without MEO's help with rides to school and work, I frankly wouldn't be able to attend my classes and be on time to work. That's not being able to further my education and this is very important. . .this is a very important aspect to bettering myself as a student, employee, and mother. Eventually, I'll be able to be in a position to afford my own car and, however for now, I myself and many others truly depend on MEO services so thank you for supporting MEO transportation services and mahalo for your time this evening.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Jeneane. Carol will be followed by William Jacintho.

MS. PETEZ-ZUBIACK: Hello, thank you very much for still listening at this hour and my name is Carol Petez-Zubiack. And the reason I'm here is to support the Mayor's Budget item to fund the UH Maui College, Maui Oral Health Center. I don't work there. I teach nursing at the college many years ago. In about 2002, about the time the Maui Oral Health Center was opening, I did some volunteer work there doing health assessments on the people that came in applying for dental care, and I remember how really moving it was about the amount of distress that poor oral health caused in their lives in so many different ways. So I'm really impressed when I read that the Maui Oral Health Center has served 6,800 Medicaid eligible patients over this period of time and 1,530 uninsured individuals. And hearing now that the financial status of the Maui Oral Health Center is somewhat precarious and in jeopardy. I would ask you please to continue to support this really important endeavor so that we can keep it going. Not only does it provide care to the children and to people without means in our community, but it also trains dental hygienists and dental assistants and brings in dentists as residents who will also contribute to our community. So thank you very much for your support and your consideration.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Carol. William will be followed by Kekuaaoa.

MR. JACINTHO: Good evening, Council members. It's getting pretty late and all of you need to be back with your families but anyway, my name is William Jacintho. I am the president of the Maui Cattlemen's Association. Today, I'm here to pretty much talk about our appreciation for funding that we get from OED through Teena and Kenneth, that office, which is managed by

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

Maui County Farm Bureau, . . .*(inaudible)*. . . and we're able to bring in speakers from the mainland to talk to the cattlemen and various livestock growers. We've kind of branched out, not just cattle, but also hogs, chickens, pigs, goats, sheep. . . a lot of guys are diversifying and going into different things. So just quickly, we were able to bring in Brian Sapp and Jenni Harris from White Oaks Pastures in Buffalo. . . Bluffton, Georgia and they covered range management and grass fed animals, sheep, cattle, goats, chickens. They also shared about their business with. . . they have their own slaughtering facility and fabrication. They also do their own sales distribution all over the United States. They also provided field visits for different ranchers. It was available, whoever wanted them to visit, they would come by while they were staying here for four days, so we're grateful to have funding through the Council. Another person we were able to bring was Flavio Ribero, he's originally from Brazil and he spent 11 days with us here on the islands. And to kind of keep costs down, we had. . . he stayed at my house actually and I don't really know him a lot. I met him on a YCC out in. . . we went to Colorado and ended up in D.C. but with the Young Cattlemen's Council. So, you know, through these different visits, which is not from Economic Development money, but we get to exchange and meet people and we're able to use this funding to bring them to us instead of sending one person out there, these people can talk to 40, 50 different people. But he was able to visit various ranches and talk about things that he teaches at Texas Tech. He's pretty much a beef science guy. He visited with the processing plant. He spent the whole day with them. He also worked with the 4-H program on animal quality assurance program that they needed a one-hour course in order to fulfill their requirement. So we're happy to provide that. He's also put together a leather workshop and that was pretty good where it kind of blended our leather working abilities with rawhide and his Wyoming style of doing leather work. He also worked with a chef on Maui.

MR. NISHITA: Three minutes.

MR. JACINTHO: Working with the sirloin tip beef and put on a Brazilian barbecue. We drained this guy all the way out of all his knowledge when he left. But anyhow, I just wanted to again thank you all for the support and continuous. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, William. Kekuanaoa will be followed by Francis Spalluto.

MR. KEKUANAOKA: Aloha, Council members. My name is Kekuanaoa. My tutu gave me that name. He was a governor with alongside Kamehameha through the lineage of Kahekili. First of all, I'd like to say I've been on Maui for about 33. . . well, raised here at 33 or 34 years, and some of the testimony or testifying I wanted to cover is on the MEO, Boys and Girls Club, and the Maui Bus. First of all, the MEO bus that I see picking up a lot of the old folks and some of these younger adults with no vehicle has been awesome. You know, it's just a couple bucks, they can get picked up even in Hana, Keanae, get a ride to do their grocery shopping and as I heard, even do their laundry so, you know, that's awesome. The Boys and Girls Club, you know, even my children when they were young. . . my oldest son is in high school now, used to go to the Boys and Girls Club. I used to pick them up so, you know, down in Paukukalo, it's awesome, you know, I'm really thankful for the programs Boys and Girls Club has. The jiu-jitsu programs, you know, the ultimate fighting, the MMA, but the most important thing is the safety for those



**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

children at the Boys and Girls Club and to be able to go into that environment and not have to be afraid. So that's what I'm thankful for that Boys and Girls Club. When I used to pick up my children, my two boys, my ex had my baby girl, I was staying at the homeless shelter, and I don't know if any of you have heard about the homeless shelter, but it's not a real fun place to be. So after making, you know, some union pay, back, take a shower, go pick up the kids, you know, it's stressful on a single parent, you know what I mean, two paychecks better than one. But that was my experience with the Boys and Girls Club and they were very generous in taking care of my children while I was working in Wailea, the Bob Armstrong and the Kobayashi jobs while we're in the union, so I'm praying for more union backing and more jobs for our, you know, our community. The other aspect I wanted to cover was the Maui Bus. Like the one aunty talked about, you know, one bus pick-up here in Pukalani, there's actually two bus stops, the other one is up there past Pukalani Superette, past First Hawaiian Bank, there's like a dog kennel, there's one more stop there. There's actually two in Pukalani, but to get back from Makawao it would be awesome if there was a smaller bus to go up maybe that Kula route to go from, what do you call it, Minit Stop back up to Longs Drugs and then up to Kula and then back here so --

MR. NISHITA: Three minutes.

MR. KEKUANA OA: --that's just some food for thought. The most important aspect of Maui's organizations and financial backing and kokua is a testimony and testifier of itself and one's walk. Look at the work done up at the Pukalani Baptist Church, take a drive up there. Politics seem important to our community and so do jobs and chains of not darkness but avenues of enlightenment and 12 geniuses besides just a scholastic genius. Please kokua in listening not to spiritual wickedness and selfish perversion due to drug dealers' thoughts of power. Thank you. I'm truly thankful for my ohana, which includes Korean, Japanese, Filipino, and Hawaiian, Portuguese descent. The melting pot is a key element on this island to help our community provide more full-time work, guidance for our children from drugs and thug life --

MR. NISHITA: Four minutes.

MR. KEKUANA OA: --and chains of addiction and darkness. Love, fate, and hope in helping to support our Council members along with keiki o ka aina and break the financial blocks. Amen. Thank you so much.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you. Thank you for your thoughts. Francis will be followed by Harold Cambra and Mr. Cambra is the final testifier to have signed up so if there's anyone left in the audience who would like to testify this evening, please sign up. Please proceed.

MR. SPALLUTO: Good evening, Council members, my name's Francis Spalluto. I'm the project manager for the Haiku Aina Permaculture Initiative. We are a permaculture and sustainability education center in Haiku on a piece of property on East Kuiaha that 40 years ago belonged to your family somewhere along the way. And so it's interesting I'd like to talk to you later about that. We're a nonprofit organization so I'm not here to ask for money. We're funded from other sources, but I am here to offer testimony for the Hui Malama School. Looks like they want just a

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

---

little bit more money next year. I was surprised that they were actually able to operate the program that they performed for as little money, and they're asking for just a very, less than 5 percent increase. And so for me, if they are able to continue in the way that they are, we get to meet them once or twice in a month and it's the highlight of our staff's month to have those children and their staff come up. When I first met them, they rolled up in a used bus. I don't know where that came from, it looked like a old tour bus or something. And the way that the children greeted me when I was standing outside the bus was nothing less than moving. I was almost drawn to tears at the level of respect and kindness that they all. . .these are like middle school kids, they were all looking me in the eye and saying respectful words to me. I've raised four kids 29, 29, 32, and 16, they never did that, you know, they're coming around now but, you know, so what I've been able to see from the children there is a level of respect and conscientiousness which I think is the most important thing for a foundation for education. The rest is all we can learn a lot of things along the way. We offer them opportunities to learn a science-based farming system, based on understanding the microbiology of the soil, understanding the interdependence and interconnection of all the different plants and diverse ecosystems, because the difference that what we have on Maui is primarily mono crop agriculture that's based on chemical agriculture. And so what the kids are getting to learn in their short visits which we like to have a lot more of are. . .is a system that is what nature's system is, which is of much more lower cost method of growing food and lumber and other plants that we need for our lives. It's also creates a more nutrient dense food product. It enables us as a island community in this fragile ecosystem to create a greater sense of food security utilizing methods that are not. . .although we utilize scientific methods to understand what we're doing, we utilize natural methods to produce greater outputs, and we have bee keeping there, we have aquaculture with tilapia, we have a coffee orchard, we've got diverse tropical fruit orchards, we grow thousands of ginger, turmeric, medicinal as well as food plants.

MR. NISHITA: Three minutes.

MR. SPALLUTO: And so they just need 10,000 more next year. Thank you very much for you time tonight and I hope that can work out for them.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Francis. And our last testifier is Harold Cambra.

MR. CAMBRA: Good evening, my name is Harold Willy Cambra, born in Puunene, February 21, 1934, moved to Makawao when I turned 50. My father lived 'til 97 years old drinking the water from the Hamakuapoko Wells and my mother was 89 with 12 kids. And that water is pumped, nothing wrong with that water, it's the same water they drink in Lahaina. That water is pumped to the Pookela tank, mixing our Waikamoi water where we get good . . .(*inaudible*). . . water and better water after you mix the two waters together so we don't have a water problem. You've got to just open that Hamakuapoko Wells, you know, there's a lot of water. We got no water problem. And if you go hustle the springs up in Kaupakalua which is real cheap, instead of go making big money for reservoirs, just go get, go look into that, that's why Buddy Nobriga had resigned. See, you know what Buddy told me, the Impact Environmental Statement, they couldn't get it. They said, because the birds, the pumps gonna

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

April 3, 2013  
Upcountry District

---

make noise for the birds. So the birds are more important than human life and water. That's the way these people look at it. We don't look at that. I was born plantation days and our people, my great grandparents, they made these islands and Michael know. Thank you, okay.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Cambra. Is there anyone else who wishes to testify this evening that hasn't already done so? With that, the Chair, without objections, would like to close public testimony.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: No objections.

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

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, and thank you all for sticking with us and we appreciate everyone coming out and sharing their thoughts as we go through this budget process, and please keep track of what we're doing, because this is a reasonably fast moving process from here on. But thank you again for coming and we appreciate your input. Aloha. ...*(gavel)*...

**ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.**

**ADJOURN: 9:06 p.m.**

APPROVED:



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MIKE WHITE, Chair  
Budget and Finance Committee

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Transcribed by: Michelle Balala

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**April 3, 2013**  
**Upcountry District**

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**CERTIFICATE**

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

DATED the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 2013, in Kahului, Hawaii.

*Michelle Balala*

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Michelle Balala