

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

April 4, 2013

Paia Community Center, Social Hall

CONVENE: 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Mike White, Chair
Councilmember G. Riki Hokama, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Gladys C. Baisa, Member
Councilmember Robert Carroll, Member
Councilmember Elle Cochran, Member
Councilmember Donald G. Couch, Jr., Member (left at 7:30 p.m.)
Councilmember Stacy Crivello, Member
Councilmember Don S. Guzman, Member
Councilmember Michael P. Victorino, Member

STAFF: Michele Yoshimura, Legislative Analyst
Josiah Nishita, Legislative Analyst
Pauline Martins, Substitute Committee Secretary

David Raatz, Director, Office of Council Services

Troy Hashimoto, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Mike White
Spencer Lau, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Mike White
Arthur Suyama, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Stacy Crivello
Gerald Keoni Enriques, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Guzman
Morris Haole, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Robert Carroll

OTHERS: Rob Parsons
Sherman Baisa
Jamee Howell
Annalise Sanabria
Alisha Summers
Tia Bright
Jolene Bantilan
Trysten Pitts
Natalie Rothman
Heather Proud
Xander Robertson
Kohki Tanizaki
Olivia Alues
Ryder Jalbert
Bailey Wellbeloved
Peter Swanzy

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Manu Lindsay
Phil Lowenthal
Sydney Emerson
Sierra Coullahan
Kamalei Amadeo
Maurice Bajon
Sharon Viger
Justin Maalea
Barry Rivers
Marty McMahan
Pat Brady
Marty Davis
Anne Herrick
Nicholas Sanabria
Michael McDougall
Richard Lucas
LeighAnne Guyre-Allen
Paula Ambre
Eric Johnson
Martha Shen-Urquidez
Erin Hilburn
Autumn Glover
Claire Sheehan
Samantha Bittiner
Yolanda Jetnil
Jon Brown
Priscilla Felipe
Jerleen Bryant
Anders Friberg
Craig Handfinger
Janice Kunin
Neal Kunin
Billy Jalbert
Gerry Ross
Beau Barcoma
Matthew Murasko
Netra Halperin
Nancy Johnson
Kristi Wellbeloved
Miyo Kim
Nikhilananda
Steve Paselk
Plus (34) additional unidentified attendees

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CHAIR WHITE: . . .(*gavel*). . . Good evening. Welcome to the Paia Community Center. Thank you coming out this evening. Looks like we've got a great crowd and we look forward to hearing from you all. Maybe not all of you . . . no we're very happy to be here. This is our third evening public hearing, taking testimony on the 2014 Budget. We've already started our review of the various departments and will continue this work for another month before we finalize our version of the budget. So I'd like to start by introducing the Members that are joining us here this evening. Starting at my far left with Stacy Crivello --.

COUNCILMEMBER CRIVELLO: Aloha.

CHAIR WHITE: --representing Molokai. And Elle Cochran representing West Maui. Don Couch from South Maui. And our Council Chair Gladys Baisa from Upcountry. And I'm Mike White from here. And Riki Hokama from Lanai; Mike Victorino from Boston, I mean . . .

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Welcome. Aloha, everyone.

CHAIR WHITE: No, that's the other Victorino. Don Guzman from Kahului.

COUNCILMEMBER GUZMAN: Aloha.

CHAIR WHITE: And Bob Carroll from East Maui. If you would all please turn off your cell phones or other noise making devices, we would appreciate it. Most of ours are already off from this morning's hearings. And as we have done in the past, we will be taking testimony from youngsters and elders first. And then the rest will follow.

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

CHAIR WHITE: So, without objections, Members, I'd like to open public testimony.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR WHITE: Okay. Our first testifier will be Alicia Summers and she'll be followed by Tia Bright. . . . Feel free to adjust it.

...BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY...

MS. SUMMERS: Kind of short. Okay. So good evening, County Council Members. My name is Alicia Summers and I am testifying on behalf of the MEDB Youth Alliance Program. I have participated in Youth Alliance for four years, and I have experience and learned so much from this program. In Youth Alliance we do community service activities, we learn how to be good leaders, and we explore various job opportunities. One event that I loved is when we went to Honokowai Valley to do community service and from this event I learned more about sustainable

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living, and I learned more about the Hawaiian culture and I gained a greater appreciation for it. Youth Alliance is a wonderful program and because of this I urge you guys to continue funding it so that more students can enjoy as much as I have. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Alicia. And Members, we'll do as we did last night where if you have a question, please make sure you let me know, otherwise, we'll just keep on trucking. Tia Bright is our next testifier, followed by Jolene Bantilan . . . Sounds like you've brought some supporters with you.

MS. BRIGHT: I actually did. Good evening, County Council Members. My name is Tia Bright and I'm the 2012-2013 Haiku Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year. It is . . .

AUDIENCE: Applauded.

MS. BRIGHT: Thank you, guys.

CHAIR WHITE: We get to embarrass you.

MS. BRIGHT: Thank you. I don't mind at all. It is such an honor representing my Boys and Girls Club and it's such a privilege to tell you guys my story. My Club has made me realize that even though my home was overbearing and hard, it made me who I am today and I have nothing to be ashamed of. My Boys and Girls Club became my safety net from walking a tight rope - that was my home. The Staff put me first when I was put last. They taught me how to care about my future and help me with jobs, money budgeting, and preparing for college through all their programs. They give me hope that I will make something of myself; that I will not be just another sad statistic but I will be someone who will achieve their goals and follow their dreams. My Boys and Girls Club has taught me that I have the power to create my own destiny that is at my finger tips and all I have to do is grasp it and never let go. In the future, I want to help all the teenagers that struggle with their day-to-day lives by becoming a high school counselor. I feel that now that I got that support that I need to give the same thing to the teens that are in the same boat that I was in. I know that if I'm given the chance, I can make another teen feel the same way that my Club has made me feel. My Club has centered me through the roughest time of my life. Being Youth of the Year has taught me that just how much every Club has empowered each of their children that walked through their doors. No child is left behind. Being at the Oahu competition with our State champion Erin Soriano has made me see just how much the clubs impact each of their kids. The clubs represent a home and represents each child's family. I know because I am a part of the clubs and my Club represents my true family and my true home. Thank you, guys.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Tia. Jolene Bantilan will be followed by Trysten Pitts.

MS. BANTILAN: Hello, County Council. I am Jolene and I am very honored for your time. Honestly, Boys and Girls Club is my second home because the Staff is always there for me when I have problems or I'm just not feeling happy. I love the Club because they push me to my limits I

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never knew I had. I stay active here and motivated to do things. All the Staff here are so caring and nice. They may scold me and give me lectures but I know it's only for good. The kids here always make me smile with all their stories. I always enjoy going to the Club with the familiar faces and loving people. I give much appreciation to all the Staff that spend their time to help us in daily issues every day. I love the Club so much that one day when I get older I would like to work there. I think if I was never introduced to the Club or there was never a club, I wouldn't be the Jolene I am today. The Club has helped me so much with Auntie Joy teaching us how to cook to Zachary, Mason, and Ya Ya keeping us fit and healthy with all the outdoor activities. Oh, and Jen with all her creativity and art. So, the Club has a big impact on my life and I'm very glad to have them in my life. Aloha.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Jolene. Trysten will be followed by Natalie Rothman.

MS. PITTS: Aloha, my name is Trysten Pitts and this is what I have to say about the Boys and Girls Club of Maui Haiku. I have been a member at the Boys and Girls Club of Haiku for almost a year. I am Secretary of our Torch Club there. There are so many programs available like gardening, Torch Club of course, and all of the outdoor activities. The Club is like my second ohana. I love my Club. Aloha and mahalo for listening.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you. Thank you for coming to share with us. Natalie Rothman will be followed by Heather Proud.

MS. ROTHMAN: Hi, guys. Well, I'm Natalie and I'm going to speak on behalf of the Best Buddies Program. I wanted to start off by saying that I'm paired with Ramie who's my best buddy. And I've just literally watched our friendship grow from something like we were completely strangers at the beginning of the year to something now that's amazing like we go out to movies all the time. We go to the beach, we go to the pool, and we do all these like monthly activities and it's just something that's come . . . not only, like I've not only witnessed that it changed me. It's changed Ramie and everybody else that's in the program. Like this is my first year and I'm already going to be running for Chapter President next year because I realize what an impacting club this really is. So . . . that's pretty much all I have to say so I just want to let you guys know that this is like been such an amazing program for me, and I just hope that you guys think that too.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you for volunteering, Natalie. Heather Proud is up next and following Heather will be Xander Robertson.

MS. PROUD: Aloha, mahalo. Thank you, Council Members.

CHAIR WHITE: Aloha.

MS. PROUD: I'm here and I definitely want to support the Best Buddies Program and the Boys and Girls Club for everything they've done for the youth for Haiku. And what I would love to see in the Haiku-Paia area is a community center swimming pool in this area because not only for the

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youth but for elders and people with disabilities. I think it would be something that would really support the community. But the reason that I'm really here is to say that the Maui Oral Health Center has supported me over many, many years, at least 10-15 years of extensive dental work and support with being able to keep my dental health as good as possible. Because my health was declining, I was losing . . . I had to have a lot of extractions but they were able to save a lot of my teeth and really support me with bridges and I'm just very, very grateful that the Oral Health Center has had funding for over all these years. Thank you so much. Mahalo.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Heather. Xander Robertson is next followed by Kohki Tanizaki. Please proceed.

MR. ROBERTSON: Hello, my name is Xander Robertson. I am a member at the Paia Youth Cultural Center and I am in the Youth Incentive Program, and it's helped me prepare for my first job. It's taught me responsibility, life skills, and safety. I've been coming to the Youth Center since I was nine and they've been welcoming since the first day. It offers unique community-based opportunities. Thank you for your consideration.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you. Kohki will be followed by Olivia Alues *[sic]*.

MR. TANIZAKI: Hi, guys. My name is Kohki Tanizaki and the Paia Youth and Cultural Center is important to me because the staff provides us with lots of stuff . . . like helping us with homework, and they play with us, and teach us how to do art and photo shop, and all kinds of stuff. They teach us how to cook, and yeah.

CHAIR WHITE: And public speaking.

MR. TANIZAKI: Yeah.

CHAIR WHITE: Right?

MR. TANIZAKI: That's it.

CHAIR WHITE: Okay, well thank you.

MS. ALVES: Hi, I'm Olivia Alves, a Program Specialist at the Paia Youth and Cultural Center. And I strongly encourage the continued funding for our centers. And I thought that I would read a couple of youth testimonies that couldn't be here. I thought they're really great example of how they feel about the youth center. So, the first one is, the reason that the PYCC is so important to me is that it is my life. Without it, I wouldn't become anything more, make more friends and family. I love it so much. I'm sorry I couldn't come. I just love it so much that I'm playing skating here tonight. Venton Cunningham, age 11. One other one is the PYCC is important to me because it's where all the kids can come to play, have fun, and enjoy the water. I've been coming here since I was nine so I know it will always be like my second home. The Staff members are great role models to all the kids here. The skate park is the only one on the North

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Shore and we need it here. After school we come straight here and play, surf, skate, make music, and so many more things. A lot of children wouldn't know how to do it if it wasn't here. We all made this place. That's from Tatiana Sharden, age 14. So, thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you. Our next testifier is Ryder Jalbert followed by Bailey Wellbeloved.

MASTER JALBERT: Hello there. My name is Ryder Jalbert. I am nine years old, and I started to come here last year as soon as I turned nine and I just love this place. All I've heard is this is the only place with a radio station that people can actually hear you live. And also it has surfboards, boogie boards, ping pong, pool, and a whole bunch of other fun activities. Also, they include field trips, cooking classes, and you can buy lunch for \$2.00. And also there is a media lab that supports the youth center by giving video, well, letting PYCC members use video cameras, cameras, and edit their videos and be posted on the PYCC YouTube channel. I would also like my friend Eli --

MR. ELI: No.

MASTER JALBERT: --to speak.

MR. ELI: No, I'm not speaking.

CHAIR WHITE: Well, you know, Ryder, you did such a good job I don't know how they can add too much to that.

MASTER JALBERT: Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Your buddy has got your back, Ryder.

MR. WELLBELOVED: I can stay up here now.

CHAIR WHITE: And what is your name?

MR. WELLBELOVED: My name is Bailey. I'm 14.

CHAIR WHITE: Okay.

MR. WELLBELOVED: I started coming to the PYCC when I moved here in September. It's been great for me. I mean, I go to the skate park every day it's open. I go on the radio station every day. They have a computer lab where Ryder, Eli, most of my computer friends we play Mindcraft. I mean, but it's not the only thing . . .

CHAIR WHITE: You say that like I know what Mycraft is. Oh, Mindcraft. I'm sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: What is it?

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CHAIR WHITE: Only Mr. Couch plays those games.

MR. WELLBELOVED: I mean, PYCC has taught me that there's so much more to do than just sit inside and play computer games. I mean, there is art classes. We get food from Mana. We make organic lunch meals . . . like Ryder said we sell 'em for \$2.00. Skate park is open till 9:00 o'clock when the youth center isn't open till nine on Thursdays and Saturdays. Friday - youth center is open till nine so I love being able to stay late. It's where I go every day after school. I mean, it's like my second home. I love it. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Great job, guys. Okay, the next testifier is Peter Swanzy followed by Manu Lindsay.

MR. SWANZY: Good evening, Council Members. Thanks for hosting this, this evening. My name is Peter Swanzy and I'm a Program Specialist at the Paia Youth and Cultural Center. I just want to kind of keep what I say brief. I know there's a lot of people who want to speak. But there is a very, very definite and clear connection in terms of cause and effect having a youth center in a community I think creates more stable, bounds, productive, and positive community. And I want to thank you all for your consideration of the Paia Youth Center. And I also want to remind you that the more that we can invest in the Paia Youth Center and in other organizations the more that we can expect in terms of a community output. The more we're going to see in the community, the more of a positive effect and more of a positive change we're going to see and observe from the result of that. So I really want to plant that seed; I want you all to fall asleep, dream about it, and in the morning wake up and be ready to offer even more commitment than you already do. And thank you very much.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you. Manu will be followed by Phil Lowenthal.

MASTER LINDSAY: Good evening, County Council. My name is Manu and I just wanted to say that the Youth Center is the best place that you could go to because there's a beach right next to it, ping pong, lunch, pool; there's even a skate park. And the skate park, I don't know what I would do without it. That's the only one in Paia and I'm hoping that it stays there forever because that's the only place I'm going to when I grow up to skate. But I'm 11 right now; I've been going to the Youth Center for almost three years and the staff has just been welcoming and I am just beginning to know Olivia because she is a new worker. Brandon, he is my favorite leader. He takes us on field trips. We play capture the flag, flag football, soccer, football, anything. If you ask him, he'll let you play. But he is kind of like our dad because he always tells us to be careful.

CHAIR WHITE: Dads are like that.

MASTER LINDSAY: Yeah.

CHAIR WHITE: Moms are worse.

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MASTER LINDSAY: And I would also like to say that the beach, if I never had a home, the beach would probably be where I would want to sleep because I can just wake up in the morning and just jump in the water. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Manu. Okay, Phil, you're going to have to try to follow these guys.

MR. LOWENTHAL: Hello. My name is Phil Lowenthal, I'm 68 and a half. I'm here because I'm one of the volunteer board members on nonprofits and I have a certain amount of time to do that. The two that I am fit to be on the board - one is Hui Malama, and the other is the homeless shelter - Ka Hale A Ke Ola. I picked those two because education is key and the more people in our community is educated the better off we are. I understand you have to decide what you have to do with our tax money and where allocated. I would strongly recommend education because we're all better off as a great investment in our future and Hui Malama I think is doing a great job and we're managing it and it saves everybody money. As for the homeless shelter, we're also managing that and I think it's going well. So thank you all for your service. Those of us in the community and the private sector who volunteer our time to do these things appreciate your support very much. Thank you for staying up so late.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Phil. Our next testifier is Sydney Emerson followed by Sierra Coullahan.

MS. EMERSON: Hi, I'm Sydney Emerson. I am 17 years old and I've been attending Hui Malama for about three months. I came to Hui Malama to join their GED program for the hours I need to complete before taking my GED. Hui Malama has helped me prepare for my future by teaching me the importance of learning life skills especially in agricultural sustainability for the future. Since I've started at Hui Malama, I've changed because I have learned how to grow organically not using chemicals. I have learned that marigold can be used in companion planting which is planting different plants together to keep bugs away and to fix nitrogen into the soil. This is sort of like our school at Hui Malama because there are all different types of kids and we all are . . . our butt in the same room and have to get along together. They've also taught me importance of eating healthy and how it affects your body. One thing I like at Hui Malama is they teach us how to work on farms and the benefits of having a personal farm can have on your life. Another thing is, I like going on excursions. It's a good way of showing me the different areas of Maui and I enjoy seeing taro farms and native sugar cane. Another thing I like is that they teach us a lot about Hawaiian traditions. And since I'm not from Maui, I find it very interesting to learn about the history of it. Hui Malama is helping me get further in my future by helping me with GED and college prep. They are also helping me because one day I'll be able to have my own garden and grow my own food. So, I'd like to thank you for supporting Hui Malama.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Sydney. And Sierra will be followed by Kamalei Amadeo.

MS. COULLAHAN: Hi. My name is Sierra Coullahan and I'm 17 years old and I'm in the high school program at Hui Malama. I have been attending Hui Malama for seven months. And I came to Hui Malama because I wanted to try a different path of learning. At my old school, I didn't learn much and I wasn't getting the education or help I needed to succeed. At Hui Malama we went at

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our own pace and are encouraged to focus on areas in which we need help. All of the teachers provided welcoming classroom and giving up more than enough time to help us individually. At Hui Malama, we 're not stuck inside a classroom all day going crazy and sitting at a desk. Twice a week we have the privilege to be outside a large portion of the day. We learn about how to protect and rebuild our eco-system. We have weekly hands on experiences growing non-GMO crops and produce. We learn responsibility by taking care of kalo and the many other crops in which we work. Sustaining farms and community gardens is one of our school's goals. Working together, applying the knowledge we gain about plants from our various mentors we are successful in reaching our goal. Community Work Day, Rotary, Kaiser Permanente and UH MC have helped us build a well put together garden at our school in which we all work very hard. We use some of the food that we harvest from our garden in our school's meals and we share the rest of it with others in our community. Our meals consist of healthy and non-processed food. We understand the importance of growing our own food and buying local products. We know that we aren't eating chemically sprayed and genetically modified foods and we know that buying local we are supporting our community. I also like that our school is small and is much easier for me to focus because we have little to no distractions. Since attending Hui Malama, my outlook on my future has completely changed. Hui Malama has shown me that I can go above and beyond myself. My teachers have supported me and pushed me way out of my comfort zone. They've helped prove to me that I can achieve greatness through my determination and diligence. The number of my personal goals that I have accomplished is close to countless. My future plan is to attend college and major in business. Our career development teacher makes time to prepare us individually for our pact toward our next step in adulthood. I have decided on several colleges to which I will be applying. So thank you for listening and supporting our little yet powerful school - Hui Malama Learning Center. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Sierra. Kamalei is up next and she will be followed by Maurice Bajon.

MS. AMADEO: Hi, my name is Kamalei Amadeo. I'm 16 years old. This is my second year attending Hui Malama. I came to Hui Malama because I was having a hard time focusing in a big classroom setting. But at Hui Malama their classes are small so it's easier to focus. If we need help, those teachers take the time to help us one-on-one and I didn't get this kind of help at my old school. Hui Malama was the best thing for me. At my old school, the teachers would go through the work really fast and I never understood what they were working on. I missed a lot of school due to medical problems so that would cause me to be behind in all my work. My teachers at my old school never really understood why I've been missing school. And some of my teachers wouldn't even give me my missing work because they figured that I wouldn't do it. At Hui Malama, the teachers understood why I missed school. Now I get one-on-one help from my teachers and they've helped out a lot. When we work on assignments, our teachers make sure we understand our work before we move on to anything else unlike my old school. At Hui Malama they give me the time to make up my work and they don't rush through assignments. Because of that, I'm not behind in all my work. Being in smaller classes has been really helpful because I don't get distracted as easily. Also, it's a smaller school. I've gotten to know the kids better and some of them are now my best friends. I have a lot in common with some of the kids here unlike at my old school. At Hui Malama we do a lot of hands on work. They teach us how

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to be sustainable and they teach us hard work so we know what it will be like when we're on our own. It's nice not being stuck in the classroom all day because even though it's nice to be in a small classroom we still get frustrated, so it's good to get out of the classroom and get our minds off things. We learn about the Hawaiian culture and I find it really interesting. We get to make and use some of the tools Hawaiians traditionally made and it's fun. The teachers also help us with our careers. They help us figure out what we want to do after we get our GED diploma. Not many teachers will take the time out to help me figure out my career and help me get there. Being at Hui Malama really changed who I am in a good way. I feel better about myself because I've been getting good grades. I've opened up more and I can be more of myself at Hui Malama. I made friends who have a personality more like me and I don't feel like an outcast. If I have a problem, the teachers will take the time to talk to us and it makes me feel good knowing that they actually do care. Hui Malama was one of the best things that happened to me as a person and in my life, and I really appreciate it. Thank you for supporting Hui Malama.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you. Maurice is our next testifier and he'll be followed by Sharon Viger.

MR. BAJON: Good evening, County Council. My name is Maurice Bajon and I'm the Unit Director of the Haiku Boys and Girls Club. This is probably the third or fourth time I get to testify in front of you so thank you for this honor. I want to catch you up on some things in the past years since the last time I talked to you. So since the last time I had the privilege of talking in front of you our average daily attendance at our Club has increased again. We were over hundred two years in a row now. You might remember a few years ago we used to be a 60-member a day Club. We're over a hundred for two straight years so this is not just a fluke. This is a trend. This is something that's real, and it's staring at our face right now. On the positive side, well, having a hundred kids a day is positive but having a small building to fit all those kids is getting a little difficult. We started a new photography program just recently. We already had 50 members take part in it. We held a local photography exhibit where we showed 42 photography works by our members. We had working artists from the Hui Noeau come and judge them and they selected 11 works that we submitted to a regional competition in California. In November, on the national fun, day of fun, we held an inter-club Olympics where five clubs, all five clubs brought in members. They sent in their best athletes, best representatives and all in all more than 70 members participated in six competitions, and it was basically like the Olympics. We had the javelin, we had the long jump, we had the sprint, we had the hurdles, and it was so much fun. And these kids, if they could have more time, they would testify to that. Our soccer league, I don't know if you remember last time I told you we started a soccer league, we're entering our third year. The first year we had about 37-38 kids in it. Last year we had more than 50. This year as of the last game that we just had on Friday, 68 members participated in our soccer league. We have four teams of 17, and every Friday, they have practices but then every Friday every team plays and it's lots of fun. The finals are on May 17th. I encourage you guys to come out. We also had a Club-wide excursion to Hana where we closed the Club, we bused all the kids to Hana and back in one day, that was an amazing fun. We had countless sleepovers and countless field trips. We also had our annual Thanksgiving dinner where we had basically hosted more than 200 people, families, kids, members, non-members, anybody who showed up they were served a great Thanksgiving meal. Our Club is full of happy, well-adjusted kids as you've

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already heard. They have ping pong tables, they have foosball tables, they have many video games to play but the one thing, if you asked them one thing what they couldn't do without, it's probably the staff.

MR. NISHITA: Three minutes.

MR. BAJON: So in order to maintain the staff who are already on staff and keep 'em happy and keep 'em in our building and avoid turnover, we need to see at least a 4 per cent increase over the entire amount that is budgeted for our youth center because if I cannot give merit increases to my staff based on their performance, based on how they work and keep them happy year in and year out, they're going to leave. They're going to find other jobs. They're going to move to the corporate jobs. They're going to start working at places where these kids won't get to see them, and they won't have the impact that they have right now. And these kids the one thing that they dislike the most is turnover, it's staff leaving, and all of a sudden not having that staff person they're emotionally attached to. So, that is the one big thing I'm asking for at least 4 per cent increase in the entire amount that you budget for the youth centers. And I thank you for your time, thank you for doing what you're doing, and I'll see you again next year. Aloha.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Maurice. Next testifier is Sharon Viger followed by Justin Ma`alea.

MS. VIGER: Aloha, my name is Sharon Viger. I live in Haiku. I have two boys - my son Trevor is 15, my son Hunter is 11. We've been part of the Haiku Community Boys and Girls Club for many, many years. Maurice and the Staff at the Haiku Boys and Girls Club is beyond awesome. Mahalo, Maurice. They generally care about each keiki. They focus on education, sports, teamwork, and friendly competition. Knowing that they're at the Club when I'm at work is priceless. I can't say more, enough about what they do for my family. My son Hunter who is 11 is the Treasurer of the Club, and he says if you need help with the numbers, give him a call. He'll help you crunch the numbers. He's a good money guy. Please help support our Club. Mahalo.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you. Justin will be followed by Barry Rivers.

MR. MA`ALEA: Hi, my name is Justin Ma`alea. I am 14 years old. I am a middle school student, and I have been attending Hui Malama for about two years. I came to Hui Malama because I got into trouble at my old school. The thing that I enjoy most at Hui Malama is going out and helping farmers with their land and learning about how to grow kalo and other plants for food because we go on these farming field trips. I have learned how to take notes. I learned that taking notes is a good skill because it helps me remember important information later on. I also enjoy making tee shirts in art class. I have learned about how that would be a good job to have later on. I also like how the teachers and staff at school are kind. They help me with my homework when I don't understand and they make healthy breakfast, snacks, and lunches for us. Because I am at Hui Malama now, I turn in my homework on time. I also try to do the best work that I can and I am staying out of trouble. Hui Malama is helping me to prepare for my future by helping me to

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research more about the military. After I graduate, I am interested in joining the Marines. I would like to thank you for supporting Hui Malama because if didn't, I wouldn't be here.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Justin. Barry Rivers will be followed by Marty McMahon.

MR. RIVERS: Aloha. Thanks for coming to Paia, and thanks for the opportunity to speak with you. I was going to talk about the Maui Film Festival but I've instead decided to retire and just start hanging out at the Paia Youth and Cultural Center. It sounds like a heck of a lot more fun than what I do every day. That said, I do want to compliment all the great work they do. I mean, Paia is a safer town and a healthier town because of the work that they've been doing for a really long time so I just want to throw a shout out to them. And also to Hui Malama where our three kids went and got their degrees and went on to some pretty nice lives. So, as far as the festival goes, we're heading into our 14th year this coming June in Wailea. We're very deep in putting it all together now. But I did want to tell you about something I've really not shared this in a public way with anyone yet that's why I asked you earlier if we're being taped or I asked Mike I think so because I don't want this to go too far so just hush it up. But we're really excited. We have been with this festival from its inception that has tried to pay respect to the indigenous culture of this place and we've done through chant, mele, and hula every night to try and dovetail together the storytelling forms of Polynesia with cinematic storytelling traditions, and we continue to do that. But this year we have on our opening night at our 8 o'clock premiere, which is the big slot, a film with Eddie Aikau. It's a year's in the making documentary in the life of Eddie Aikau who I thought I knew about and didn't realize after seeing it I knew very little about. He was much more than just a big wave surfer. And the lessons that he shares in this film through this incredible archival footage they're really lessons that we try to teach people. I remember a long time ago when I was starting to really get the bug for this entrepreneurial thing someone said, you know, understand the business you're in. And this film festival has always been about, yes, the presentation of film but really the sort of creation of inspiration in the community in which it serves. So, this time I think we'll do that in a special way. It will probably be the most Hawaiian night I think that we've ever had out there. There's some secrets I'll just keep to myself but it's just going to be a special night. We also have a lot of other really wonderful films that we're bringing. So that's where I'm knee deep in all of my stuff right now. And with your support I think maybe every year I want to say since the very first or maybe the second year, you know, it really makes it all possible. We thankfully just have the HTA step up again and the Wailea Resort has been there for us. Chasing sponsors is hard. And it really matters to all of these folks out here when the community in which they serve the most and serves most from the heart probably supports their efforts. So, all that says is I want to thank you. I also want to send a shout to the Maui Economic Development Board. They have been sort of a bindery start to the festival's efforts for all these years, and they're a pleasure to work with. You know, I really wouldn't want to do without Jeannie Skog and her entire staff, and we're thankful for them as well. So thank you. Appreciate it.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Barry. And Marty will be followed by Pat Brady.

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MR. McMAHON: Thank you, Council. I brought with me a one-page information sheet which I hope each of your office will individually get. I wanted to update you. It's been two years since I've been in front of you very briefly. I run the electronic recycling program for the County of Maui for the last ten years. Four years ago we embarked upon a project to extract the County from the business entirely. So I'm here to update you on where we stand. For projected for Fiscal Year '14 the total cost of the program is going to run 1.1 to 1.2 million dollars. Now, out of that, we are asking the County to grant \$110,000. The County grants \$110,000 for the program. The Department of Health reimburses the County of Maui \$100,000. So the County ends up paying \$10,000 for Fiscal Year '14 for about \$1.2 million of services. So if you decided to do that, and I hope you do, I am where I always have been, which is in the Solid Waste budget - the recycling section, which is having a snowball fight right now and I don't know where I am exactly in that but please make sure I'm in there. For the \$10,000 what do you get? It's a fair question. We have the Central baseyard which serves Wailuku and Kahului. We have quarterly events and a door-to-door pickups Upcountry and in Kihei. We have a minimum of three events a year in Hana, and for the first time in seven attempts the Grants Review Committee has given us funds to establish a Lahaina-based reception area. So we're very excited about that after all those years. We have an ongoing collection on Molokai - five days a week at the landfill. And I do an event in Lanai. In fact, this Saturday it's happening. I will be there. We run about 1.3 million pounds of electronic waste in the County each year. We've plateaued pretty much last year. We expect it to be about the same this year. How am I going to get that final bid out so the County doesn't have to pay any more money? Well, there's a loophole in the law that the manufacturers have been using and with luck there's a law that's in front of the State Legislature right now, in fact, a committee was voting on it this afternoon; I haven't heard the vote result. It was supposed to be at 2:15. It closes the loophole and forces the manufacturers to fund on ground. They pay for everything else but they don't pay for on ground. Closing this loophole will have them do it. I've already been in touch with the CEA, which is the nation's largest electronic association in America. They know the writings on the wall. They've already begun discussions with me. They are willing to take over. And one of the good things about having Lahaina start up this fiscal year is that when I do talk to them I can present a full package for an entire County coverage and then they'll know entirely how much it costs for the on ground services. So I appreciate your support in the past. We're almost there. Six years ago, the County paid nearly \$700,000 a year for this service. Next year if you fund me, it's \$10,000 and I'm handling twice the amount. So I think the deal is going in the right direction. Thank you very much.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Marty. And we did get your testimony. Thank you. Pat Brady will be followed by Marty Davis.

MS. BRADY: Aloha, Council Chair Baisa and Council County Members, my name is Pat Brady and I've been the Director of Finance for the Maui Humane Society for the last ten years. During the last ten years I've been overseeing our SNIP program, which is our spay-neuter incentive program which was originally created by the Maui Humane Society for the community and generously funded by the County of Maui. The SNIP process is simply yet it's very time intensive due to the volume and popularity of this program. I'd like to briefly explain the process. A pet owner makes a spay-neuter appointment with the local vet or animal welfare

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group schedules a mass spay-neuter clinic. The pet owner or animal welfare group contacts the Maui Humane Society for a SNIP certificate. The owner info, including pet info, whether it's a dog, cat, male/female, and the vet clinic where the surgery is scheduled is entered into a log book. The SNIP certificate with the unique number which matches the number in the log book is issued directly to the vet clinic or animal welfare group. The SNIP certificate also has an expiration date noted. It's good for 30 days. Once the spay-neuter surgery is complete, the vet clinic or veterinarian working with the animal welfare group certifies the surgery by signing and dating the SNIP certificate. SNIP certificates are submitted to the Maui Humane Society for reimbursement by vet clinics and animal welfare groups on a monthly basis. The Maui Humane Society requests that all vet clinics and animal welfare groups return all unused SNIP certificates to the Maui Humane Society along with their request for reimbursement. Reimbursements to vet clinics and animal welfare groups are processed on a monthly basis. This is not just cutting a check for reimbursement. Part of the reimbursement process is checking for duplicates, expirations, and confirming that every certificate is signed and dated by the attending veterinarian. At a certain time during the fiscal year, usually around the ninth or tenth month where we are right now, tighter monitors are required in order to assure that the program stays within budget. Since July 1, 2002 through March 31, 2013, we have issued 16,846 SNIP certificates to the community through the vet clinics and the animal welfare groups providing the spay-neuter surgeries. Of the 16,846 SNIPs issued over the last ten years, approximately 90 per cent of them have been redeemed. For Fiscal Year 2002 through '12, our average redemption rate was 1,485 SNIPs per fiscal year. For our current fiscal year, we have redeemed a total of 1,715 SNIPs for a total of \$48,750 due to the increase funding available for this successful program. Mahalo and thank you for your support.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Pat. Next will be Marty Davis followed by Nicholas Sanabria.

MR. DAVIS: Good evening, Council Chair Baisa and Council Members. My name is Marty Davis. I'm the Director of Field Operations for the Maui Humane Society. I'd like to thank you for having these meetings and allowing Maui citizens to testify about the budget. I'm worried that the Mayor has brought the Maui Humane Society up the funding level that we had in Fiscal Year 2009, and we're asking that you keep that level as you go through the budget process. Our Department is made up of eight officers, including myself and one coordinator who takes complaints and access our dispatcher. Our Department covers the entire island of Maui for animal-related emergencies and enforcements seven days a week. Although we have eight officers, we'd had to cut hours to furloughs. So we're working with the equivalent number of hours as if we had only seven officers. We pick up stray, injured, aggressive animals, and we're trying to keep the animals properly restrained in the community. From July 1st to the end of March, we had over 6,500 calls for service equally about 820 calls per officer. While our officers continue to maintain our County contract obligations in the face of increasing cost of operating, they're continually reminded of the importance of services that they provide our citizens of Maui. Animal issues generate great passions in people, and there are many misperceptions about what we can and cannot do within the confines of our laws. The officers are trained professionals and have been through cruelty investigation schools and police training. The officers are all competent in handling animals in a compassionate way and enforce laws that

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they're allowed to enforce them. The importance of the services we provide are shown by the public belief that we should be available for after hours emergency - your handling feral chicken problems. But they do not understand that many of these services they believe we should be providing are simply not funded. We also realize how important our services are by the number of positive comments that we get when we are working in the field on the thanks of people when we're able to help them with animal-related issues. Frankly, the Department is doing all that it can with the time, equipment, and current programs that we have the funding for and it's greatly appreciated when the County Council stands up and supports the work that we do. Although our officers often see very neglectful and sad situations, we also get to see the rewards when people start to take better care of their animals or rescued animal gets adopted to a loving home or we're able to return a lost pet to its owner. Your support and funding in the past has made it possible for us to do all of these things and we appreciate the attempts to close the funding gap in these tough economic times when we know that everyone is facing challenges. By leaving the funding as proposed by the Mayor, it will continue to allow us to work on the County contract obligations that we have at the current time. I thank you for the continued support of the Maui Humane Society and our Fields Operations Department.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Marty. Nicholas will be followed by Michael McDougall.

MS. HERRICK: I am his personal advocate. I'm the grandma and I'm going to speak for him, and I want to say thank you for allowing me, Council Members, to speak and testify for Best Buddies which he is recently involved with. Best Buddies, in my opinion, have helped my grandson to develop his social skills which recently have been almost non-existent. He truly enjoys all the social events that they provide. Best Buddies need to always be here for special children like my grandson. In the community, please fund this worthwhile community organization. Mahalo, all of you. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you.

MS. HERRICK: He has something to say. You remember that?

MASTER SANABRIA: Yes. Hi, my name is Nicholas, and I had fun at the Best Buddies party. I am 20 per cent _____ because I am a Best Buddy.

MS. HERRICK: Well done.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much. And Michael will be followed by Richard Lucas.

MR. McDOUGALL: Aloha. My name is Mike McDougall. I live in Paia and I work in Kihei at the Tech Park. And I'm here on behalf of MEDB - Maui Economic Development Board. And I want to talk a little bit about how they promote a sustainable economy here in Maui. One way is that they support the tech industry. The great thing about the tech industry is it has jobs with good wage, and has very low impact on the aina. And to grow that tech industry we have to have local people that are trained so they help support education via the STEM program, which is the

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Science Technology Engineering and Math, and also the Women in Technology Program. So it's very important to get kids involved with this stuff early on to expose them to the possibility of these kinds of careers. They run the Ke Ala Hele event, which Senator Inouye always attended. I know some of you have attended as well. He was a big promoter in technology in Maui and they leveraged that, the County funds to raise more money for STEM education in Maui Nui. They also run the Kama`aina Come Home and High Tech Maui which I was on the mainland for a long time and that's actually the way I learned about the opportunity here on Maui. High Tech Maui also attracts businesses, high tech businesses to come here, advertises all the State tax incentives, et cetera. I've actually used Kama`aina Come Home in recruiting people as well. And then there's a lot of business assistance that they help with. They can help with funding, with grant writing. They have meet ups for how to build your website, how to market on social media, and . . . another way that they support sustainability is on Focus Maui Nui, which I think I've seen some of you there too. So sustainability can help educate Maui on the issues with water and energy. And Hitachi, I'm sure you guys are familiar with the work that they're doing but I actually, when I first came, I was in the MEDB Conference Room because I was the first employee for that company and they go so far to help companies with office space or whatever they need and so now the Hitachi people are over there in the MEDB Conference Room. So . . .

MR. NISHITA: Three minutes.

MR. McDOUGALL: Yeah, so yeah, please support their effort for a sustainable Maui County. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Michael. Richard will be followed by Anne Herrick.

MR. LUCAS: Mr. Chairman, Council Chair Baisa, Members of the Council, thank you. My name is Richard Lucas. I'm the Program Manager for Friends of Old Maui High School. And I am here on behalf of more than 4,500 alumni and a large number of community supporters and volunteers to say thank you to the Mayor and to the Council for, again, including us in the Fiscal Year '14 Budget. As many of you know, Friends of Old Maui High School has been long dedicated to the preservation, rehabilitation, and reuse of the Old Maui High School campus since 2005. The beautiful 23-acre campus in Hamakuapoko has seen thousands of young people receive an exceptional education over the years. The campus is an important historical site as well as a valuable asset to the County. And the Administration building, designed by Charles W. Dickey, one of the few remaining examples of his work on Maui County has been added to the State Register of Historic Places and has been nominated for the Federal Registry. This year is the centennial of the school. Founded in 1913 as the State's first co-educational public high school, the school has been the home of a number of noted citizens of Maui County, including our present Mayor, our former Mayor, and of course the Honorable Patsy Mink who represented us in the United States Congress. We have scheduled a three-day centennial celebration for September 14th . . . 13th, 14th, and 15th of this year to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the school. We're expecting more than 1,500 alumni and their families to attend this event. And because so many of our alumni are now retired and living on fixed incomes we priced the event

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to make it available to everybody rather than to generate a profit. But we're expecting it to be a wonderful event for everybody and we want the campus to look its best for this historic celebration. Last year, our \$80,000 grant request was reduced to \$60,000 because of the availability of carryover funds from prior grants to make up that difference. Those carryover funds have now been exhausted and we are requesting the Council to restore our funding to the \$80,000 level so that we can continue to do this important work at the campus. Our task is a large one and it's an important one to the County because the campus and its buildings represent a valuable County resource. The Parks Department has estimated that the cost of mowing the grass at the campus would exceed \$55,000 a year. Well, we mow the campus. We also provide maintenance and repair to over 25,000 square feet of useful buildings on the campus.

MR. NISHITA: Three minutes.

MR. LUCAS: We provide 24 hour a day year round security. We provide coordination and management of a volunteer force that provides over \$30,000 worth of free labor per year. We put out a twice yearly newsletter to over 4,000 supporters. We also assist the County in developing a strategy for the ultimate reuse of the Maui High School campus. Now we know that you can appreciate the value of receiving these services for \$80,000 a year. And we hope that our request for the additional funding can be justified by the excellent reputation and track record of our organization. And we hope that when you've had a chance to review the materials that I have provided to each of your offices that you will conclude old Maui High for --

MR. NISHITA: Four minutes.

MR. LUCAS: --80 grand, what a bargain. And let's face it, who can resist a bargain, right? Friends of Old Maui High remains committed to the reuse and rehabilitation of the old Maui High School campus and we thank you for your continued support of this important project. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Richard. Paula Ambre will be followed by Jamie Howell. . . . I saw Paula. Oh, there she is.

MS. AMBRE: Council Chair, if I may, one of our program participants was going to testify before me, could I have her go first and I'll go second?

CHAIR WHITE: That's fine.

MS. AMBRE: Thank you so much.

CHAIR WHITE: Please state your name.

MS. ALLEN: My name is Leigh Anne Allen.

CHAIR WHITE: Okay.

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MS. ALLEN: Aloha, my name is Leigh Anne Allen. I'm 22 years old and I consider myself very blessed to have been born and raised here on Maui. I'm also a single mother of a three-year old son name Delaja. A year ago, I made a decision of keeping myself and my son safe and I left a violent relationship. After struggling with homelessness for three months, a friend referred me to Women Helping Women for help. Through their transition program, I was introduced to the Maui Farm. I have been at the Maui Farm for over four months. Since the first day I became a part of the Maui Farm community, I felt completely safe, able to start a new life, and supported by everyone in the Maui Farm ohana. As part of being in a family strengthening program, I have set long- and short-term goals for myself. Setting goals has increased myself confidence and help me realize that my goals are attainable. Currently, my main goal is to continue my education at UH-Maui College. During my time at the Maui Farm I have had the opportunity to gain work skills through caring for the animals and the gardens. These duties allow me to learn responsibility, time management, performance standards, and setting long-term career goals. My support system has also grown drastically since being at the Maui Farm. I appreciate the safe neighborhood, the Farm environment and the unconditional support from the Staff. I have also made lifetime bonds with the fellow mothers in the program that reassures me that I am not alone. It has not been easy being a young, single mother; however, I am learning from the weekly Malama O Pono E classes, how to care for myself, gaining akamai parenting skills and how to live as healthy as I can as a family at the farm. I'm also participating in learning how to better manage my life in the Farms' weekly life skills training classes. The one skill that I would forever have is the ability to grow my own foods for my family and to teach my son about the importance of sustainable living. In closing, I ask the Council to please continue to support the Maui Farm's Family Strengthening program. I am extremely thankful for the opportunity I've had living at the Maui Farm and I hope that other single mothers who have struggled as I did will benefit and have a chance to start over making a new life for themselves and their families. Thank you very much for your time.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Leigh Anne. And Paula will be followed by Eric Johnson.

MS. AMBRE: Thank you, Committee Chair White, Council Chair Baisa and Council Members. My name is Paula Ambre. I'm Executive Director at the Maui Farm. All of us at the Farm are really proud of Leigh Anne and her accomplishments. She has represented herself and the other program participants well this evening, and it's a big step to provide testimony. We want to thank her. Also, our Board of Directors and myself want to thank you for the prior support that you have offered to the Maui Farm and for operating support for our family strengthening program. I'm here tonight to ask for your continued support at the funding level recommended in the Mayor's budget for our line-item grant which is administered through the Department of Housing and Human Concerns. At the Maui Farm, we want to thank you for helping us to be there, to help struggling members of our community to create a brighter future for themselves and their children. The family strengthening program is a farm-based family centered residential program providing traditional housing, life skill training for families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, due to domestic violence and other economic challenges. Our program is it says families and developing and implementing their own plan for self-sufficiency, and supports them in achieving their personal goals as well as the programs outcome. We collaborate with

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other community partners, such as Women Helping Women, Family Life Center and other homeless service provider agencies. The parents we serve show outcome achievement in the areas including improvements in attitudes about life and motivation to change, improvements in parenting skills and creating a healthy home environment for their children, advancements in education and workforce training, advancements in setting a career path and obtaining employment, and support in locating a safe and affordable home in the community. Since 1990, the County of Maui has been our biggest partner in establishing and developing the Maui Farm as a community resource to provide farm-based family style residential programs for youth and families. Over the years, this has included our 55-year lease on our 8-acre campus, funds to construct our residential buildings, funds to support development of our educational farm, and support for operation of our programs. We have been a good steward of these resources and we pride ourselves in bringing other resources into our community based on the support that the County provides to us. Our campus is a beautiful place and a safe place for families. Our facilities are well-maintained and our farm is thriving, our programs are effective. We respectfully ask for your continued investment in the Maui Farm through support for the line-item grant. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Paula. Eric Johnson will be followed by Martha Shen- . . . I'll let you pronounce the rest of your last name.

MR. JOHNSON: I wish I could help with that. Hi, I'm Eric Johnson. I am a special educator at Baldwin High School and a sponsor of Best Buddies here on Maui for Baldwin High. We have serviced and worked with 376 students currently on Maui today and I'm very proud to say that it is one of the most unbelievable experiences I have ever had. I don't know if any of you have ever had a life changing situation where you can look back all your years of education, all your years of serving the community, etc. and say, my goodness, I am so glad I got involved. We have so many wonderful kids. I hope all of you know about Best Buddies. We pair our kids with different abilities. Notice I didn't say disabilities, different abilities with kids in the normal environment, we call it special education and general education. Being at Baldwin High I have watched a young lady who could barely speak because she chose not to. Today, she has presented in front of the gathering that we had earlier at Wailuku, she has spoken in front of the high school, and soon she's going to go to leadership conference at Indiana University. You just can't imagine what a heartfelt thing to be involved with an organization that brings life changing things into their lives. So all I can ask you, I don't really know all about the funding, et cetera, but I would say that if you have anything in your heart of which you can give to the children here on Maui that have this opportunity, I would ask for your support. And thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you. And Martha will be followed by Erin Hilburn.

MS. SHEN-URQUIDEZ: Aloha. My name is Martha Shen-Urquidez. It's pronounced like *Your kidding*. I'm here to support the Maui Chinese Cultural Center. At the outset, I like to note that we do have the Mayor's support, and with the help of the Mayor and the Administration we have been trying to identify avenues by which we can make this project happen. Because it's a new project, I'd like to first introduce, with your permission, myself and my husband, and then I'd

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like to talk about the project. As I said, my name is Martha Shen-Urquidez. I am an attorney by trade. I practiced for almost 26 years mostly in complex litigation . . . although litigation classified complex such as class action lawsuits, large civil rights lawsuits, large construction litigation. In 2005, my husband was recruited to become the Olympic boxing coach, one of the Olympic boxing coaches for China. So I retired; we packed everything up and we moved to China for the next seven years. While in China I started a consultant company to help American companies enter and exit China and provide strategy for that. Because of the Olympics I also sat as a cross cultural affairs expert. We trained 400,000 volunteers for the 2008 Olympics. And because of my husband's position and through the consulting company, we got to know many of the people in government, in sports, in business, in NGOs, quasi-governmental organizations, and we still maintained friendships with them. Last year, in February, we moved to Maui. We bought a place in Maui Meadows and since that time, my husband Arnold Urquidez, has been helping Southside boxing and nantimanongon. South side boxing is located in North Kihei. My husband's background is, aside from the fact that he was an Olympic coach, he's in the American Martial Arts Encyclopedia as one of the founders of American martial arts. He's in the boxing Hall of Fame. Some of you might know his younger brother - Benny "the Jet" Urquidez. Arnold is the oldest brother. He trained, he managed, he coached all of the Urquidez's to fame, and as well as Lily Rodriguez who is the first woman actually to fight in Madison Square Garden, and the first woman actually to jointly hold the title of Female Kickboxing and Boxing Champion of the world. So here is Arnold coaching with Nante whose nonprofit organization has a mission to keep kids off the streets. And they do that through the discipline of sports. Last November in one of the fundraisers, we brought 22 Chinese people, including two Olympic boxing coaches to help us fundraise for the youth of Maui. In three days time, now mind you they were here 7 days. In three days time, they dropped \$40,000 in cash shopping in Maui.

MR. NISHITA: Three minutes.

MS. SHEN-URQUIDEZ: One of the coaches said, we're not a boxing club, we're a shopping club. So as a consequence, three of them . . . three of the adults are buying homes in Maui. Prudential was nice enough to work with me to create their website in Chinese so that the Chinese people can actually look through the MLS listings for properties in Maui. So, now enter the Maui Chinese Cultural Center.

CHAIR WHITE: You've got 30 seconds left.

MS. SHEN-URQUIDEZ: I'll talk really fast. There are two objectives to the center. One is to promote culture of the Chinese because a third of all Hawaiians have some sort of Chinese culture; and the second one is to participate in the financial and economic stimulus of Maui through creating a portal for the Chinese to come as students, as business people. We have identified businesses that want to start small and medium size businesses.

MR. NISHITA: Four minutes.

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MS. SHEN-URQUIDEZ: We have identified cultural governmental entities that are willing to help. And I've dropped off a packet which you will get which identified all of the other things. On the community side, we want to create an area where the children can come in the classrooms and learn Chinese, learn about the culture, have afterschool programs along with all of the other things we have identified in the packet. Thank you for your time.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much. Okay, our next testifier is Erin Hillburn followed by Autumn Glover.

MS. HILLBURN: Hi, I'm Erin Hillburn and I'm the Program Manager for Best Buddies Hawaii and that means that I get to work with all the kids on Maui, which I'm sure you can imagine is one of the most awesome jobs in the world, and I get to work with students with disabilities and students without disabilities. And I go to almost all of the high schools here on Maui. I do not go over to Hana but other than that I work with most of the public schools, and they are honestly some of the, and I may be a little bit bias, best students on the whole island cause they are just so wonderful. And we actually have 380 students now cause we got four new applicants today so there's 380. The students are really amazing. In Best Buddies they become friends with people who starting in elementary school where secluded into another portion of the school system and they are included less and less and so it gives them exposure to social skills and it gives them exposure to just people and they get to be normal kids just like everybody else. And Best Buddies really promotes an environment in which all of the students feel safe - both students with disabilities and students without which is quite possibly one of the most amazing things that I've noticed as a Program Manager is that my students without disabilities come to me and they tell me how much they love the Best Buddies Program because they can be themselves and they can come there and they know that it's a safe space and no one is going to be made fun of, and everyone can just be together and have a good time. Nobody has to be worried about will they have their shoes or they're from that background or they have disability. It's not about that. It's about being together and being friends. And that really empowers them because they gain a lot of confidence and maybe you've seen that in our student speakers. They get up here and honestly they're better speakers than I am. They're just incredibly proud and confident people and it's because they're really passionate about what they do and they go out into the community and they advocate for the rights of their friends with disabilities because they see the way that society treats them and they're outraged by it, and the fact that they're high school students that feel so strongly about something. It's just truly amazing. Recently, we were at the Queen Kaahumanu Center and they were doing the spread the word import campaign and the kids . . . people came there actually they were asking people in the mall to stop using the word "retarded" and . . . (*inaudible*) . . . and they were just asking to be conscience of your word choice and to really think about what you say and how it affects other people. And in that moment, there were adults that told these students, no, that they weren't interested in supporting something like that, that there was nothing wrong with it, and you would think that would be devastating to a kid to hear that from an adult but not our kids because they said, Erin, well, I think that it's just that these people they don't understand and they're ignorant and we just need to have more awareness campaigns. We need to make sure that they know that it's not okay to say things like this and that it's not okay to believe that. I mean, we really empower them to create social

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change, and that's what we want to do in our youth because we want them to turn into adults that care about their community.

MR. NISHITA: Three minutes.

MS. HILBURN: I'm so sorry. And so that's really . . . I ask for your continued support for Best Buddies and I know that in the past year, last year's budget, you were kind enough to allocate funds for us but you tied \$17,000 to the State funding, and we had to receive State funding in order to receive that from the County of Maui. And when we did not receive that State funding, it put a financial strain on us because we also did not receive that funding from the County. And so I ask that this year that you honor the budget that the Mayor has put forth and allocate those funds that you have already put in place for Best Buddies. Thank you for your continued support and we appreciate all that you do.

CHAIR WHITE: Okay. Thank you. Autumn Glover will be followed by Claire Sheehan.

MS. GLOVER: Aloha, Council Members. I've been here the last time and I prayed all over you guys and before I make my testimony for MEO I wanted to read something . . . that I think it serves all of us and what the children represents today. It says, through love serve one another - Glaciens 513. And I believe everybody that's here is trying to serve one another to make our community better. My Hawaiian side comes from Hana and I'm born and raised in Honolulu. I've been living on my island for the last 13-14 years. All these programs that they've been talking about from Women Helping Women to the Humane Society to the Boys and Girls Club to the special needs children is such a blessing because I have used a lot of these programs myself. Being a single parent and working full-time at Aloha House and Malama Family Recovery Center I know the importance of these programs for people to get out of their holes. It's sad that our economy is not as good as it is but we are truly blessed on Maui. There's a lot of people that come from all over the world that states that they come here specifically to get healed . . . without sacredness of the islands. So, anyway, getting back to MEO. I represent them because if it wasn't for MEO I wouldn't be able to go and get rides to my doctors to get the help that I need to go to school. I went through a devastating thing several years ago where I lost my job and I went through a sexual assault case basically. And a lot of these programs from the Prosecutors to the Victim Witness place and all of that really helped. It's so, so important. So, basically, with MEO I just is so grateful for the bus drivers and the people giving me the opportunity to go ride around to places that I need. Also for the kupunas that needs to get out of their house that lives in Hana and, you know, we don't have cars. And there's no buses that go out there. So, also for the dialysis people from Hana and all around, the special children, the Boys and Girls Club they pick up the kids to have fun. And so I'm asking you to please extend the help for MEO with the economic thing too and learn how to, you know, have your own business. There's so many different programs in this program that is so awesome and I pray that guys make the right choices and please help support us again. And also to give the bus drivers more money so we don't lose them.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Autumn. Claire will be followed by Samantha Bittiner.

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MS. SHEEHAN: Aloha Council Chairman Baisa and distinguished Council Members. Thank you for taking the time this evening to listen to my testimony on behalf of the Maui Humane Society. My name is Claire Sheehan and I am the Director of Facilities. It seems like only yesterday I was standing here thanking you for your support but when I look at the budget allotment I realize that it must have been 2008 because that's what our allotment has been restored to. Our agency performs mandated services outlined in the County Charter, and the funding that has been proposed for this upcoming fiscal year should get us through March of 2014 given the overhead cost increases in the last five years. When you consider on average that we received 22 animals daily at our shelter that would mean 2,000 animals potentially will not have the safety net that we provide. The past three years of continued shortfalls in the County budget have been difficult and our donors have always come through to pick up the difference but they're our donors and we encourage them to have a choice in where they'd like their money to go to. And guess what? It's not in mandated services. That should be 100 per cent covered by the County. Subsequently, Maui Humane Society has used income investments to keep the lights on, the animals fed and cared for, and provide as best we can for our employees. Now, despite what others may say, our agency of _____ the idea of euthanasia, the fact that we're always full shows that we do not euthanize as a convenience or as a way to stay within budget as other municipal agencies are forced to do on the mainland. This is why you need a partner like MHS with our additional programs and resources. Let me just tell you what is involved on a daily basis for the care of Maui's homeless animals. Four employees are dedicated to feeding and cleaning the areas that they're housed in. Three employees are dedicated to providing services to the public through our front office by taking animal lost and found reports, stray animal pick up calls, DOA animal pick up calls, issuing County dog license, issuing SNIP coupons for outside veterinary services, and booking appointments in our own very successful Spay/Neuter Program. In addition, we have one employee dedicated to marketing and promoting our animals to increase adoptions as well as transporting animals off island to permanent homes or other animal rescues. And this is seven days a week. I believe only the Police and Fire Departments are a full-service seven days a week and they are mandated by the Charter. The bottom line is, the animals and MHS Staff deserve better support and we hope we can continue that. We appreciate your support in showing that you acknowledged that it's the lack of funding and not the lack of caring is for what we are doing at this point in time today. Thank you so much.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Claire. And we will take about two or three more testifiers before we take a quick break. Samantha Bittiner is next to testify followed by Yolanda Jetnil. And I don't see Samantha coming forward. So the next will be Yolanda Jetnil followed by Jon Brown.

MS. JETNIL: Good evening, Chair and Council Members. Bear with me, this is my first. I'm usually sitting down listening to all the testimonies so this is my very first time doing my own. I am here . . . my name is Yolanda Jetnil. I am here on behalf of MEO. And I wanted to share with you on the help that we received. Last year, due to economy and lack of jobs and hours were cut within our family had caused us to go into a small dilemma which meaning falling back on our past due rent. During that time, we needed help but I could manage. A friend of mine asked me to go ahead and try to go to MEO and to seek help. While going through the process, my family was

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blessed. I wanted to share with you on that because with MEO they were able to not only assist us with financially but to also help us with budgeting classes. They got a great, great staff that does it, I tell you but . . . and also to learn about your credit scores. And me at my age does not know anything about credit scores, and I was so blessed to be able to be part of that. I volunteered myself with many different programs on the outside, and I know Mike Victorino does know that I do the things that I do but I wanted to share that with the programs that MEO has set it allows individuals and families to be back on their feet. Although it is only a temporary situation it has given me and my family a great, great relief to be able to have places like this to come to seek for an emergency help. My request tonight is to ask that you folks would continue to support MEO and all their programs that they have, although we do have many programs that are coming before us tonight and I really, really appreciate all of you here. Thank you again.

CHAIR WHITE: You just did fine, Yolanda. Okay, Jon Brown will be the last one before we take a break.

MR. BROWN: I'm excited to be the last one, but I know there's more after the break. So, aloha. My name is Jon Brown. I'm a self-employed web developer focused on word pressed websites. And I'm here today to talk or to testify on behalf of MEDB and High-Tech Maui. One of the things I did after moving to Maui is starting a word pressed meet up group, which is a user group where both web professionals as well as small businesses and just users with blogs can come together and learn from each other's experiences as well as from my expertise. This meet up group meets every month at Malcolm Center at MEDB, and we do that at the generosity of MEDB. We wouldn't have a space to meet if it wasn't for them providing Malcolm Center to us at least not a space that we can provide to the attendees for free. So I do this from the standpoint that word pressed is one of those open source software projects you may have heard of, and it has given me a tremendous amount of support in my life transitioning from an engineering career into a software career. And it's me getting back to a community that has helped me. So it's kind of why I do it. And there's other meet up groups that meet at the same place that, again, benefit not just small businesses here but just any users like the social media user group that meets there. People come with all sorts of questions about safety online in terms of Facebook and Twitter and all those things as well as how to use those resources for marketing and business promotions. It's really a great resource. We have looked for almost a year to diversify geographically and meet somewhere else on the island and I can tell you we haven't been able to find a place. So Malcolm Center is great for us. It has these three critical things of a great projector, wireless internet that suits the entire room full of attendees, and it's free, and there was one other. I had it on my list that I went totally off script. I do that. I write things on like napkins and then I don't read them.

CHAIR WHITE: Never happens to anyone in this room.

MR. BROWN: Anyway, I really hope you continue to support MEDB and High Tech Maui. It's really a great program and helping lots of people. Oh, worth noting. My meet up group, which is only been in existence for 13 months has a 175 registered attendees now. We get 20 to 30 each month but there's a large community benefitting from that. So, thanks guys.

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CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Jon. And, Members, we'll be in recess for 10 minutes. . . .(*gavel*). . .

RECESS: 7:30 p.m.

RECONVENE: 7:40 p.m.

CHAIR WHITE: . . .(*gavel*). . . Okay. The Budget and Finance meeting is back in session. And our first testifier, and I have to apologize, Priscilla, because Troy sent me a text but I didn't notice it quickly enough. It said, please see if you can get through Priscilla before the break, and you were the next one up. So, Priscilla Felipe will be followed by Jerleen Bryant. Yes.

MS. FELIPE: Good evening, County Council Members. Mahalo so much for giving an . . . (*inaudible*) . . . and this boy has been so, so good. He has. But this program has been a blessing not only to our family but to other families out there who don't have the means to send their kids to like . . .

MS. FELIPE'S SON: Mommy, I wanna talk.

MS. FELIPE: Say I love Head Start.

MS. FELIPE'S SON: I love Head Start.

MS. FELIPE: That's his testimony. But like I was saying, I'm speaking on behalf of MEO Head Start and behalf of all the parents who are blessed to have this program. Without this program, we wouldn't be able to learn to have a healthy family. And they also teach our kids a lot that we are unable to sometimes because we all work, we're working parents. And without this program, these parents won't be able to work, support our families, support our kids. Even the teachers they're very passionate in what they do with our kids and I love that about them. And as you can see, he's very energetic.

CHAIR WHITE: He must be a future Council member.

MS. FELIPE: He will be, yeah, but the future starts with preschool. The future of these kids in Hawaii we need this. We need this program. Without this program, we wouldn't be able to learn how to have a happy family cause they also not only teach our kids but teach us and give us means to learn how to budget our money, to learn how to get through crisis. You know, every family has crisis so it's not only in the schools but it's our personal life because kids are raised in homes and they are happy in a happy family. So Head Start, MEO helps us with that. Again, thank you so much for letting me come up before 8 o'clock. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Next time, hand him to your husband.

MS. BRYANT: Good evening, Council Chair Baisa and Council Members. My name is Jerleen Bryant and my position with the Maui Humane Society is Director of Development and Community

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Outreach. I oversee various programs offered at the shelter including education, donor relations, fund development, and our volunteer program. My department is faced with some significant challenges. Although we value our partnership with the County, we have been consistently forced to supplement our County funding with donor dollars to cover shelter operations. Unfortunately, this doesn't sit well with our donors. Our donors prefer to fund programs that have tangible results they can get excited about. We have several targeted programs that directly save lives as well as enhance the lives of the animals while they're at our shelter but we're not able to allocate as much to these programs as we or our donors would like. Additionally, when we are not able to perform a function that the community expects, such as after-hours response because funds were not allocated by the County, our relationship with our donors is impacted and they may choose to give elsewhere. Our donor program makes a critical impact on the animals we have at the shelter allowing them to have one-on-one time with a person willing to give them some much needed attention which in turn helps them cope with an environment that can be stressful. We also have a program called Wings of Aloha that transfers some of our animals to rescue organizations on the mainland creating valuable space at our shelter. These are just two examples of the many programs that are solely funded by donations and they suffer when donor dollars supplement the County budget. To summarize, every dollar diverted to County functions compromises our ability to fulfill our mission and save lives. Thank you for giving me this time to speak to you. Mahalo.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Jerleen. Next will be Anders Friberg followed by Craig Handfinger.

MR. FRIBERG: Council Chair Baisa, Council Members, thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight. My name is Anders Friberg. I'm from Kailua and I am one of the lucky ones. I am one of the parents that have the support of MEO Head Start for my son David, and I'm kind of happy he's not here right now. David started Haiku Head Start last August and at the time he could barely speak or very little speech, and he had a fair amount of sensory issues. The MEO Head Start has greatly impacted in a very positive way - his life and our families. Right now he speaks in full sentences, and this is only eight months after and he has a full, happy four year old's life with lots of play and lots of friends. So we've seen a huge, huge impact for David. Well, the work that Haiku Head Start people do every day is greatly, positively impacting my son's future. And even though our politicians in Washington don't really realize how important Head Start is for our kids' future I know and I believe that the Maui County has our local people's support and I know that Maui County will continue to fund and support MEO Head Start. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Anders. Craig Handfinger will be followed by Janie Kunin.

MR. HANDFINGER: Good evening, Council Members, ladies and gentlemen. I volunteered to speak in support of the Maui Oral Health Clinic. I have been a recipient of their services and their professionalism. I just returned from 3 1/2 years in Iraq where I had injured my wisdom tooth and Army medics and whatever treated it. Upon return to Maui, I didn't realize how expensive private dental care actually was in the real world. It's not covered by any supplemental resources or the military or so forth. I mean, just by sheer chance I found out about the Maui Oral Health Center. I was stunned at how easy given the bureaucracy in Hawaii it was to get an

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appointment to be treated with dignity and respect. And as I said, I can't over emphasize the professionalism of the services I received. I have a neighbor who currently is in foreclosure. She's elderly, she's on a fixed income. She's endured two years of pain in her lower jaw. Several weeks ago I finally forced her to go down with me to the Maui Oral Health Clinic where they were able to accommodate her on an emergency basis -- do several extractions. I saw her several days ago to inquire as to her condition and her temperament. She said she's now free of any pain after two years. Human beings have a great ability to disguise their misery. I know this for a fact. I've seen men wounded in combat. I realize that this is what people do; however, I can't over emphasize I'm a long term resident of Maui, I never dreamt that in my condition or advanced _____ that I would be called up for active duty but I was. I speak Arabic, I was attached to a Marine unit. So what I'm saying to you is, I'm a rather cynical person. I'm not very sentimental. I'm certainly not a romantic, that's why I'm still a bachelor. However, what I do say to you is this, this is one of the programs that I have come to emphasize. I've worked for many years as a substitute teacher in the Maui school system. Many of the children know maybe because I have a unique last name - Handfinger, it really is my name, and I've been teased excessively about it since I was a young man but it made me who I am today. So, so forth I never dreamt that I'd live on Maui but in point what I'm trying to say is, this is one of the few programs that I've ever taken advantage of on Maui. I have to admit I'm impressed. Every day I've lived here I've complained about the cost of living, the difficulty of the aging spear challenge, the sprout heads, the trustafarians, all of that sort of thing. But, however, I've come to realize that this is a program that works. Believe me, nothing teaches you about a bureaucracy other than the military. The paperwork is endless. However, I could not believe as I over emphasize how easy it was to get an appointment to be treated, and to be treated again with dignity and respect. I was not treated as a welfare recipient, I was not treated as a homeless person, I was not treated as a second class citizen. The dentist did a great job. I've gone there several times since and I hope that you find it in your heart and in your budget to help them continue doing the good work that they do.

MR. NISHITA: Three minutes.

MR. HANDFINGER: And that's it. I thank you very much for your time. Have a good evening.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Craig. Janie will be followed by Neal Kunin.

MS. KUNIN: Aloha. I'm Janie Kunin and I'm here to speak in support of Maui Academy of Performing Arts as a teacher of preschool and kindergarten children, as a grandmother of four, and as an advocate for the keiki of Maui County. Maui Academy of Performing Arts has so many amazing programs but in the interest of time I'm going to speak to the three that I'm most familiar with. Each year, MAPA brings two live theater educational tours to the children of Maui County. Not only are they funny and entertaining, they always have an amazing lesson that just really captures their hearts. Sometimes this is the only theater that these children will ever see, and it usually costs about \$3.00 a piece. The second really important subsidized program is voices program which brings a MAPA educator into the classroom. It's a literacy link program which is related to daily standards and it basically deconstructs a _____ and

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reconstructs through story, community, pantomining, and education. The most near and dear to my heart are the scholarship programs for the underprivileged children. My 15 year old grandson his parents were divorced when he was a year and a half, and like the children of the Haiku and Paia Youth Center, MAPA is his second home through just scholarships. And he's been in about six plays now and MAPA teaches incredible community values, personal values, school values, family values, not only gives tremendous self confidence to children but just creates a community like nothing else. And I just want to close with a quote that he read about three years ago when applying for a scholarship when he was 12. MAPA is like my life. I go to a public school that I don't really like. I don't like everyday but the one thing that keeps me going is the MAPA classes I get to take one day a week. That's what I look forward to every moment of the day. Without MAPA my life would be boring and depressing and everything like that. So that's why I went for scholarship because my family can't pay and because acting, singing and dancing is what I love to do and what keeps me going. I hope that you all have the foresight to really keep funding this outreach for the keiki of our community and our future leaders. Mahalo.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Janie. And Neal will be followed by Billy Jalbert.

MR. KUNIN: Hard act to follow; I have to live with her. Anyway, I'm glad you guys are all awake now. That's a good sign. It's been a long evening. So, basically, just to follow up with what she spoke about, and she did it so eloquently. I just wanted to give you some statistics as far as numbers. I'm also obviously Neal Kunin, you heard that on behalf of Maui Academy and Performing Arts. They're touching over 23,000 people annually based on the budget that you guys are helping. It's a line item budget for 2014. They're also looking at 16,000 kids and families; 560 teachers. They're also touching another 7,000 audience members. So, the biggest thing that we're discussing here is the fact that the scholarship program for the underprivileged we've had the great fortune of being involved with them as volunteers where there almost all the shows we work sets, work designs, whatever we can do to help out. And to know and become a part of the lives of the kids that have come in there who could never ever afford this come from families with 7, 8, 12 kids, to have the ability to be able to come in and be a performer - act, dance, become a part of an ensemble of kids that they have one summer program they speak about for the rest of their lives. And so it's really please support them as you may; we appreciate that. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Neal. One question, Neal.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Neal, not so much a question. Can we have a copy of all those statistics?

MR. KUNIN: Absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Please give it to our staff over there and they can make copies for us. Thank you.

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MR. JALBERT: Aloha, County Council and survivors here. We're getting towards the bitter end. Thank you for time and for your commitment to making Maui a better community for all of us. It is really deeply appreciated. My name is Billy Jalbert, and I am the President of the Board of Directors of the Paia Youth and Cultural Center. I've been a member of the Board for the past ten years and I can tell you that we have never been better from a program staffing leadership and most importantly a membership standpoint. Membership has more than doubled in the last four years over the recession. We are now at 419 members. It's the largest membership for the third quarter that we've had in our 20 year history. Yet our staffing levels are the same as they were prior to the doubling of our membership. So why am I here? Well, with the growth and the success unfortunately our State and local funds have shrunk over the course of the recession . . . due to the recession and the budget cuts. We lost a major donor as well. So, here we are double the membership, same number of staff, less money. Community support and private donations are doing well. They're actually growing, and a lot of that is because the programs are so important and have been doing so well. But now more than ever we need increased financial support from the Mayor and from the County Council. We help serve the North Shore, we help our youth learn, grow, and develop and become better members of our community. We are nurturing Maui's future. By the membership numbers, you can tell that those kids they want, need, and love PYCC. So, County Council, Mr. Mayor, everybody else, please grow your investment in our community and our youth. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Billy. Our next testifier is Gerry Ross followed by Beau Barcoma.

MR. ROSS: Aloha, Councilors. Thank you for taking the time to hear from us. My name is Gerry Ross, and along with my wife, Janet Simpson, we are Kupa'a Farms, a 16-acre organic farm up in Kula that grows vegetables, fruit, and an award winning coffee that is some of the best on Maui and some of the best in the State of Hawaii. I'm wearing several hats tonight, actually none of them, but I'm wearing a hat of being an organic farmer, the Vice-President of the Maui Coffee Association, Secretary of the Maui County Farm Bureau, and most importantly that of an educator in our community. Coffee was first cultivated in Oahu, in Manoa Valley in 1813. A quick math exercise brings one to the inescapable conclusion that 2013 is the bicentennial of the cultivation of coffee in the State of Hawaii. Maui Coffee Association with the support of Maui County has been instrumental in bringing this important date to the forefront and we've worked hard to put together a calendar of celebratory events and associated materials such as the history of coffee in Hawaii, which I believe our President probably passed information out to you at one of the previous hearings. We look forward to seeing you at many of these events that we have planned that will take place to highlight Hawaiian coffee and Maui coffee, in particular, and we hope to see you at the Maui Coffee Lounge that's going to be at the Ag Fest on Saturday where you'll have the opportunity to try out some of these great coffees. With your support through events such as the State cupping trials held at the annual Hawaiian Coffee Association meetings, we've been able to establish that Maui coffees are truly world class. We have also brought in local and world experts on coffee cultivation and coffee cupping to help train new farmers and improve our existing farmers' capacity to produce really great coffee. This has helped with the Renaissance at Maui Coffee, which was formerly grown extensively at the turn of the century and is now returning as a growth industry in Maui. Education of people about agriculture in

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Hawaii is a paramount importance to our long term health and survival. This includes school children, young adults, Legislators, and consumers. And when you simplify it, we are all basically eaters and consumers and we should know where our food comes from and how it was raised. At the Farm Bureau on the _____ and the Ag and the classroom program and we were able to reach over 50 classes of second graders this year through our program where we gave them lessons on seeds, and food. And we taught them that food actually comes from someone like me, a farmer, and not just a grocery store. I also take time off from our busy farm schedule to work with the youth who come to our farm to learn about organic and sustainable agriculture and a handful of them showed up this evening, particularly young adults from Hui Malama Learning Center had made six trips so far to our farm this year where we've been able to teach them about the diversity of topics from compost, production to canoe plants to growing food. I can guarantee you, if you can graduate from high school and you know how to grow food, you gotta step up on surviving for the next sixty or seventy years.

MR. NISHITA: Three minutes.

MR. ROSS: Imagine how effective a lesson on the periodic table of the elements can be when conducted on a farm and coupled with the knowledge which elements plants need and how rocks become soil. Finally, if we are able to move towards sustainability and keep Maui beautiful, we need to seriously look at composting food waste. Closing, the recycling centers is sort of a step backwards as the Mayor has proposed. We really need to look at waste as a resource for the long term. I'm thankful for the support you've shown for the many hats I wear and I will do my best to make sure that the tax dollars that you gratefully grant us reach out to the community that is Maui County. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Gerry. Next testifier is Beau Barcoma followed by Matthew Murasko. Okay. Matthew Murasko?

MR. MURASKO: Good evening, County Council. First, I sincerely want to thank you for what you do in your job and look at it it's 8 o'clock at night and I know you guys work tirelessly so, thank you, for your interest in the County of Maui. I'm here speaking on behalf of . . . I'm a father, I have a son that just turned nine and he was just waiting to go into Paia Youth and Cultural Center. I also serve on the Board with Billy Jalpert. I'm a volunteer Board of Director there, and Billy talked on . . . he spoke briefly on some of the facts but I think the one thing I want to start with is the children are the future. Billy did mention, again, I want to reiterate in the last four years there's been tremendous growth. We have not 419, we now have 420 members with my son just joining last week. Over Spring break we had an average of 125 youth a day in that facility. So, I mean, it's just full of energy and life. If you've never been, you should really go check it out. So Billy did talk about our membership, we obviously he told you we're here for your support financially, you know, cut back from the State and the County. But I really wanted to speak on some of the programs that are there so and some of the other kids spoke on it but health, cooking classes, I mean, you go in and these kids are learning how to shop, they're learning about farming, and they're learning life skills. The radio stations - it's amazing, these kids are on the air, they're broadcasting. The multi-media lab Barry Rivers was just here, I

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mean, who knows there could be a future film maker. You go down there and they're handing out digital 35 mm cameras, video cameras and these kids are going out shooting stuff, coming back, sitting down on Mac computers and editing movies. I mean, and the thing that I really like is this is a blending of children from all over Maui. It's not just, oh, here's this kid from Haiku, and Haiku School, and this kid of Cardin, this kid from Waldorf, these children are from all over. So it's really wonderful to see these blends of different backgrounds and ethnic backgrounds and they all come together and they have a great time. The Malama Pono Project venture they're taking them off property doing all kinds of wonderful things. So I think in closing that's it. The children are the future and let's invest in the Paia Youth and Cultural Center. So, again, we're going to have our 20-year anniversary so let's keep this place going for another 20 years. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Matthew. Netra Halperin is our next testifier followed by Nancy Johnson.

MS. HALPERIN: Aloha. Thank you, Council, for coming here to the community and meeting us in the evening. I know that's really great so lots more people can attend. I'm here testifying on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Haiku Community Association so I wanted to talk about a couple of things on our wish list. First of all, is the Giggle Hill Kalakupua, the playground that is currently closed. If you've been there it's a gorgeous playground but because of some maintenance issues, it's been closed. I know the County came out and did an estimate. It would be between four and five hundred thousand to fix it; however, that playground was originally done by volunteers, and that's including lay people but also professionals, also people with heavy machinery. And so what we, the community association, are offering is a collaboration with the County and that we can also receive certain donations from the community and we can also work with some of the community contractors and lay people that are willing to help, and then of course, together with the County. So we think that if we do it this way, it would be less than a hundred thousand. So there would be a huge savings and we could get this going and get that beautiful playground up and running soon. Let's see, the other thing, Haiku Community Center - it needs painting both the inside and the out and I don't know if Public Works has already looked at that but we just think that would make a lot of looking nicer and very easily, and who knows maybe Boys and Girls Club or the kids would want to help with that. That would be a fun activity and get that more beautiful. And also the Fire station. As you probably know, we have this fire station roughly across the street here and that's more than five miles away. When I used to have my property in Haiku Road and East Kuiaha, I was having difficulty finding a fire insurance and it's also unsafe. And of course I know you folks have bought the land directly below that and so we just want to encourage that. And also that once your drafters and engineers get the draft plan for that the Haiku Community Association we would be happy to host a community charrette, a community meeting so that the community can come and look at that and give input so there is . . . in the early stages there's the community buy in so that we don't get these where the County comes up with something and then people are all up and arms and then it's too late. But just that there is a give and take within the whole community. I know originally the idea was the fire trucks would go up East Kuiaha Road, which I think that's not going to happen anymore. The fire trucks will start on Hana Highway, which is, of course, more

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sensible. And then, personally, there's a couple of things that came up that I just wanted to support.

MR. NISHITA: Three minutes.

MS. HALPERIN: I liked Heather Proud's idea of a pool. I think that would be awesome. I don't know if you folks have the money but just to put it out there and agree with that. And I also want to agree and give my support to the Paia Youth and Cultural Center. I had them on my show Netra's News and did a tour and they are awesome. They're doing a lot of great stuff and I hope the funding can be found for that. So thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Netra. Nancy Johnson to be followed by Kristi Wellbeloved.

MS. JOHNSON: Good evening. I'm Nancy Johnson. I'm speaking again for the Mayor's proposal for 250,000 for UH-Maui College Dental. And I gave you a handout tonight that tells you why a nurse is interested in dental and how I actually got involved in it. So the handout lists the diseases, the chronic diseases that periodontal disease potentiates and even brings on respiratory disease, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, pre-term labor, osteoporosis and even Alzheimer's disease have all been connected with untreated periodontal disease. And then when you talk about money on the back I put some articles that I just got off the internet but it's all about the national problem and it's a problem here on Maui too of people using the emergency room for dental care when they can't get emergency dental care at other places. The most expensive dental care you can get is in the emergency room and also perhaps the least effective care because you get some antibiotics and some pain medicine and you'll leave. So, I just want to ask you we really, really, really need your support for that full \$250,000 this year until we get moved onto the campus. So I know we've heard it every night and I'll be here again in Lahaina but thank you for considering it.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Nancy. Following Kristi is Miyo Kim. . . . I don't see Kristi. Okay, Miyo Kim followed by Nikhilananda.

MS. KIM: Aloha, Council Chair Baisa and Council Members. Thank you for letting me testify tonight. My name is Dr. Miyo Kim and I have been the veterinarian at the Maui Humane Society for over 17 years now. I am involved with many aspects of the shelter but one program that I am especially proud of is our Spay/Neuter Program. We offer a low cost spay/neuter service to the public at significantly reduced rates and we also do spay/neuter on our own shelter animals prior to adoption as required by County law. Last Fiscal Year 2011-2012, we did over 3,600 surgeries, and this year we're on task to do about the same. We do more spays and neuters than any other organization here on Maui. We have always leveraged the spay/neuter funding we get from the County and on average we spend \$2.00 to every \$1.00 from the County. An example of this is the new program we call our Hana initiative. With funding from Pet Smart charities, vet suppliers, private donors, and the Maui Humane Society, we have been able to offer people living in Hana free spay/neuter services in addition to free vaccines and free micro-chipping for their pets. I take a crew of about 7 to 8 people out to Hana once a month and we do surgeries at

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the old Travaasa Laundry facility. Since we started this program seven months ago, we have done surgeries on 173 animals assisting 90 families out there. Our intake of animals from Hana since we started has since a drop of 65 per cent in feral cat intake, 30 per cent in friendly cat intake, and 50 per cent drop in dog intake. We are hopeful that we can continue to make an impact and assist the folks out there who have been very gracious and appreciative of our services. We always had monies in our County budget to help offset the cost of spaying and neutering our adopted animals as required by law up until this year. This year, monies were added to the SNIP Program at our expense. We lost the monies designated to our own spay/neuter program because it was all restricted to the SNIP program. The SNIP program monies are to be paid only to private veterinarians. Due to this loss in funding, for the first time the Maui Humane Society had to utilize the SNIP fund to pay for private vets who do surgery at the shelter. In order to preserve the integrity of this program, we only use the SNIP money to pay private vet wages. We do not use it to pay for the drugs or sutures or other supplies used in surgery. This cost is all absorbed by the shelter. No SNIP money is used to pay any part of my salary or my vet tech salary or any other shelter staff salary. Please recognize the need for some funds to be available for our use to help cover the cost of fixing our animals as mandated by County law.

MR. NISHITA: Three minutes.

MS. KIM: This allows us to continue to increase the number of surgeries performed with the private donations we receive rather than having to divert these funds to cover the cost of performing a contractual obligation for the County. I'd like to take this time to thank you all again for your support in helping us improve the lives of the animals of Maui. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Miyo. Next testifier will be Nikhilananda and he will be followed by Steve Paselk.

MR. NIKHILANANDA: Thank you, Budget and Finance Committee Chair White, and Council Chair Baisa and Members of the County Council. My name is Nikhilananda and I thank you for the opportunity to testify tonight. Twenty one years ago I approached Charmaine Tavares when she was the head of Parks and Recreation under the Administration of Linda Lingle. And I asked her it would be a nice idea if we had tennis courts somewhere in Paia or Haiku. Twenty one years later and I've been back to almost every budget hearing of this Council and almost every budget hearing of the Administration and we still have no tennis courts out here in Haiku or Paia. I also noticed if I saw right it's 846 pages of the budget that there's no capital improvement programs for Haiku-Paia in this budget. And I'm again a little bit saddened to see that every year it seems like things aren't done for this area. So, please, I implore you, add a CPI for tennis courts. There's space right next to the children's playground that's now closed, hopefully will be reopened to build there. Before I go on, I want to also commend all the other people that testified cause there's only so much money and a lot of issues in this County. I would also like to see funds implemented to allow for remote testimony from outlying areas, including neighbor islands. I believe there was some proposal to do that. I'd like to see funding in that expanded. I'd also like to see I remember for years I used to testify and ask for money for the Maui Bus.

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And I remember in 1998 one of the Council candidates spoke strongly about how nobody is ever going to take the bus. As you can see, the bus is expanding and please keep money flowing, add more stops and more signs. Also, I'd like to see the County park restrooms. I'd like to see the maintenance improved. They're just reprehensible and I'd also like to see them open 24/7 otherwise people are just going to urinate and defecate all over the place. Leave them open. Find materials that allow them to have lower maintenance but definitely they really need some improvements. I've also been for years asking for funding to make all Maui County road signs bilingual, in both English and Hawaiian. I'd like for you guys to revisit the property tax rates and base it for properties base it on a tiered system. The more expensive the property the more taxes, the higher rate. Doesn't have to be much even \$.25 or \$.50 whatever but make it a tiered rate. Lower than a certain amount, higher than a certain amount, have a couple of tiers. I'd also like to see that you find funding for reviewing beach access and places where access has been blocked to find the funding to open up access. I'd also like to seeing you saw all the bru-ha-ha about the recycling system. Drop boxes - I would like to see them closed, but before you do that curbside recycling. And the Mayor back in 1995 suggested we have curbside recycling and it was blocked, and now 16 years later we don't have it. Those drop boxes are ridiculous. Not everybody can get to them. People don't have the time. They get contaminated that's why the Mayor wants to close them up. But please before they're closed down curbside recycling. Enough of this pilot program. It's done all over the country, start having curbside recycling. Find the money for that.

MR. NISHITA: Three minutes.

MR. NIKHILANANDA: Do not fund the Mayor's planned waste-to-energy program. That's just going backwards in time. You'll hear more about that I'm sure as he pushes that. Please develop a material reclamation site so that people can use reclaimed materials similar to Habitat for Humanity. Expand the funding for more bicycle and pedestrian paths and trails. We need more than not less than them. And if I was right in this year's budget there's little or no money, and I might be wrong in that. Again, it was 846 pages and I have to admit I just don't have it all done. Reallocate \$3 million from the Visitors Bureau money that you throw away to for-profit businesses and use that for both pedestrian/bicycle trails and for the Department of Recreation [sic]. Provide funding and commence movement for eminent domain actions on acquiring all water sources in Maui County.

MR. NISHITA: Four minutes.

MR. NIKHILANANDA: I'm really glad to see that next year's budget has Hansen Road and the Public Works has talked about that because I used to talk about that every year so I can leave that out this year. Hopefully next year you have it. And finally, fund road and highway maintenance using non-toxic organic weed spraying rather than utilizing poisonous herbicides and pesticides. We don't know how many dogs and children and people walking along the roads walk past these sides, these places where you see that they just spray and they've got all these clothes on to block the poisons that they're putting out. Please, enough of this. Out here you see all these signs

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saying, please no spraying. Let's do that Countywide. This is the 21st century. Thank you, guys, so very much. Mahalo.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Nikhilananda. And our last testifier is Steve Paselk. And if anyone else wishes to testify, please sign up.

MR. PASELK: My name is Steve Paselk. Thank you, Council members. I'm coming out of the wood work because I was appalled by the Mayor's comments regarding recycling and clearly cutting the budget by 50 per cent. The only thing that could happen is that the recycling would decrease by 50 per cent even though the Mayor said that wasn't true. What this has done for me is to say, hey, we need to take a fresh look. I'm an avid recycler. I've recycled for 20 years on Maui. My average trash for my household is about half a can and over a can of recycling that I take in my own car. I do realize that it's expensive to recycle. It is going to cost a premium over throwing it away but it has a lot of benefits. I think we should have a curbside recycling but I think it's also important to get an efficient material handling system and make sure the economics make sense. I understand that the current Maui Disposal contract they're charging \$200 a ton and other bidders who are qualified I think the amount they're willing to do is one-fifth of that approximately \$40 a ton. So that's definitely a way to save a lot of money. We need efficient recycling . . . you know, I have a lot of ideas. I'll email some of them to you but you know maybe there are some items that we should not . . . that isn't worth it. Maybe it's not worth it to ship glass off island. One thing I've learned on the internet today is that plastics . . . the value of plastics are energy-wise are 10 to 1 to recycle over burning them for energy. Cardboard - it's four times more valuable to recycle cardboard than to burn it. My second issue is it appears that this Administration is somewhat hell bent on getting a waste-to-energy facility. And eventually that's a good idea but I think there's a conflict of interest if we don't get our recycling plans down pat before we put those proposals out. The reason I'm saying that is if we have a contract corporation that invest millions of dollars into building a facility, they're not going to want to divert, they're not going to want to go backwards and divert items back into recycling.

MR. NISHITA: Three minutes.

MR. PASELK: I think we need to look carefully at each item and get the highest use out of, you know, make the . . . do we get higher use out of composting greenwaste and putting it in our organic farms or do we get the highest use by burning it in an incinerator or methane digester? One unattended consequence of a material waste-to- energy facility would be putting out of business the current eco-composting, and they're subsidized by the sewer material and in the future they're going to be getting a portion of the contractors, commercial contractors' greenwaste fees.

MR. NISHITA: Four minutes.

MR. PASELK: And so I think we need to get all the recycling that we can, get that in place then visit the idea of a waste-to-energy facility. Thank you.

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CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much. Anyone else wishing to testify? Okay, without objection, the Chair would like to close public testimony.

. . .END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

COUNCIL MEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS. (excused: DC)

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you all. Thank you all for coming and thank you for the late stares of sticking out with us. This meeting is adjourned. . .(*gavel*). . .

ADJOURN: 8:24 p.m.

APPROVED:

MIKE WHITE, Chair
Budget and Finance Committee

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Transcribed by: Jo-Ann Sato