

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

April 14, 2014

Kihei Community Center, Main Hall

CONVENE: 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Mike White, Chair
Councilmember G. Riki Hokama, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Gladys C. Baisa, Member
Councilmember Elle Cochran, Member
Councilmember Donald G. Couch, Jr., Member
Councilmember Stacy Crivello, Member
Councilmember Don S. Guzman, Member
Councilmember Michael P. Victorino, Member

EXCUSED: VOTING MEMBERS:
Councilmember Robert Carroll, Member

STAFF: Kim Willenbrink, Legislative Analyst
Sharon Brooks, Legislative Attorney
Kit Zulueta, Communications Director
Pauline Martins, Committee Secretary
Rayna Yap, Committee Secretary

Troy Hashimoto, Executive Assistant to Councilmember White
Adrienne Nalette, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Couch
Susan Clements, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Couch
Arthur Suyama, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Crivello

ADMIN.: John Buck, Administrative Assistant, Clerical Support Division, Office of the Mayor

OTHERS: Princess Dumelod, Band member, Maui High School Band
Kiana Hiranaga, Band member, Maui High School Band
Erin Manibog, Band member, Maui High School Band
Keagan Oliveira, Student, Hui Malama Learning Center
Cyra Makala Lizbeth Dinneen, Student, Lokelani Intermediate Robotics
Joshua Henkel, Chapter President, Best Buddies
Ryan Behn, Best Buddies
Sasha Crawle, Youth member, Kihei Youth Center

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Ezra Kikukawa, Youth member, Kihei Youth Center
Luke Borges-Hirashima, Youth member, Kihei Youth Center
Emilio Mark, Ambassador, Best Buddies
Iokepa Meno, Teacher, Lokelani Intermediate School; Maui Economic Development Board (“MEDB”)
Lehuanani Huddleston-Hafoka, Executive Director, Kihei Youth Center
Stephanie Kaplan, Program Director, Kihei Youth Center
Patricia McGrath, B.E.S.T. (Being Empowered and Safe Together) Reintegration Program, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. (“MEO”)
Cassi Lorenzo, Student, Hui Malama Learning Center
Paul Hiranaga, Board member, Maui High School Band
Adele Rugg, Board member, MEO
Kevin Block, Attorney; MEO Enlace Hispano
Peggy Temple, Curriculum Coordinator, Lokelani Intermediate School; Pay It Forward Day; MEO
Martha Foit
Molli Fleming, Associate Professor, UH Maui College Spanish-English Language Exchange; MEO Enlace Hispano
Janet Erickson, Retired Medical Educator, Maui Humane Society
Edward Mathay
Clifford Averill, MEO Rental Program
Robert Kalei Miller, Geospatial Information Analyst, Pacific Disaster Center; MEDB
Danielle Prince, Junior Software Developer, Software Development Center, Ardent Management Consulting (“ArdentMC”), MEDB
Janine Tsubota
Nicolas Lau, MEO Enlace Hispano
Adolfo Valderrama Bielich, MEO Enlace Hispano
Thomas Croly, Real Property Tax
Mike Moran, President, Kihei Community Association
Kealii Eldredge, Kihei Youth Center
Susan Thomson
Jerleen Bryant, Development Director, Maui Humane Society
Maureen Akimseu, MEO Head Start Program
Takayuki Harada, Ka Ohana O Kalaupapa
Luis Rivas, Customer Service Representative, Maui Humane Society
Kaleo Carter, Basketball Coach, Kihei Basketball Gym
Madge Schaefer
Nancy Johnson, Professor, UH Maui College
Ned Davis, Vice Chairman, MEDB
Marie Thomas, President, Advisory Board, Hale Kau Kau
Pinky Mendoza, Program Director, Hale Kau Kau

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Beverly Green, Animal Control Officer/Field Officer, Maui Humane Society
Kimokeo Kapahulehua, Kihei Youth Center
Mandy Rock, MEO Enlace Hispano
Alisha Harrold, Teacher's Aid, Kihei Youth Center
Ellie Leialoha, Camp Maluhia Renovation, Maui County Council – Boy Scouts of America
Keith Kessler
Alana Kay
Others (43)

ITEM BF-1: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2015 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (CC 14-31)

CHAIR WHITE: . . . *gavel* . . . Go ahead, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: Aloha and good evening, everybody. And welcome to the Kihei version of the Budget hearings this evening. It's my pleasure to introduce everybody here from the County Council. We'll start with the ladies end over here with our West Maui representative, Elle Cochran, then our Council Chair, Gladys Baisa, and then from Molokai, Stacy Crivello, then on the other end we have from Kahului, Don Guzman, then from Wailuku we have Michael Victorino--

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: --and from the island of Lanai, Riki Hokama. And the Chairman of this Committee, Mike White from Paia-Makawao-Haiku, all points around there. And I'm Don Couch your South Maui representative. Oh yes, and then we're gonna go with Staff. To my left, right next to Mr. Guzman is Sharon Brooks, Legislative Attorney, Kim Willenbrink, Legislative Analyst, Pauline Martins, Legislative Secretary, Marzapan, no...Rayna Yap one of the Secretaries. We have from Mike White's Office, Troy Hashimoto, and from Stacy Crivello's Office we have Arthur Suyama, and from Council Services we have Kit Zulueta and is tweeting tonight, so I believe we're at @mauicounty or hashtag mauicounty, is that right, Kit? All right, you can follow us on Twitter. And then from my Staff, we have Susan Clements, one of my EAs, and then Adrienne Nalette, another EA, and then from the Administration we have John Buck, who is one of the Mayor's EAs. And did I miss anybody from the County? All right, so I was asked to make an announcement that we have till about 8:30 because that's when the eclipse gets really going and it's gonna be full at 9 o'clock. So if we can get through quick, we'll be able to all go outside and see the eclipse.

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CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Don. I just wanna say how wonderful it is to see a nice, full room this evening. And as we have done in the past, we'll do again this evening where we start off with the young'uns and the elders to testify first and then we'll get into all those of you who are in between. And we look forward to hearing your thoughts and concerns and I just ask that you be mindful of other people's time. So please take whatever time you need. We'll give you three minutes and then give you a warning with one minute to conclude, but if you can finish in three, and allow others some extra time then that would be great and we'll get out of here so that Don can see the eclipse. And with that, we'll call upon our first testifier and that is Princess Dumelod.

...BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY...

MS. DUMELOD: Hi...

CHAIR WHITE: Oh, push the...there's a button, there's a button like this.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Testing.

CHAIR WHITE: And Princess will be followed by Kiana Hiranaga.

MS. DUMELOD: Hi everyone. Good evening, Chair and Members of the Board. My name is Princess Dumelod and I am a junior at Maui High School. I am testifying in support of the Maui High School Band line grants. I have been a part of the Maui High School Marching Band for three years and going into my fourth and final year next school year. During my three years in marching band I've been in front ensemble for the first two years and moved to drumline this past season and plan on being a snare drum player until my fourth and final season next season. Being in band has helped me grow as a person. It has challenged me physically and mentally. Transitioning from middle school band to high school band was a lot different than I expected as I learned throughout my three years in high band, gained new experiences, and made a lot of new friends. For me it's not just the program but it's like my second family that I can rely on to get the job done when necessary. When we found out that we were invited to the upcoming Rose Parade in 2015 my emotions were overflowing with excitement and nervousness as this would be my first time the band has been invited to such a prestigious event. This is such an honor not only for the band but for Maui High...no, for Maui and the State of Hawaii in general. This would be an experience of a lifetime for many students at Maui High School, but with this opportunity comes many financial burdens. I have seen the Hawaii All State Marching Band members who went to the previous Rose Parade this past January struggle with trying to pay for their trip. The band has been fundraising like crazy and this grant money would be a tremendous help to reaching our goal of taking 150 band members to the Rose Parade. The band works very hard to bring pride to the

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people of Maui and we look forward to representing all of you in Pasadena. Thank you for all the support you have given to the band and it means a great deal to us all.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Princess. And Kiana will be followed by Erin Manibog.

MS. HIRANAGA: Good evening, Chair and Members of the Budget and Finance Committee. My name is Kiana Hiranaga and I'm a junior at Maui High School. I am testifying in support of the Maui High School Band line grant. I have been a part of the Maui High School Marching Band for the past three years and I am going into my fourth and final year next school year. During my freshman and sophomore years in marching band I was a part of the flute section and this past marching season I moved to drumline. It was a great experience being a part of different sections and both sections took care of me very well. Our band is not only a band, but also a family. This family has helped me grow into the person I am today. I have gained confidence, the drive to do my best at everything I do, and a great amount of passion towards the thing I love most, music. I honestly think that joining band was one of the best decisions of my life so far. Coming into the Maui High Band from middle school band I was quickly accepted and made long-lasting friendships with people I wouldn't have met if I weren't in band. People who love the same thing I love, band and music. Words cannot explain how happy and excited I was when we found that...when we found out that we were invited to the upcoming 2015 Rose Parade in Pasadena, California. This is such an honor to us, Maui, and Hawaii. We are very lucky to be the first marching band on Maui to be invited to this event and we are very grateful that all of our hard work and our alumni's hard work paid off. This would truly be a one-in-a-lifetime experience for many students in Maui High March Band. With this opportunity though comes many financial limitations. Our marching band is now fundraising like crazy trying to come up with the money to pay for our trip. This grant money would be a huge help to reaching our goal of taking 150 members to the 2015 Rose Parade. The band works very hard to be a good representation of Maui and now the State of Hawaii. We look forward to representing Maui High, Maui, and Hawaii in Pasadena. On behalf of the Maui High School Saber Band we would like to thank you for your continued support of our program. We're truly grateful and thankful for all of your support. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Kiana. And Erin will be followed by Keagan Oliveira.

MS. MANIBOG: Good evening, Chair and Members of the Board. My name is Erin Manibog. I'm a junior at Maui High School and today I will be testifying in support of the Maui High School Band line grant. I have been a part of the Maui High Saber Marching Band and Color Guard for all three years of my high school life. I played clarinet for my first two years and have moved to percussion as a tenor five-drum player and plan to continue with this instrument for my next and last year of marching. Marching band has become a great part of my life to challenge me to push my very limits both mentally and physically.

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To be honest, I never wanted to join band so I could focus on other things. I ended up being a clarinet player for the three years of middle school, but I still wanted to be done with band so I planned to just not join during high school. I ended up joining due to persuasion. After my first year, however, I couldn't stop myself from joining the next year and the next. I realized how much hard work, hours, and dedication it took just to be a marcher. It isn't just...oh, I'm sorry, it isn't just playing music and walking or running around the field. It is about putting in your all no matter what may happen or has happened. When finding out, finding out about our invitation to the Rose Parade, you could see everyone's faces light up and then suddenly burst into tears. All that passion from marching all those years, all those hours has brought us to where we are now. But of course, there are many financial obstacles. The band has been fundraising like mad trying to raise enough money to take 150 members to this once-in-a-lifetime event. The band does their best to bring pride to the school and to the island of Maui and will work even harder to represent the whole State in Pasadena. From the whole band to you we thank you for the support you have given. It means the world to us.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Erin. And Keagan Oliveira will be followed by Cyra Dinneen.

MR. OLIVEIRA: Good evening, Council. Good evening, Council members. My name is Keagan Oliveira and I'm a high school student at Hui Malama Learning Center. I came to Hui Malama to get my GED, but I'm gonna leave with much more. I consider myself a smart kid, but my grades and attendance didn't reflect that. Before Hui Malama I was at Maui High School, but that didn't work out for me. I could easily understand the things that I was being taught, but I was too lazy and unmotivated to do the work for them. Hui Malama is important to me because it gives me a place to work for my future. I'm a fairly new student at Hui Malama and from what I've seen so far everyone is learning something new each day they come. We are learning real life skills like planting, farming, cooking, and even how to conserve water. I can see how what I'm learning here is gonna help me in my future. Like I mentioned earlier, I came to Hui Malama to get my GED. Getting my GED will open up new career paths that I would have not been able to enter if I would have just dropped out of high school. I hope to one day become a well-trained and certified computer assistance administrator. Hui Malama is helping me get the certifications that I need and will even teach me how to make a professional resume. Hui Malama's Career Development Program is really helpful to me because it allows me to take internship jobs that I would have not have gotten the chance to if I wasn't at Hui Malama. A good example of this is the internship I did over spring break at Goodfellow Brothers, Incorporated. I had a great time working with GBI, and it let me add another job to my resume. My favorite thing about Hui Malama is how the teachers are nice and care for us. From the moment I stepped through the door I felt welcomed by all. Everyone at Hui Malama acts as a big family. It may be

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a little bit dysfunctional sometimes but what great family isn't? Thank you for supporting Hui Malama and I hope you can see the school in the same light that I do.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Keagan. Cyra will be followed by Joshua Henkel.

MS. DINNEEN: Aloha, my name is Cyra Dinneen and I am seventh grader at Lokelani Intermediate School and always wanted to learn how we could help the future. Thank you to the Maui Economic Development Board for the opportunity to participate in our robotic competitions and for granting us money for our parts, registration, and travel fees, and expenses. It covers robotics parts and upgrades so we can learn more about technology.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Cyra. Joshua will be followed by Ryan Behn.

MR. HENKEL: Aloha, my name is Joshua Henkel. I am a seventh grade Chapter President at Lokelani Intermediate School. Today I will give a speech on why you should fund Best Buddies. Best Buddies is an organization that helps people who have intellectual and development disabilities of the mind. Whether the person is an adult or a child our program is there to help. Year after year we ask you to help fund us and you have. Therefore we are very grateful. You have made it to where we can put a smile on every mentally challenged person's face and especially on all us who participate. Everybody in Best Buddies has a blast. Before I had joined Best Buddies I had never thought of working with people with disabilities, but when I did Best Buddies changed my heart. I really enjoyed the one-on-one friendships I've made. The activities that we do are not only fun, they are helpful to the community such as our park day cleanup. Unfortunately on our own this organization would not exist. That you may remember me from last year asking this very same question, but this year I'm going to ask you again, please support Mayor's Budget request for Best Buddies. I will now hand out a form about the park cleanup. Thank you for your time.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Joshua. And Ryan will be followed by Emilio Mark.

MR. BEHN: Hello you guys.

CHAIR WHITE: Hi there.

MR. BEHN: My name is Ryan Behn. I'm here to support Best Buddies. I went to King Kekaulike High School. Best Buddies is a great. I have Best Buddies that I call and text. She was a nice...she's really nice Best Buddies. I have activities that are fun and safe for me. Meeting lots of friends and have fun, have fun. I am a DJ and they let me help with the music. I love Best Buddies. Please support Mayor's Budgeting request for Best Buddies. Mahalo.

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CHAIR WHITE: Great job, Ryan. Emilio, Emilio Mark will be followed by Sasha Crawlle, I think?

MR. MARK: Hi, Emilio Mark ...*(inaudible)*... Best Buddies.

CHAIR WHITE: Okay, too bad. Okay, we'll give him a chance to come back if he'd like. Sasha? Sasha Crawlle? Okay, Sasha will be followed by Ezra Kikukawa. If you're gonna hand things out, you need to hand it to the Staff. Yeah, they have to stamp everything for us. Why don't you go ahead and testify and then give it to them?

MS. CRAWLLE: Aloha, County...County Council members. My name is Sasha Crawlle, and I am a sixth grader at Lokelani School and I attend Kihei Youth Center. I am happy to be here to share with you my top 10 reasons why I love Kihei Youth Center. The 10 things that I love about Kihei Youth Center is that after I come from school I have somewhere to do my homework quietly. We have educational fieldtrips. We have fun activities. We have high tech computers for homework. We have the snack bar and the free snacks that we have when we come in. The basketball court that we play on and the ...*(inaudible)*... field that we play on, and the ukuleles that we play with at a time...at a special time. And most of all, the care I feel from the staff, and I wouldn't want to be anywhere else. Also, could you please build a gym in Kihei so we can have a indoor basketball court.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Sasha.

MS. CRAWLLE: Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: And Ezra will be followed by Luke Borges-Hirashima.

MR. KIKUKAWA: Aloha, County Council members. My name is Ezra Kikukawa, and I am a fourth grader at Kihei Elementary and I attend the Kihei Youth Center. One of the things I like about the Kihei Youth Center is that when we come we get to play with all the others. We even get free food. And all the staff help me with all my needs. And we have educational fieldtrips and fun activities.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you. Good job, Ezra. And following Luke Borges-Hirashima, we will call Emilio again.

MR. BORGES-HIRASHIMA: Aloha, County Council members. My name is Luke Borges-Hirashima and I am a fifth grader at Kihei School and I attended the Kihei Youth Center. I would like to read to you my thoughts and reasons why I love Kihei Youth Center. I like, I love Kihei Youth Center because they help us do work...

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CHAIR WHITE: Could you get just a little closer to the microphone and lift it up a little more?
There you go.

MR. BORGES-HIRASHIMA: The second reason I like KYC is because it's cool to come to. The third reason I like KYC is because all the staff is helpful and kind. The fourth thing I like about KYC is because they have fun in KYC. Another thing is they have free food for us. Also, they have fieldtrips for us that's educational. My seventh reason is they have Kendama tournaments so we can enjoy. They have a homework room so we can do our homework and they help us. The ninth reason is they help us with ukuleles and other things. My last reason is they have family night. Also, please, please build us a gym in Kihei. It would be so awesome. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Luke. Okay, next up is Emilio. Thank you for coming back. We wanna hear from you.

MR. MARK: I'm sorry.

CHAIR WHITE: No, you don't have to apologize. I would have run out too if I had to look at these guys.

MR. MARK: Aloha, thank you for listening to me today. My name is Emilio Mark. I live in here and by Kihei. I am...my people are at Best Buddies, I like to meet people, but sometimes when people meet me they just think I am, I am different. I am just like the other young adults my age. I like to do the same things most young adults like. I canoe ride three days a week with the Kihei Canoe Club. I like to hang out and have fun with my friends at my Best Buddies. I work five days a week at Outback Steakhouse. I have worked there for five years. I am going to work by myself, ride my bike. What I like about Best Buddies is they treat me like everyone. Also, they take time to get to know me and like me for me. Please support Mayor's Budget request for Best Buddies. Mahalo.

CHAIR WHITE: Yea. Great job, Emilio. Our next testifier is Iokepa Meno followed by Stephanie Kaplan.

MR. MENO: Aloha kakou, o Iokepa Meno...*(spoke in Hawaiian)*...Aloha, I'm Iokepa Meno. I'm from Makawao. I am a teacher here at Lokelani Intermediate as well as a lecturer at UH Maui College. I just want to say a huge mahalo to the Maui Economic Development Board for supporting our robotics programs at Lokelani Intermediate for the past four years. And it's been a godsend for us to be able to not only have the program but to be able to compete on other islands and be able to travel, and to put all of our good work in our schools to the other rest of the State. And as well as being able to malama our haumana and our ohanas and say it's not just the usual sports that you had to do, but it's

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also something different. So STEM, Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics is huge, huge for our students, and we're being able to grow our programs and they're able to support us to travel and to really definitely be there for our students after school. Of course, they need lots of food, but it's definitely a big, big blessing to have them support us and to understand that we're no longer playing with the things we had Legos and the such, but we're working with them and generating the next generation of scientists and engineers from Maui for Maui. Mahalo.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Iokepa. And Stephanie will be followed by Lehuanani Huddleston-Hafoka.

MS. KAPLAN: If it's okay, County Council, could we allow Lehua to go before me and then I come after her?

CHAIR WHITE: That's fine.

MS. KAPLAN: Okay.

CHAIR WHITE: Why don't you just stay up here with her?

MS. KAPLAN: Okay.

MS. HUDDLESTON-HAFOKA: Aloha, Council members. My name is Lehuanani Huddleston-Hafoka and I'm the Executive Director of the Kihei Youth Center. It is indeed a pleasure to be standing here tonight to thank each and every one of you and the County of Maui for supporting the Kihei Youth Center for over 31 years. As the only youth center in Kihei we proudly serve over 600 youth members a year. We provide a safe, structured, and nurturing environment for kids between the ages of 8 and 17 years old. We provide over 1,300 hours of youth services each year and we have provided nearly 10,000 meals to our youth members in just one year. So the kids aren't kidding when we say we give them free food. Our goal is to help our youth develop positive attitude, behavior, and character otherwise known as the ABCs of KYC. This will help our youth grow up to be healthy, happy, and positive contributing members of our society. This cannot be done alone. It really does take an entire village to raise a child. It starts from home, then to school, and then to others such as the Kihei Youth Center who help our kids deal with the social perils of life. We understand that the Mayor has approved \$187,950 for the Kihei Youth Center, but we'd like to humbly ask for an increase of \$12,050 to make our request a total of \$200,000. The increase would allow us to hire another part-time staff to assist with the increase in daily membership. Because of our 1 staff to 20 student ratio we feel it is in the best interest of our program to hire another staff to maximize our services and stay in compliance with the staff to student ratio. Due to the continued growth in South Maui, we anticipate a monthly increase in our youth

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members. At the end of last year's fiscal we were at 671 registered members. We're so thankful that we can provide a safe place for our youth members and their families. We love what we do and we would love to have your support so that we can serve our community for another 31 years. Thank you for supporting us and two of our favorite partners, the MEO Youth Transportation and the Maui Food Bank. Without them and without you, we would not be as successful as we are. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Lehuanani. And following Stephanie will be Patricia McGrath.

MS. KAPLAN: Aloha, Council members. My name is Stephanie Kaplan and I am a proud employee of the Kihei Youth Center. For over four years I have been a part of the KYC Ohana and have loved every moment of it. To know that we are able to impact our families in the way that we do is very gratifying. As my Executive Director Lehua shared, it would not be possible without the County of Maui. We are humbled and thankful for your support. E kala mai. Yeah, oh I'm so nervous. I can speak in front of all the kids...

CHAIR WHITE: Well, you're just...you're speaking in front of a whole lotta kids right now so...

MS. KAPLAN: Kihei Youth Center is extremely grateful for all that we have. We have a beautiful building at the County of Maui Kenolio Recreational Complex. We have caring and loving staff, Board of Directors, community partners, and volunteers who are committed to our youth to ensure a safe and positive place to call their own. We have an awesome community partners such as MEO Youth Transportation, the Maui Food Bank, Rotary Club of Kihei-Wailea, Kihei Lutheran Church, Lahaina Art Association, Kihei Canoe Club, Fleming Arboretum, Maui Nui O Kama, UH MCC Nursing Program, and many more partners that are like us who love and care for our youth. Each and every day brings about something new. We are not just a typical drop-in center, but rather a safe place for kids to call their own and where they are nurtured and guided by caring adults. Being in both the administrative position and in the programming position I know firsthand that securing funding is often a never ending challenge. That is why we look upon you our County Council for your support in our request for an increase in the upcoming grant cycle for the Fiscal Year 2015. The money requested would be to enhance our services by providing an additional support staff as my ED had shared. Trying to be mindful of the Mayor's current recommendation and to be attentive to the fact that there are many other very worthy nonprofits that are seeking funding like us. It is with the utmost humility that I, on behalf of the KYC youth members, staff, board, and supporters that you please consider the 6.4 percent increase. Once again, thank you for all that you do and please come by KYC and check us out. Mahalo. Aloha.

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CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Stephanie. Patricia McGrath will be followed by Cassi Lorenzo. Patricia McGrath? Oh right there, right up in front.

MS. MCGRATH: Aloha and thank you, Council members for the meeting for us talk today and I really appreciate all the school students here giving testimony. I'm here...a little bit about me. I'm on the MEO Advisory Board which we've just started transportation. I'm with United Self-Help of Hawaii off Oahu. We go to all the high schools here on Maui and give presentations to the 10th graders on youth depression and suicide prevention. And we also give them all sorts of materials and resources for mental health here in Maui. I do bridges training and support group for mental health at the shelters and also for the homeless. We've support group going for them for two months now. Thank you to the Mayor who gave us a grant to help them and to educate them. We also...I'm also with the ATOM group which is Advocates for Mental Health and what we do is work with the system with Molokini adult inpatients. And advocate, advocate, advocate that's all I do. Anyway what I'm here for mainly to talk about tonight is the BEST Program which is sponsored through MEO. It's been going for a while. I'm very appreciative of it being as I'm on kinda both sides. I have a lot of interests in MEO that have helped me a lot. The BEST Program has helped me in another way because my son he was incarcerated right now. He's been incarcerated before and they have the MEO BEST Program helps the guys, the inmates as they parole out. Without MEO they wouldn't have the resources available to help them to transition back into the public, you know, social media. The BEST Program has all sorts of resources. They have...well, Bishop and another guy that takes the bus to and from MCCC, they pick up the inmates, they take them for job interviews, they help them get their resumes written, they help them with transportation, to get to work with the computers and teach them how to look for employment which they also do employment, and they are just a really good program. They do also gift boxes once-a-year to all the inmates--

MS. BROOKS: Three minutes.

MS. MCGRATH: --and they work with the families. So if you could keep the BEST Program with through MEO, it would be very helpful to increase their budget for funding so they can do more and keep on, you know, their employees at the rate that they can help all these inmates and help them, you know, to work with the facilities that they don't have available at MCCC, and that's all. Thank you very much.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Patricia. Next testifier is Cassi Lorenzo followed by Paul Hiranaga.

MS. LORENZO: Good evening, Council members. My name is Cassi Lorenzo and I am a middle school student at Hui Malama Learning Center in Wailuku. I started attending Hui Malama at the end of August. The reason why I came to Hui Malama is that I didn't

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fit well in my old school. I couldn't concentrate in class and my attendance was bad. There was one point where I stopped going to school because I wasn't getting along with other students. Skipping school and getting into trouble also caused problems between my parents and me. Now that I am at Hui Malama my attendance is better and I go to school almost every day unless I am sick. I don't get into trouble outside of school and I'm getting along better and spending more time with my parents. Recently our school participated in the Maui County Ag Fest. I walked around the festival advertising our Healthy Hui Burgers and handed out food samples. I also pounded pai ai and talked to people from the community about our school and what we do from kalo farming to learning and working in the community with our mentors to our school garden and healthy meals. My dad volunteered at the Ag Fest and he was able to see the positive change in me. I also got a chance to work alongside him making the Healthy Hui Burgers. One of the things I like about Hui Malama is that we work together for everything. We help each other outside in the garden and on our excursions. We all participate in preparing, cooking, and cleaning up after meals. And we help each other with schoolwork especially when one or a few people are struggling with something. A good example of our teamwork is how we came together to prepare for Ag Fest. From setting up the booths to helping prepare the food, harvesting and preparing kalo for pai ai, and working together to clean up. Being at Hui Malama has taught me to get out of my comfort zone and try new things. I understand that it is important for me to be able to do this because I am now more confident when talking to others about what I am learning and I am not scared to face new challenges. Thank you for supporting our school and helping to make us a part of this community.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Cassi. And Paul will be followed by Kevin Block.

MR. HIRANAGA: Good evening, Chairman White and members of the Budget and Finance Committee. My name is Paul Hiranaga and tonight I'm here as a parent of a Maui High Band Student, a Board Member of the Maui High Band Booster Club, and as the Fundraising Chair for the band's 2015 Rose Parade event. I ask for your support on the line grant for the Maui High School Band which will assist us in getting our students to the 2015 Rose Parade in Pasadena, California. As a parent I have come to appreciate this organization because one of the scariest things for a incoming freshman is a big high school. My daughter who's now in her junior year has said that the band has been her second family. It has offered her a sense of ohana. No matter who you are the band accepts you. As a board member for the last two years I have come to realize that part of the fundamentals that they are taught is more than just music. They are learning discipline, they are learning teamwork, and commitment. Several students testified earlier here tonight, and I believe that it is the courage and character that's developed by the band program that has given them the ability to do so. The...and it also gives them the ability to realize that if they put their minds to things that their hard work can help them realize the dreams that are out there for them. As the Fundraising Chair for the

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2015 Rose Festival Parade I have come to understand that this is an opportunity of a lifetime for them. The median family income at Maui High School is \$46,000 which is \$20,000 less than the average Hawaii median income. Over 50 percent of our kids are on reduced or free lunch. So as you can imagine a trip like this is far beyond their grasp without the support of our community, our corporate partners and people of Maui and the State of Hawaii. The Maui High School Saber Band and Color Guard are proud to be the first band from the island of Maui to be selected to perform in this the 126th Rose Parade in Pasadena, California. With over 700,000 people attending and over 75 million people viewing it on television we are proud to represent the island of Maui and the State of Hawaii and we thank you for your support and your consideration for our line grant for the Maui High Band which will help our kids realize their dreams and believe that they can accomplish whatever they put their minds to. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Paul. You've got a big job. Kevin Block will be followed by Peggy Temple.

MR. BLOCK: Aloha, good evening.

CHAIR WHITE: Aloha.

MR. BLOCK: Thanks for being here and listening to us. For those of you who may know I for the last four and a half years was the Director of Immigrant Services for the County of Maui and as of April 4th, I resigned my position and I'm now an attorney in private practice specializing in Immigration Law. So for the last four and a half years I wasn't able to testify about some of the things I would have wanted to, but now I can. I'm testifying here tonight on behalf of the Enlace Hispano Program at MEO. Why there's a need for that program is that Immigration Law is among attorneys and practitioners it's known as the most complicated body of law that there is. The forms are only in English even though the people who fill them out don't always speak English. The documents all have to be translated when you submit a form and Tongan, Filipino, and Micronesian birth certificates and wedding certificates are all in English but ones from Mexico or Central South America are not. So those need to be translated. The Field Office for USCIS is in Honolulu so when you call the 800 number from USCIS for help they'll tell you go to your Field Office not realizing in Hawaii that that means you have to get on a plane and go there. The benefits of assisting the immigrants in our community are huge. It helps keep families together. It helps reunite families. We the Enlace Hispano Program helps with employment authorization so that creates workers and taxpayers. And they also do a lot of work with citizenship. So we all know the benefit of that. More citizens strengthens our communities. The Enlace Program in combination or in partnership with the County teaches a citizenship class that has a 95 percent pass rate. So 95 percent of the people who take the class pass the test and become citizens. Why the Enlace Program is so important is that they provide assistance for a large and growing

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population that on Maui is under siege. Because of the poorest border of the Mexican and the countries south of that the challenges that that population face in immigration are different than the other populations. Last year there were 400,000 deportations and over 60 percent of those were from mixed status families. That means that husbands and wives of U.S. citizens are being deported and also parents of U.S. citizens' children that were born here who are U.S. citizens, their parents are being deported. This is devastating because it tears families and communities apart. Children are left behind without their parents, and wives and husbands face the choice of staying here with their families or leaving with their spouses. One case that I'm working on is a--

MS. BROOKS: Three minutes.

MR. BLOCK: --is a single father with three kids who were all born here. He's been here for 19 years, he works two jobs, and the first place that he went for help was the Enlace Program. Why do...why is the Enlace Program important instead of the County? The County Office has the name, immigration in it and people won't go there first. They'll go to the Enlace Program first. It has to do with trust. They also help with the DACA Program which is Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. Maui County had more applicants than all the other counties in the State of Hawaii combined and they all started at the Enlace Program. We also help...they also help with DV crime victims. There's a special immigration relief available to victims of domestic violence and a lot of them start at the Enlace Program before they get referred to me or some of the other attorneys. I know there's a need for a need for this program because they're so busy all the time. Leonardo and Liz work crazy hours and handle a crazy amount of people and I just wanna say in closing that even though I've left Civil Service, my heart is and always will be with Civil Service so that if any of your Council members wanna know more about these issues, I'm happy to come talk to you in your office. There isn't enough time to talk about all that now. And thank you for allowing me to testify.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Kevin. Peggy, Peggy will be followed Martha Foit.

MS. TEMPLE: Good evening, Chairperson and members of the Committee. I'm Peggy Temple of Kihei formerly of Red Sox country had to get that in there.

CHAIR WHITE: We won't hold that against you.

MS. TEMPLE: I'm here for two reasons. The first reason is on behalf of MEO. I am Curriculum Coordinator at Lokelani Intermediate School. And two years ago, we had a wonderful program from MEO for our at-risk students. They had the Boys Council Project and the Girls Circle Project. These projects helped our students learn positive values and self-respect. They also gave them life skills, confidence, and to be self-sufficient. Unfortunately these funds were cut and Lokelani lost them last year and

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this year. We are hoping that this funding can be put back in place so that Lokelani could once again have them on our grounds and our campus. They were well, well worth it. And the other thing is they are now in the process of erecting a gymnasium in the park next to us. Lokelani is 25 years old. It's our birthday this year and we were built in 1989 without a gymnasium. So PE is very difficult when we had weather in Kihei such as this year and it has rained since December. We had to be very creative in what we could do with the children and the children of course, were very creative of what they could do about that too. So we're really hoping that the funding goes for the gym. The other thing I'm here about is that Governor Abercrombie granted the Friends of Rachel of Lokelani Intermediate School a proclamation for next Thursday which is the International Pay It Forward Day. It is this day that is a day of kindness across 61 countries in our world, in our universe and Lokelani is proud to sponsor a Week of Kindness next week, but it is also the first time Hawaii is participating in this day. There are two ways to participate. All of the Council members have one of the flyers that is the cards for the adults and what you do is you simply go to Starbucks that morning, pay for somebody's coffee ahead of you, initial the card, give them the card, and say now pay it forward and we're hoping to have this throughout our County. The school is going to do the same thing. The other paper you have is for the students, the students will be Paying It Forward for the whole week. On Friday, which is April 25th from 12:00 to 2:00, we have a celebration at Lokelani that we're inviting all of you to join us and it's a celebration of kindness with a disc jockey and an ice cream social and we're hoping that anybody who participates in Pay It Forward will come to Lokelani and join us. So you all have homework. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you. What funding was lost last year? Was that State funding through DOE or other funding?

MS. TEMPLE: For, for what?

CHAIR WHITE: You mentioned that the robotics program or...

MS. TEMPLE: The Friends of Rachel.

CHAIR WHITE: You, you lost some funding last year.

MS. TEMPLE: Oh, the funding we lost was the MEO funding actually. They lost their funding to come to Lokelani to work with our at-risk students. And unfortunately, we haven't had them in two years. So the funding they had was taking care of other schools, but they didn't have enough to come to Lokelani again. So consequently we haven't had MEO in two years to work with our at-risk students.

CHAIR WHITE: Oh, okay.

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MS. TEMPLE: And we--

CHAIR WHITE: Yeah, I wasn't sure what funding you were referring to.

MS. TEMPLE: That was the fund, it was MEO funding.

CHAIR WHITE: Okay, great.

MS. TEMPLE: We take funding at Lokelani too, though. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thanks. Martha will be followed by Molli Fleming. Go ahead.

MS. FOIT: Hello, and thank you for allowing me to speak. I am Martha Foit. I have lived on Maui for six years. I am a property owner, a taxpayer, and a registered voter. I also serve on the Board of Directors for a nonprofit organization here and I'm an officer on our homeowner's association board. I am here to ask you as the County Council members to reconsider increasing our County Budget by \$63.3 million. By increasing the Budget by this amount you are relying on us, as individuals, to pay more for our property taxes, our water, and trash collection plus any other fees that you increase such as our annual car registration. Normally when your car ages, your car tags go down each year, but not on Hawaii they gotta go up every year. At this point, I would also like to point out that the Mayor received a 19 percent pay raise and the Council members, you got a 15 percent pay raise. I live on Social Security and I received a 1.5 percent raise and I'm sure that most of the people here in the audience didn't get this type of raises if they got any of them. If we, as individuals or families do not live within our own budgets we cannot expect to spend more than we receive. We cannot go to our bosses and say, hey I need more money I can't make my expenses. A majority of us learn to live within our means. Therefore, you as our elected officials must learn to live with the means that we as voters will give you and learn how to cut our budget so that the income you receive from us via taxes will cover the expenses for our County. It's called fiscal responsibility. Thank you very much.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you. And Molli will be followed by Janet Erickson.

MS. FLEMING: Hi.

CHAIR WHITE: Aloha.

MS. FLEMING: My name is Molli Fleming. Thank you for listening to me tonight. I'm following on the heels of Kevin Block in terms of being here to speak on behalf of Enlace Hispano tonight. I've been in charge of the Spanish Department at UHMC for the past

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18 years, and I've been working directly with Enlace Hispano to put on a weekly Spanish-English Language Exchange that's been going for about 14 years. Imagine trying to sustain every week an improvisation in language learning. I wrote something out and I'm improving now so I hope I can do this. Every week we never know who is going to come because we open a wide net for anybody in the Hispanic community who wants to come for free to be able to get some conversational English skills to be able to share with students of Spanish in a conversational exchange. The reason why we've been able to sustain this for 14 years, we could never have done this without Enlace Hispano being that organization in the community that is able to get that voice out to a very...a population of people that can be very difficult to reach. And in terms of the benefit that Maui gets from that language exchange which is one little drop in the bucket of what Enlace Hispano does. Kevin enumerated many things and the language exchange never even got in there so I'm glad I'm here. But this food chain of organizations that Enlace Hispano touches really has a trickledown effect so that any of you if you wanted to work on your Spanish could take advantage of this situation. So I'm here to ask that Enlace Hispano really be given the focus that it deserves and at least that it continue with the funding that it's being given. I interact with Leonardo and...every week through this exchange. He comes from 6:00 to 8:00 on Thursday nights exhausted and I watch as, you know, the funding doesn't always get there and these people are working hours that, you know, I don't know I couldn't do it. So if there's any way to expand that funding, boy, I'm at bat for that. So thank you very much.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Molli.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Chair?

CHAIR WHITE: Oops, Molli?

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Molli, just a quick question. Where does this wonderful meeting happen and what time?

MS. FLEMING: It happens on Thursday nights from 6 to 8 o'clock at the UHMC Campus, that's the Foreign Language Room 101. It would be a good idea to contact me, Molli Fleming if you were interested and I could give you a little bit of background about how it works--

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you.

MS. FLEMING: --rather than just show up. So that improv works. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you. If I ever find time I'd love to go. Thank you.

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CHAIR WHITE: Our next testifier is Janet Erickson followed by Edward Mathay.

MS. ERICKSON: I wish to say aloha--

CHAIR WHITE: Aloha.

MS. ERICKSON: --to Committee Chairman, Mike White and fellow Committee members as well as aloha to all of you here listening and my team here I will introduce Doris MacFarlane.

CHAIR WHITE: Please speak into the microphone.

MS. ERICKSON: Oh, I'm sorry. Doris MacFarlane is the financial officer of the Humane Society and the others have good roles as well and I just am here to be fast and precise and give you the facts. I am here...well, I will introduce myself as Jan Erickson. I'm originating from Seattle. I had the privilege of being on the United Good Way Board going around to different agencies all over the County deciding if they got funding and why. And that's why I am stepping forward today to help the animals here in Maui County. I am testifying for the budget for the Humane...Maui Humane Society. This is going to be an emotional and factual presentation. First of all, the emotional part is I have seen a dog play a leading role in my husband's ability to cope with a Mayo diagnosed muscle wasting disease. He went from a champion surfer to a man who's struggling to meet his daily needs. I would like to introduce my husband, Dean and his dog, Pua. You may say that that goldens are not taken into the Human Society, they are. I was present when one was brought in and also the helping dogs that Mo trains to people here come from the Humane Society. I want to say that, excuse me, I'm just trying to be precise here. Yes, my husband has trouble swallowing, walking, moving, and he falls. The last fall he broke his collar bone. My dogs, the dog stands beside him, she gets help. And she's with him all the time mindful of his every move. She's the helper dog. Mostly it's the mood that she works with. From being depressed...our son is a national...well, it's a gold metal champion in sailing. My husband taught to sail when my boy was 13, and he was sailing his whole life until four years ago. And so now he looks at the ocean, he gets very sad. It's hard. The dog changes depression to happiness. He thanks the good Lord every day for Pua.

MS. BROOKS: Three minutes.

MS. ERICKSON: One minute?

CHAIR WHITE: Yes, we have one more, one more minute.

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MS. ERICKSON: So I just say that there are so many dogs with so much potential and by staying in a cage at the Humane Society and not being adopted and us taking the life of God's creatures, and we're God's creatures, God created the world. I don't believe that is right. The Humane Society is operating on a deficit and to the point that they need I think it's approximately 600,000 more each year to meet their budget. And in conclusion, I would say that dogs and cats, particularly dogs are trainable in police work, in finding injured people under rubble, in working farms. They benefit us in so many ways and I would, I would advocate to give them a chance for a little bit of a longer life before they're euthanized. Sorry...

MS. BROOKS: Four minutes.

MS. ERICKSON: So in conclusion, I would ask you to fund the Maui Humane Society as they have submitted their budget and thank you so much. It's a _____ privilege.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Janet. And Edward Mathay will be followed by Clifford Averill.

MR. MATHAY: Thank you, Chairman White--

CHAIR WHITE: You can push it a little harder and it will get...there you go.

MR. MATHAY: --Chairman White and other Council members. At these meetings I'm sure you hear a lot of different people. I think you can maybe group them a couple of ways, the givers and the takers. I think what we've heard tonight are from a lot, mostly from the takers and I say that in the best sense of the word. They take what they're able to get from you and other sources and provide valuable services to those who have special needs. Nothing wrong with that. However, there are the givers and those are us who pay taxes and provide resources such as myself who is a resident here in Kihei and the visitors. I think the visitors never have a voice in these hearings and yet they provide a good bit of the money that these people are asking for. I was surprised and disappointed when I read about Mayor Arakawa's proposed \$60 million budget increase. I'm afraid he's trying to use this and leverage with the State Legislature. I see no evidence that they're not gonna call his bluff and not provide more TAT money, but we can always hope. As members of the Council I think and I hope that you take your budget responsibilities very carefully and not just in crafting the budget, but throughout the year as you see how this money is allocated and expended. I hope these nonprofit organizations are required to provide to somebody in the government, a budget of how they're gonna spend the money, including how they spent the money in the past. We've seen examples of Wailuku Main Street Association. It appears obvious that nobody was providing oversight. I don't think you can rely on the boards for these organizations necessarily to do that. The Hale Makana, I'd like to know how I can get a loan where I

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don't ever have to pay it back. How did that happen? How did that slip through the cracks where nobody realized nobody was making a payment on that loan? Salary negotiations with the public employees unions. The people who negotiate don't seem to have to come up with the money to make those double digit salary increases. You get that thankless task. But on the other hand if you could provide a little more guidance as to what they...how they should negotiate maybe that wouldn't happen or maybe the Mayor needs to be doing that. I don't know the process but it doesn't seem to be working.

MS. BROOKS: Three minutes.

MR. MATHAY: All right, in conclusion I hope you would pay more attention to how this money goes out instead of how it comes in and simply this, see if you can hold the budget to current spending levels. There's a challenge for you. Let's see if you can do it. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you. If I can just say the biggest challenge is that we have with no increase in staffing approximately \$18 million in wage and salary increases. It's a big hill to climb. Clifford will be followed by Adele Rugg.

MR. AVERILL: Good evening, Council members of the County of Maui. I'm Clifford Averill. I live here in Kihei in an apartment complex. I'm here to testify for the MEO's assistance in...I forget now...oh yeah, rental assistance program that they have. Last year at this time the apartment complex they have increased...they decided to increase everybody's rent again. So in the two years it's gone from 855 to 1,025 and the last rumor is they're gonna go up to 1,300 in the same place. When I go and talk and inform them that we are not getting any more pay raises. We're squeezed to the...as tight as we can be. And there are a lot of people that have been leaving the apartment complex, this is Paradise Gardens because they can't afford it anymore. If it wasn't for MEO, we would be in the same place, living in cars on the beaches and trying to just skirt away and try to save. And we're professionals, my wife and I and it's very...this is the most critical part of Maui right now is your housing situation for people who work and live here. And so this is as serious as it can get in trying to help out us, the people who love this island. So I wanna thank you for at least providing that much and what they do for us is they help us make sure we're budgeting properly but once again, when you don't...when your hours are decreased, when just work goes away, and then you're working six jobs a month, and it just doesn't come in, this is a reality that a lot of my friends and coworkers are in, this is the part that hurts and this is why I'm saying we're being squeezed from all ends. So please take a look at that and so what concerns me, if I was an alien that landed on this planet today and I take a look at Page 11 of your Budget and I see the Police is at almost 53 million and our Human Concerns is only 2.25 million, I'd go what's wrong? Are we a police state? Is that where we're going? No, we need to help out us if we have a place to

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live. I know a lot of people that just they couldn't afford it. And I think the worst problem is is when I go up to the manager and say, hey what can I do and they direct us to MEO maybe, but they say, well you have a couple choices. You can ask your job or your boss for a pay raise which my boss laughed at when I did that. You can ask for more hours, and again, my boss laughed at that. You can try to get more jobs and sometimes that works and most of the time it doesn't. And then of course they say we can accept a 20 percent vacancy at this complex. This is the management over here at Paradise Gardens.

MS. BROOKS: Three minutes.

MR. AVERILL: They're willing to accept that 20 percent vacancy. I don't know if you knew that. The apartment owners and the ownership in this case they're in San Diego, so they really don't really care about us. They'll come out there and try to clean up the place a little bit. So we have an issue with that. And the last thing is, is if you don't like it, you can leave, and that's where we gotta draw the line. We don't wanna leave. We wanna be here. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you. Thank you, Clifford. And Adele will be followed by Robert Miller.

MS. RUGG: Good evening and aloha, Budget Committee Chair White and Council members, my old buds. Welcome to my hood. It's a pleasure to have you here. I'll keep it short. I'm a member of the board of MEO. Recently appointed and I'm just honored to be a member of that board. And my request to you is to keep their funding in the Mayor's Budget especially the transportation for the seniors. Heaven forbid that MEO would not get the necessary transportation funding. Can you imagine all the seniors that would take to our already overcrowded roads? Yikes. Also, in the Mayor's Budget there is a gym proposed for the Kihei Regional Park, I humbly ask that this be included in your Budget. It is so needed here in South Maui. And also, I wanna thank each of you for listening to my requests, keep up the good work and thank you for all you do for us. And a P.S., I marched with a Hawaii All State Marching Band as a student performer several months ago in the 2014 Rose Bowl Parade, an experience that this student performer and mature adult, a graduate will always remember. So I humbly ask you to keep the money in the Budget for the Maui High School Marching Band. They will honor us and make Maui proud. Thank you very much. Aloha.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Adele. Robert will be followed by Danielle Prince.

MR. MILLER: Aloha, Council members. My name is Kalei Miller and I'm a Geospatial Information Analyst for the Pacific Disaster Center located here in Kihei. First and foremost, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my educational

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experience and journey with you all. I'm here today to testify in favor of the Maui Economic and Development Board Educational Programs. The MEDB has generously helped pave my way in my education and career along with many youth throughout Maui County. Growing up here in Hawaii, I have always had a interest in learning about geography and technology. When I joined Project EAST now called STEMworks at King Kekaulike High School I discovered that I could turn my personal interest in geography into a real world career. As a first generation college graduate my goals upon graduating from King Kekaulike in 2009, were attend a four-year university and obtain a degree in Geospatial Technologies with the hope of coming back to the islands where I grew up. My involvement with Project EAST which worked closely with MEDB Educational Programs gave me the opportunity to have internships during my summer breaks in college. For three consecutive summers I was able to work as an MEDB Ke Alahele Intern for the Pacific Disaster Center where I developed great work skills, professional relationships, and a educational experience. After graduating from Portland State University in Oregon this last June, through the MEDB's Educational Program such as the Women in Technology Project and the Ke Alahele Educational Fund, I was blessed to be offered a full-time position at the Pacific Disaster Center. To be back home where I grew up and be in a career field that I love is something that I'm very grateful and through MEDB's Educational Programs my career goals and dreams have become a reality. I really enjoy my job and I love, I love being a part of the Pacific Disaster Center. I'm making a impact on the world disaster efforts. MEDB's Educational Program provided me with an opportunity, an opportunity that many local youth have benefit from. Please kokua and help the Maui Economic and Development Board. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Robert. Danielle will be followed by Janine Tsubota.

MS. PRINCE: Good evening. I'm here today in support of MEDB's Educational Program. I am here today because of it. When I was in middle school I took part in the women's Introduce a Girl to Engineering Program which was funded by Women in Tech. In high school I took part in the EAST Program which is now STEMworks. I got to attend a national conference and speak on the work me and my classmates had done and received a full ride scholarship. I finished that in four years. I came home over the summer doing internship programs again thanks to MEDB at Akimeka up in the Tech Park. I attended job fairs even though I knew I wasn't done with school yet and couldn't come home for real yet. A couple years ago I graduated and I stayed on the mainland to get some more work experience. Last year I decided it was time to come home so I started applying with all the companies I had met through MEDB and at the job fairs and their other programs and I'm now up the hill working with a company called Ardent that actually started three years ago with two employees in MEDB's break room. We're now...we've now got 25 employees on island and still fit in there especially with our computers but I'm here today thanks to them. Ardent's a hub zone company, they...which tries to bring more

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jobs to hub zone locations which Maui, Hawaii is. And we do software development for the government, mobile, and web applications. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Danielle. And Janine will be followed by Nicolas Lau.

MS. TSUBOTA: Yeah, good afternoon, good afternoon Council and Chair Mike White. I'm representing elderly, low income, and fixed income homeowners in Maui especially condo owners in South Maui which is where we are. And I'd like to testify regarding the proposed increases in property taxes and fees including the water fees and trash disposal fees. Now the property to...the proposal to raise homeowner's property taxes that translates to an increase of \$120 per a \$100,000 of property value. In addition, the homeowner's exemption has been lowered and additional property assessments are rising. So that means every year we're gonna have more and more increases in our property taxes. In addition, my condo fee was increased because of increasing expenses and we're told that's gonna be increased again because of increasing water fees and trash disposal fees. So many of us are living on fixed or low incomes, many are retirees on Social Security. Social Security has only been increased 1.5 percent. So these, these, you know, in our opinion, in the opinion of all of the low income homeowners, these taxes and fee increases are not justifiable. The Council needs to find ways to tighten the, tighten the belt as we're all tightening our belts, okay. And you know if that means not funding new projects or not doing additional renovations, you need to look into the ways to cut some of those expenses out. In addition, I'd like to bring up some homeowners have been complaining that we're, you know, our taxes are going up but there are a lot of abuses to the system particularly with ag exemptions. There are these people with million-dollar homes and they've got a few chickens and they're claiming an ag exemption. I think you need to clamp down on some of these abuses and that...'cause we're funding these kinds of abuses with our taxes. So, anyway thank you for your, for your help in addressing these problems. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Janine. Nicolas will be followed Adolfo Bielich.

MR. LAU: Aloha.

CHAIR WHITE: Aloha.

MR. LAU: My name is Nicholas Lau and I am testifying for MEO Enlace Hispano. I would like to thank all the Board Members for this opportunity to make public the gratitude that this community has for all of your support. I married a Columbian woman and I'm now in the Visa paperwork process. I was introduced to Leonardo from MEO's...while I was in search for a document translator. And while he was helping with that, Leonardo introduced me to Kevin Block who spoke earlier tonight, and he helped me with a lot of the Visa paperwork. It's very complicated stuff and I was so appreciative of that. Both of

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these men they have been incredibly helpful and massively kind to me. They saved me from lawyer and translator fees that I would not have otherwise been able to afford. I have also been a part of the language exchange program that Molli has touched on earlier tonight. It's great that people can practice English and Spanish there and it's a very comfortable environment at the university there. And during...well, I lost myself...And Kevin Block also mentioned about the language barriers and the opportunity barriers. The main office being in Oahu and with the job opportunities that coupled together with low income jobs it makes it very hard to achieve success here in Maui, but the MEO Enlace Hispano alleviates so many of these obstacles. And during this whole process I have come to see how important that the MEO is to the people of Maui County and how much the support and networking that I hope continues to be available to us. I'm currently...I'm clearly not Hispanic, not even close. However, I'm pleased to inform you that MEO Enlace Hispano is a valuable resource not only for the Hispanic community but it also is a huge benefit that touches the entire community and I'd like to thank you for your hard work and your aloha.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Nicolas. And Adolfo will be followed by Thomas Croly.

MR. BIELICH: Good evening.

CHAIR WHITE: Good evening.

MR. BIELICH: Honorable Committee of Budget and Finance. Thank you for coming to Kihei. Let me introduce myself. My name is Adolfo Valderrama Bielich, born and raised in Peru, resident of Kihei since 2006, and U.S. citizen since 2012 thanks to Maui Economic Opportunity and Enlace Hispano and the Immigration Office of the County of Maui. I would like to put additional words on the speeches of Dr. Kevin Block and Profesora Molli Fleming. I pledge your support for Maui Economic Opportunity Enlace Hispano because of the diverse services that they provide to the growing Hispanic community like for example interpreters, organization of the courses for U.S. citizen, and translation of documents. I recently received their help on the translations, and also they do guides like the one for the driving license in Spanish. I can tell you that two weeks ago, there was the first lady, an applicant in Kihei for the driving test in Spanish that has passed the written test. There are some copies of these guides that were sent to St. Theresa Church so many other applicants. They are going to appear very soon to the office here in DMV in Kihei. So please consider Maui Economic Opportunity Enlace Hispano in your Budget 2015, and Mahalo for the opportunity.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you for coming, Adolfo. And Tom Croly will be followed by Mike Moran.

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MR. CROLY: Aloha, Chair White and Budget Committee. You heard from me before at one of your Budget meetings and I'm just following up today with some hard numbers. You were just passed out a spreadsheet of some numbers that I prepared to kinda give an oversight as to how the taxes are distributed. I know that you're doing everything that you can to make any necessary tax increases as minimal as you possibly can. But we also need to look at how that increase is distributed among all the different tax categories. The different tax categories did not go up in value all the same amount last year. Some categories went up as much as 20 percent, some other categories actually went down in value. Which means that if you left rates exactly where they were for next year, some people would see a sharp increase and other people would actually see a decrease. In the past, what we've done is we've adjusted the rates proportionate to whether that tax and the values in those categories have gone up or if they've gone down. The spreadsheet that I prepared for you shows what the rates would have to be in order for there to be no tax increase, what the rates would have to be for there to be a 10 percent across the board tax increase, and what the rates would have to be for there to be a 16.2 percent tax increase as proposed by the Mayor. I can't say that I support the idea of a 16.2 percent tax increase, I can't say that a \$35 million tax increase is something that we wanna have happen right now, but I know that you'll do your best to minimize whatever that increase is. What I'm asking you to do is to do your best to distribute that increase fairly among all the different tax categories. So if you have questions on this spreadsheet, I'm not gonna bleary-eyed go over the numbers with you tonight. My telephone number is on there. My e-mail is on there, please call me if there's any questions. Also, I enjoy coming to this session every year, and I thank Councilmember Baisa for reminding me about it because it is just so heartening to see the things that our Council does and that our County does in terms of the nonprofits here, and I support every one of them and I hope that we can continue the funding for all these folks. Thank you for time tonight.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Tom. Mike Moran will be followed by Kealii Eldredge.

MR. MORAN: Aloha, before I don my KCA hat I'd just like to say as a citizen, Mike Moran, please listen to the guys that are speaking for the animals that have no voice of their own. They certainly need, need funding. Okay, now we have the official KCA hat on. Welcome to South Maui, Chair White and Committee members. We appreciate you holding this annual meeting this evening in Kihei to listen to not only South Maui residents but anyone who is willing to be here. My name is Mike Moran testifying for the Kihei Community Association. We have a list of CIP projects for which we ask your support. We are grateful of our community park's next segment the construction of a gymnasium is on the present 2015 Budget presented to you by our Mayor and ask you to retain that 16 million as you proceed. Our priorities, number 1, the North-South Collector Road, in North Kihei please begin appraisals and plan to acquire land between Waipuilani and Kaonoulu; 2, continuation of the regional park as mentioned above, the funding for the gym; 3, having the County play a lead role in the developing potable

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water infrastructure for our proposed Kihei High School, it is coming; 4, Kenolio, the North-South Road pedestrian improvements which is the current North-South Collector Road corridor in North Kihei, please begin planning for a continuous bike lane, sidewalk, road or no road; 5, Ohukai Road pedestrian improvements, please connect the sidewalk near the intersection of South Kihei Road as this is a major mauka-makai pedestrian thoroughfare, begin comprehensive study to add sidewalks; 6, Kalama Park improvements, skate park repair; and 7, get an update on the Waipuilani Bike Path. It was fully funded in 2013. Now we're told by the Department of Public Works that it's now for 2018. It seems almost incongruous it was fully funded in 2013, why it's now five years away. We would like to address and ask your consideration for some data that was presented when the Mayor and his team were here last year for input from our community concerning this very budget. A document was presented which among other data offered a Capital Expenditure by district for Fiscal Year 2014 and Kihei-Makena percentage was 6.5 percent while some comparable locations were West Maui 18.2 percent. Wailuku--

MS. BROOKS: Three minutes.

MR. MORAN: --Kahului 16.8 percent and Upcountry which included Makawao, Pukalani, and Kula was 18.9 percent. A rough calculation concludes each of these areas had three times what South Maui did. While we did not get any justification for the seeming disparity from the Administration, we understood from Councilmember Couch it was because the police station was constructed in Kihei and required a large expenditure the prior year, if I had that correct, Don. If so, we did not agree then and more so now after touring the facility and seeing how much, excuse me, how many aspects and functions are for island wide usage, and how much was relocated there from the Wailuku station. But that's in the past and we are addressing 2015 Budget. So we ask for fair representation in expenditures for our area in this Budget.

MS. BROOKS: Four minutes.

MR. MORAN: Okay, I'll sum up quickly, and you do have my testimony. How often have we heard it said that nothing will be done until someone dies? Well, now they did. As you know on Saturday along the highway mauka of us, bicyclist and Kihei resident Karl Hagen was struck in the bicycle lane by a truck and died shortly after. We will never know if South Maui had a safe bicycle path across Kihei perhaps in the North-South Collector Road corridor where he would have been riding there and with us today, but he would have at least had that opportunity. We talk Complete Streets and walkable, bikeable community, but we don't walk the walk and we talk jive of the ride.

CHAIR WHITE: I'm gonna have to ask you to make one concluding sentence.

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MR. MORAN: Okay. Please consider our list of CIPs and thank you for your perseverance.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mike. Don has a question for you.

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: Thank you, Mike for being here and just to let you know I think five out of the seven that are on here are in this Budget, so...

MR. MORAN: So far. We want you guys to keep 'em there. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thanks, Mike. Kealii Eldredge will be followed by Susan Thomson.

MR. ELDREDGE: Aloha. I'm Kealii Eldredge. I'm a parent and my kids go to KYC. It's a wonderful program and I would like you guys to keep help funding that program. And also, I would like to give support for our gym over here on South Maui. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Kealii. And Susan will be followed by Jerleen Bryant.

MS. THOMSON: Good evening. My name is Susan Thomson. I live here in Kihei and I'm here this evening to testify and voice my concerns and opposition to the proposed 2014 Budget increase for the Mayor. With all due respect, I feel Mayor Arakawa is out-of-touch with reality especially with the economic challenges Maui County residents and retirees continue to face on a daily basis. Last year, 2013 the Mayor, Council members, and others received significant salary increases which we, the taxpayers are paying for. To add an increase of County spending by 63.3 million for this year of 2014 is not only unreasonable and unnecessary, but irresponsible. There is no way anyone can justify this increase and continue to unfairly burden the hard working residents and retirees of Maui County. Many people in 2014 are still struggling to make ends meet and are not the beneficiaries of an economic recovery or self-gifted salary increases. Maui County has a very high cost of living, the highest electric bills in the nation, and very expensive real estate. The 9 percent increase in taxes from rising property values should be enough for the Mayor to run the County and provide for nonprofits. There should be no reason or justification to have an additional increase of approximately 6.5 percent to the rates for all tax classification. How can any reasonable person even consider this? It seems to me that Mayor Arakawa wants to make living on Maui as expensive and as difficult as possible. What Mayor Arakawa is attempting to do is very disturbing as I feel he is not representing the very people who elected him. He should be reducing costs not expanding the budget by over 11 percent. Please do the right thing by stopping the Proposed 2014 Budget and bring Mayor Arakawa down to Earth. The residents and retirees of Maui County can't just afford it. Thank you very much and I appreciate the opportunity to be here tonight.

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CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Susan. And Jerleen will be followed by Maureen Akimseu.

MS. BRYANT: Good evening, Committee Chair White and Committee members. My name is Jerleen Bryant and I'm Director of Development in the Maui Humane Society. You have a difficult job. There is no doubt about that. No denying it. So many wonderful organizations that do so many things for our community and they all need funding. And I can only hope that at the end of the day somehow they all find their, they all get their piece of the pie. Maybe not the whole pie, but hopefully the piece that helps them continue to go on. But I'm here today to talk about the Maui Humane Society because we're a little different. We perform a job for the County. And we have a contract to perform this job and these responsibilities. And we...every year around this time we submit our application for funding and we put in that application--real numbers. What it really truly cost for us to perform these, you know, programs and perform our job properly. And every year when the budget is finalized, we don't have enough money. And in fact, we have never fully been funded. In the last four years, we have used \$1.4 million of our own money that we've raised. And I don't know in what arena that's actually okay. We performed our job. We should get the funding to cover the costs of performing that job. And when you think of what we could have done with \$1.4 million for the animals on Maui. I mean, truly saving lives. Real, real lifesaving programs that we could have used that money for. We could have spayed and neutered every animal on this island at no cost and had money left over, but we couldn't because we used...every year we take the money that we raise and we put it to supplement the contract. It's really not right. Speaking of raises, we have just today, in fact today here, we have a staff member who has worked at the shelter almost 20 years, she shared with me that in seven years she has not received a pay increase, for seven years. So you know, any organization or business wants to reward loyalty. We feel so fortunate that we have several employees that have been at the shelter that long. We would like to reward her, her expenses have gone up, but we haven't been able to give her the raise that she truly deserves. In closing, last week at the Paia Council meeting, yes I was there too. There was some misinformation that was shared about our financials--

MS. BROOKS: Three minutes.

MS. BRYANT: --okay, about our financials, and so today you were given a handout, our Financial Director worked pretty hard to put all this information together on one sheet so that you could clearly look at it and see truly where we're been for the last several, umpteen years, where we should have been, and what we're asking for this year. So please in closing, please, Committee members, listen, listen to the testimonies, please fund the Maui Humane Society at the level that it deserves and needs. Thank you and aloha.

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MR. WHITE: Thank you, Jerleen. And Maureen will be followed Takayuku, I'm sorry, Takayuki Harada.

MS. AKIMSEU: Aloha. My name is Maureen Akimseu. I'm here testifying for MEO Head Start. I have so much positive things to say with so little time. This program has helped me and my family in so many ways. I'm really sad that this is my daughter's last year here. Since Hayden's first year here I've seen a lot of improvements in her academically and socially. As for me, this program has helped me with all the services and resources I needed to enlighten and strengthen my family. Last but not least, I'd like to thank the County for funding our afterschool program as well. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Maureen. And Takayuki will be followed by Luis Rivas.

MR. HARADA: Thank you, Council members, for allowing me to speak to you regarding a Budget item on the Kalaupapa Memorial. I'm speaking on behalf of my brother, Paul who passed away on January 4, 2008, his wife Winifred and more than 8,000 patients who were sent to Kalaupapa because they had contacted leprosy or Hansen's Disease. They were sent into exile for the rest of their lives. I'm also part of Ka Ohana O Kalaupapa, an organization that speaks on behalf of the patients who died and whose gravestones are no longer there. Ka Ohana O Kalaupapa has for more than 10 years listened to the voices of the remaining patients who have made it clear that they want to...that they don't want be forgotten. As a result, we have gone to the United States Congress through our Congressional Representative to pass special legislation to build a memorial on the Makenalua Peninsula. As a rule, the Park Service who administrates the peninsula does not build memorials in parks that they administrate. Special Congressional legislation is required to have any kind of memorial built on any national park in the United States. The Congressional action made it our responsibility to work with the National Park Service and to complete EIS requirements, provide a plan for the memorial, and to raise monies to build, maintain, and work with the NPS in administrating the memorial once it is built. All this to say, we appreciate the adding in the Budget monies for Ka Ohana O Kalaupapa to help begin the fundraising process. Ka Ohana O Kalaupapa is made up of friends and families of Hansen's Disease patients in Kalaupapa. I would be grateful for these monies...I would be very grateful if these monies were provided to help us fund the memorial. It is a very personal matter for me. I had been privileged to share more than 50 years of close family ties with my brother Paul and his wife, Winifred Marks Harada, a privilege many family members of Kalaupapa patients were never allowed to have. Paul was sent to Kalaupapa during World War II after being diagnosed with leprosy at the age of 15 and sent at the age of 17 to Kalaupapa. He was a student at the Kauai Vocational School when he had a severe burn on his arm. He told the doctor he never felt any pain despite the severe pain. As a result, his doctor sent my brother and my father to Honolulu where he was diagnosed

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with the disease. My father traveled back to Kauai without his 15-year-old son. He knew at that time that he might not see his son alive again. Paul was not able to say--

MS. BROOKS: Three minutes.

MR. HARADA: --his farewells to our family and his friends. Winifred Marks is from Maui. She too, separated from family, friends and her ambitions at age 11. She once mentioned that Soichi Sakamoto had once asked her to swim for her. She was one of the more than 8,000 persons who were sent to Kalaupapa whose lives and dreams were stripped away so that we in society could go on living normal lives. In conclusion, in January 6, 1866 leprosy patients were separated and sent to Kalawao, Makanalua, and Kalaupapa. It is from many of these patients whose names are not known to the outside world that a memorial with more than 8,000 patient names would be etched forever for all to see and to allow us to express our thanks for their sacrifice. Someday you too may visit Kalaupapa to visit the memorial and some of you may discover that one of the names is a relative that you were never told about. On behalf of these patients who sacrificed for their families, communities, and the island State, I thank you for considering this item in the Budget. Thank you very much.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Mr. Harada. Luis Rivas will be followed by Kaleo Carter.

MR. RIVAS: Good evening Chairman White and Council members. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in behalf of the Humane Society. My name is Luis Rivas. I've been working for the agency for almost eight years and we all have been working as a big ohana with pride, love, empathy, and most important, compassion. I am more than honored to work side by side with an entire staff that is well trained and love to serve our community. Our community has big expectations and we work with integrity. I love the agency as my second home. The most important thing is that we're still serving our community with the same passion, with the same compassion even without increasing the budget. Our services are like after-hours drop-off kennels, lost and found services, after-hours emergencies, dog licensing, microchipping services, cremation services, educational programs, and many, many more. Please continue to provide us the support that we need so we can serve our community that that way they can feel our presence. And just to let you know, I am one of those employees who has not received an increase in my salary in seven or eight years. So please allow us to continue helping the people to what your expectations and our community's expectations. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Luis. Kaleo will be followed by Madge Schaefer.

MR. CARTER: Aloha, Council. Thank you for coming. My name is Kaleo Carter. I am a volunteer coach and referee for South Maui Youth Basketball League. I'm here on behalf

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to ask you to please build the gym. I tell you that because I coach these two kids outside. The weather, it's hard to coach them with rain, wind, especially today, it was really windy. And when they do have games it's very rare for them to experience an inside, indoor, hardwood experience. This year, the kids that I have are not gonna get to go to a gym which is very depressing. Some of the kids are kinda bummed out about it. But Kihei does produce top notch football players, hard hitting baseball players, and now basketball players. The only disadvantage for the basketball players is they have to transition from asphalt to hardwood, and that transition is hard for them, not by much 'cause they're good. But I'd like to thank you guys once again. Please support the gym. It only benefit us as parents and the kids. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Let me ask him. You're okay losing your designation as the only community without one?

MR. CARTER: Ah, yeah, for now.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: I don't think that's a big problem, right? What was the reason for not being able to play any ball indoor this year? 'Cause you guys used to go Wailuku and--

MR. CARTER: We used to go...

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: --yeah, 'cause I remember doing all that when my son was playing.

MR. CARTER: Right, we would go Wailuku Gym it was leaking--

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Yeah, yeah.

MR. CARTER: --because something's wrong with the roof. Paia Gym, I'm not too sure why we didn't get Paia Gym this year. Some kids gotta travel as far as Seabury to go and experience a gym. For us in Kihei, it's kind of, you know, hard on us on gas and wear and tear on our vehicles to go all the way up there.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Right, right.

MR. CARTER: Even Eddie Tam has opened their doors. Lahaina Civic Center is another one that we get the chance to play at.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Right.

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MR. CARTER: But for us in Kihei, South Maui needs to have a gym just for the kids, for P.E. for Lokelani Intermediate. Also for programs like KYC they can take their kids there to have fun in a gym, indoor and safe environment.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: I agree wholeheartedly this is the only area from Maalaea all the way to Makena that has no gym and that's sad. It's been sad for many years.

MR. CARTER: Right, right, right.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: So, yeah I support that. Yeah, no problem.

MR. CARTER: So please, please help us build the gym.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: But I just wanted to know why you guys weren't able to play indoor this year.

MR. CARTER: Yeah, well just finances and--

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Okay.

MR. CARTER: --the gym in Wailuku being...it was leaking.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Yeah, it's closed down for repairs. Yeah, I understand that. Okay, thank you for the information.

MR. CARTER: Thank you, guys.

CHAIR WHITE: Okay. Following Madge Schaefer, we're going to take a quick break.

MS. SCHAEFER: Well, thank you very much for coming to Kihei coming out amongst us which is a good thing that you do and we appreciate it. I'd like to comment on four items. First of all, I oppose the Mayor's proposed tax increase. I think that the owners in Kihei, property owners in Kihei generate 34½ percent of the property tax revenue and we'll be hit very hard by this increase. I have to say, I talked...I saw Tom Croly's formula. I talked to him about it. I think it's a really good idea to look at the specific categories instead of doing an across the board. The second item is despite the revenue that is generated from Kihei-Wailea, Kihei Road remains a mess. Stretches without sidewalks put pedestrians at risk, street lights out in crosswalk areas, public easements covered with tall weeds. So many times I see tourists, probably Canadians, who are very thrifty walking in the weeds especially in that stretch between Longs and towards Maalaea. That area is terrible at night too, it's so dark. While a gym is a nice benefit for Kihei and I certainly support that, some CIP dollars for road maintenance here would be

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really nice since we only have two roads. Three, the Council should not allow tax dollars to subsidize millionaires and billionaires no matter who they are. I read in the paper that the police budget funded by Maui County taxpayers used about...well, they went over by \$400,000 on their overtime budget to provide services requested by the Secret Service while Mrs. Obama who has a net worth of \$11.8 million, just Mrs. Obama, not the Obama Family, had a private vacation on Maui visiting Oprah Winfrey. Ms. Winfrey has a net worth of \$2.9 billion. Meanwhile lesser beings must pay for off-duty police officers for community events. Think about how listening tonight how that \$400,000 could be better spent. I understand that public officials sadly in this day and age have to be protected, but I think the wife of a public official, a wealthy wife--

MS. BROOKS: Three minutes.

MS. SCHAEFER: --of a public official who is visiting a very wealthy friend on a private vacation should not ask the taxpayers of this little island to pay that bill. So what I would suggest is that you send a bill to the White House. It may not be popular in Washington, but it would be really popular on this island I think. Don't you think it would be? And if you're reluctant to sign it, I think there's some citizens here tonight that I've heard testify and applaud that would be happy to sign that letter. Lastly, as a founder and long-time supporter of the Hana Dialysis Home, I urge you to continue this small kind support for this wonderful facility. It is a textbook example of the private-public partnership. The community puts--

MS. BROOKS: Four minutes.

MS. SCHAEFER: --in so much more than that little grant. The value is probably triple of what the community gives whether it's the tree needs trimming and the tree trimmer comes in and trims it for free. They run a community...they're running a community rummage sale to raise money to pay their utility bills. They do a wonderful job and you know I'm not easy...likely to give credit easily.

CHAIR WHITE: I've given you as much time, over the four minutes.

MS. SCHAEFER: No. One more line; one more line; one more line.

CHAIR WHITE: I'll give you one more line.

MS. SCHAEFER: Please, when you go out to Hana for your Budget hearings, please—I know you're going to be driving probably. Please drive by the house.

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CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Madge. Any questions for the testifier? Okay, we're a little past the halfway mark so thank you all for your patience and we will be back in five minutes. Recess. . . . *gavel* . . .

RECESS: 7:55 p.m.

RECONVENE: 8:06 p.m.

CHAIR WHITE: . . . *gavel* . . . Okay, we're going to move right along. The next testifier is Nancy Johnson, and she'll be followed by Ellie Leialoha.

MS. JOHNSON: Good evening.

CHAIR WHITE: Good evening.

MS. JOHNSON: I'm Nancy Johnson from Maui College. I'm back again. Tonight, I want to talk to you about medical assistance and I don't know if you read today's paper, but on the front of today's paper there's this thing that says, insurers target diabetics under the new health law. It's a little bit misleading because it makes it sound like it's something bad, but it's actually something wonderful. And what that the law is doing is it's requiring physicians, patient center, and medical homes to follow up on their diabetics to make sure they take their medicines, to make sure that they refill their prescription, to make sure that they're testing their blood. And because they're doing that, they're gonna reduce the complications that we see with diabetes. So I put in your handout for today, I always bring you a handout, but I have the diagram of the United States which shows that since 1995, Hawaii's number of diabetics has increased by 100 percent. And that second diagram shows you the hospitalization rate of diabetes in Maui County and what you see is it's a very serious problem in our community and so we're real happy that the insurers are gonna require this. But they're not gonna do it, the insurance companies aren't going to do it, they're gonna require the physician offices, the medical homes to do it, and the people who are gonna do it are the medical assistants that they're gonna have to hire. So the expectation is gonna be a huge increase of the number of workers at this level. And then the last thing I wanna show you is the curriculum and you notice that there's three courses related to pharmacology because so many of our chronic diseases can be managed if people take their medication. And so these medical assistants are gonna have specific training to guide them to guide their patients and prevent rehospitalizations. So I ask you again to support the expanded, enhanced healthcare careers at Maui College. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Nancy. Ellie Leialoha will be followed by Ned Davis. Ellie Leialoha? Ned Davis? Ned will be followed by Marie Thomas.

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MR. DAVIS: Hi, I'm Ned Davis with MEDB here to testify on behalf of MEDB, of course. First of all, I'd like to thank you for your very kind support of our organization over the years and ask you to please continue support according to the Mayor's Budget. We appreciate it so much. MEDB's been doing wonderful work both in terms of helping businesses here in Maui especially in the Tech Park and the students with STEM education. And what the students have been doing is absolutely amazing. It's just splendid some of the work they've done robotics at the Maui High School and all that I'm truly amazed to see it. And in terms of business especially at the Tech Park with the _____ program and such it's really, it's really going quite well these days. Maybe on a little bit more personal note, when I first came here, my first introduction to MEDB was when they helped me to get the very contract with CrossFiber, the company I was working with at the time, and that was actually CrossFiber's first paying contract up to that point. We were just doing research and development and now it's sort of come full circle. I'm starting something new. MEDB is helping me yet again, and hopefully we'll bring more, you know, high paying, good living wage, and then some jobs to Maui. That's what we're hoping to, hoping to do. So again, I want to thank you so much for your support. I hope that you continue to do so and look forward to telling you more about it soon.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Ned. And Marie will be followed by Beverly Green.

MS. THOMAS: We have a tag team. Pinky was at the kitchen feeding the hungry so she was a little bit late and we're gonna do--I'm gonna hand off. So my name is Marie Thomas and I am the President of the Advisory Board for Hale Kau Kau and Pinky Mendoza is the Program Manager for Hale Kau Kau and I see heads nodding so I know we don't have to share a lot of information with you. But we wanna thank you so much for your support in the past, and Pinky will just maybe give you a few numbers to you know, think about.

MS. MENDOZA: Okay, thank you, Marie. We continue to serve 80 to 130 meals per day on site. This is slightly lower than what we had last year. Even Keolahou Church with whom we collaborate with to distribute food baskets every day--every week, has shared with us that their numbers has also come down. For us this is good news. 'Cause this tells us that some members of our community are able to provide for themselves so we thank our hardworking County government for making this possible for some members of our community. However, our homebound meal delivery has increased to 70 to 80 meals per day and it has increased by almost 2,000 meals delivered for the last two quarters and this is compared to the same period of last year. So as you can see it is the homebound delivery that where, where our program has increased in our service. Our homebound clients are referred to us mostly by the County Office on Aging and the doctor's offices around the Kihei area. Last year we served a total of 56,775 meals, this is still a substantial number that needs to be supported and funded. So again, we thank you for your past support and we look forward to your continued support to the

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Hale Kau Kau Program so that we can continue to serve those who are in need. Thank you so much.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you.

MS. THOMAS: And I just wanted to point out as the Board President that we do run a fairly tight program. We have only one full-time employee and that's Pinky, who is the Program Director and then we have a part-time assistant for Pinky and we have two part-time cooks that cover all seven days. And we're able to do this because we have so many wonderful, hundreds really of volunteers and we get volunteers not only from the residents and the visitors, but we also have...we are able and we're happy to be able to provide a service to the County as well by providing an opportunity for people from the Judiciary, from Kaunoa, the Maui Job Corps, NOVL, and First to Work Program to do community service at Hale Kau Kau. So we, as many of you know because you've attended our fund raisers we do raise quite a substantial amount of our own funding. And just two fundraisers provide 45 percent of our budget. So we try real hard to help you out--

MS. BROOKS: Three minutes.

MS. THOMAS: --help us out and we just really thank you so much for helping us with the funding that you've provided and we hope you'll do it again. Thank you. Oh, and one little story. I think in the last couple years we've provided you with our brochure that had been designed by one of our former clients, who ate at Hale Kau Kau when he was down on his luck and he was able to get back on his feet and he is now a successful graphic designer on Oahu. So because of our numbers changing, we called him up this year and said, will you redo it? And he of course said, yes he would. So we'll give you a new one that has the new numbers in it as well, with new pictures. Thank you so much.

CHAIR WHITE: If you could give that to the Staff? Thank you, Marie. And Beverly is our next testifier and she'll be followed by Kimokeo Kapahulehua.

MS. GREEN: Good evening, Chairman White--

CHAIR WHITE: Good evening.

MS. GREEN: --and Council members. My name is Beverly Green. I have been an Animal Control Officer, Field Services Officer for 13½ years with the Maui Humane Society. Tonight I'm a bit dusty and sweaty and I probably smell like every dog I petted today 'cause I came straight from work, still in my uniform. My team of seven is tasked with, with enforcing the State...

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CHAIR WHITE: Could you get a little closer to the microphone? Lift it up a little bit. We'd like to be able hear you...let everyone else hear you too.

MS. GREEN: Okay, I hope this is good. My team of seven is tasked with enforcing the State and County animal laws and so much more. We respond to reports of dog attacks to people, to dogs, to other animals during the day. We respond to reports of animal cruelty, animal neglect, and animal abuse during the day. We respond to reports of sick, injured, and abused animals during the day. Too many people get bit after hours. Too many animals are sick, injured or abused after hours. It hurts me to think of animals alone and suffering when we could provide the comfort and supportive care they need after hours. I ask you to increase the Maui Humane budget so that we can provide the services around the clock for the people and animals of our County. I also ask you to increase our budget so that my hard-working, dedicated coworkers can finally get the pay raises that they so much deserve. Everyone who works at the Maui Humane Society is a passionate person about animal welfare. Many of them take home the under-aged kittens and puppies and even goats that need more time before they can be put up for adoption or are injured and need some extra care. On a personal note I want to tell you I'm ending my workweek on a real high because a puppy very special to me wasn't getting the basic care by his original owner was adopted to a new family today. And that is our goal for all the animals who come to the Maui Humane Society. We would like for all of them to have a new home and get the care they deserve. So I'm asking you to crease our budget so we can continue to provide the services that are so vital to the people and animals that we all share this island with. Thank you for letting me talk tonight.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Beverly. And Kimokeo will be followed by Mandy Rock.

MR. KAPAHULEHUA: Good evening, Council Chair Mike White and Council members. Thank you so much for being in South Maui to hear us. I come before you to share a little story about supporting the Kihei Youth Center. For 31 years we wanna tell you that our partners had changed through the years, but one of 'em that has been really sustainable for us was MEO, Maui Economic Opportunity, and the other persons that been working us is the South Maui Police Department. They just this past year we had a Choice Mentorship Program, the only program that's in the State of Hawaii was held partnership with the Kihei Youth Center through the Federal Attorney General Office and funded our program where we had 25 students graduated at the Grand Wailea Hotel on a Choice Mentorship Program. That whole program was to do programs throughout the years with the children to make sure that the children knew that the Police Department was with them and for them, not against them and it was well-proven in the graduation that we was really fortunate to have the Federal Attorney General representative here from Oahu come here to do the graduation. We do other partnership, a big partnership has always been with the Parks and Recreation from the beginning of time. Just recently,

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our team, Rugby 7 won the Championship in Oahu that was the boys and girls. And we came back home and we had a tournament two weekends ago at Keopuolani Park. We worked with Brienne Savage in making this to work. We had more than 500 kids on Maui that showed up at the Rugby 7, and we're as you know that the parks going through some changes on making reservations for your time so we have made our reservations for 2015. And we invited over here, we're very fortunate that Japan sent us their top referee, Tyzo and he brought with him people from New Zealand and California. So you can expect that our Parks partnership not only now with Rugby 7 but we've been with soccer, baseball, basketball. They come up this evening talk to you about the gym that's going to be built for us in South Maui. It's really important because our gym right now is...the basketball court that we have at the KYC, the basketball courts that we have at Kalama Park and that's pretty much our basketball playground you know, and so they really look forward to that. Just sharing with you that all the people that we do with Parks and Rec...we have aquatic teachers, the youth center, first aid, water safety, all the needed things that we have to have for our staff. So we appreciate you supporting the Kihei Youth Center and supporting all our partners. Later in the evening you heard MEDB came up here, many of our beneficiaries were successful with MEDB and I know that all of you attended their program where MEDB not only had provided for South Maui kids, but provided for the whole County of Maui, Molokai and Lanai.

MS. BROOKS: Three minutes.

MR. KAPAHULEHUA: So thank you so much for being here tonight and I ask you to continue your support. Aloha. Mahalo.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Kimokeo. And Mandy will followed by Alana Kay.

MS. ROCK: Good evening, everyone. Thank you for your patience tonight and listening to so many people. I'm here tonight to support Enlace Hispano. I am a recently made RN, so Registered Nurse from the UH Maui College. So I thought I could offer a unique perspective into the healthcare side of Spanish speakers here in Maui. During my curriculum, I had the experience of going into the maternity section of the hospital and delivering babies or assisting anyways. And because myself and a classmate and I were the only people who were capable of speaking Spanish we were assigned to a Spanish speaking woman and it truly gave me the perspective that if we hadn't been there would she had gotten the information that she needed? Part of our class assignment was also to follow up with the person so we were following up with this woman in her home not long after she had gone home from the hospital and we were able to provide her with a list of resources that she could use that she had no idea prior to giving birth about...and information in Spanish. And I'm also still taking classes, I'm getting my Bachelor's Degree at the school, and I've taken Spanish classes while going through nursing school and so I'm actually part of Molli Fleming's language exchange program as well and that's

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mostly how I heard about the MEO program because actually they supply pretty much all the Spanish speakers who come and help us improve our language. And I've heard about the amazing things that they do and I know that in healthcare there's so many forms. To have someone right there that can answer every single one of your questions and make it clear and simple for you is so helpful. I know that they also provide translator services. In the hospital we have like a three-way telephone, but would you appreciate that if you were going through something really difficult or sensitive that you're crying and the person on the other side of the side of the telephone can't see you face to face, can't comfort you and those translators are there to do that or when they have to travel off island because they're dealing with cancer and they're going to a cancer clinic then they have that translator with them at their side, that trust that they've built with somebody to help them through these things. So I'm asking that you continue to support the program or even--I'm nervous and I speak in front of so many students and stuff through nursing school I should be used to this--or to expand their program so that it becomes that resource that we can easily offer to all those people that come into the hospital in the future and need those services. On another note, I'm also a Canadian who recently became a citizen, so I've been through the process of it and I know that if it was in a different language then I would probably would not have passed my citizenship. Lots of boxes that you just don't know what they mean or what they're asking for, you need to ask a lot of questions on the way. I think I covered everything. But also my wonderful instructor spoke earlier and said that she was here asking for funds for the UH College and I have to say that if you can fund especially the nursing students, you won't find a better group--

MS. BROOKS: Three minutes.

MS. ROCK: --of people willing to work in the community and volunteering. If you wanna fix problems, invest in the nursing students. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mandy. Alana Kay? She's gone home. And the last one that we have signed up is Alisha Harrold.

MS. HARROLD: Good evening, Council members. My name is Alisha Harrold and I'm an employee at the Kihei Youth Center. I just want to thank you so much for your continued support which helped kept us running and provided for a safe and nurturing environment for our keiki here for the past 31 years. I do wanna ask that you please continue to support us. We are looking for about 200,000 for this next year so that we may continue to provide a safe and nurturing environment for our kids. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you. Is there anyone here that would like to testify that has not already provided testimony?

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...END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY...

CHAIR WHITE: Seeing no one rushing for the mic...Mr. Trickster put his own name in here.
We hear enough from you.

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: I know.

CHAIR WHITE: I want to thank all of you for joining us this evening. Thank you for your
patience, and thank you for sharing your thoughts and concerns. And with that,
Members, we will—yes, enjoy the eclipse—and we are adjourned. . . . *gavel* . . .

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.

ADJOURN: 8:26 p.m.

APPROVED:



MIKE WHITE, Chair
Budget and Finance Committee

bf:min: 140414-southmaui:ctc

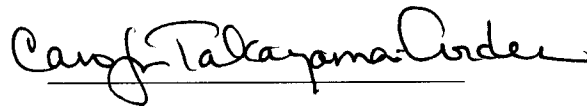
Transcribed by: Carolyn Takayama-Corden

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

DATED the 5th day of May, 2014, in Makawao, Hawaii

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Takayama-Corden". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Carolyn Takayama-Corden