

# MINUTES

of the

## PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON

MAY 27, 2014

THE COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI, STATE OF HAWAII, CONVENED A PUBLIC HEARING ON TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2014 AT 9:01 A.M., IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, KALANA O MAUI BUILDING, WAILUKU, HAWAII, WITH CHAIR GLADYS C. BAISA PRESIDING, FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING TESTIMONY ON THE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2014 TO JUNE 30, 2015.

CHAIR BAISA: Will the public hearing of the County Council for Maui, please, Maui County please come to order. Today is Tuesday, May 27, and it's a little, few minutes after 9:00.

The purpose of the public hearing today is to receive testimony on the Proposed Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Year July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. The Chair would like to make it very clear so there is no confusion. We will be accepting testimony on the budget at this public hearing. And if you are here to testify on another matter, that will probably be coming up in the meeting at 10:00, where we will be discussing other items.

Mr. Clerk, would you please call the roll.

## ROLL CALL

PRESENT: COUNCILMEMBERS ELEANORA COCHRAN, DONALD G. COUCH JR., S. STACY CRIVELLO, DONALD S. GUZMAN, G. RIKI HOKAMA, MICHAEL B. WHITE, MICHAEL P. VICTORINO, AND CHAIR GLADYS C. BAISA.

EXCUSED: VICE-CHAIR ROBERT CARROLL.

There were approximately 25 members of the public in attendance.

COUNTY CLERK DENNIS A. MATEO: Madam Chair, there are eight Members present, one excused.

CHAIR BAISA: Thank you very much, so we have a quorum.

Mr. Clerk, was Notice of the Public Hearing published?

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

COUNTY CLERK: Madam Chair, Notice of this Public Hearing on the Proposed Operating Budget and Capital Improvements Program for Fiscal Year July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015, was published in the May 20, 2014 and the May 23, 2014 issues of the Maui News.

CHAIR BAISA: Before we proceed with today's agenda, may I please request that everyone silence their cell phones or other noise making devices. Decorum in this chamber shall be maintained at all times.

Chair would also like to mention that there is a seat reserved here close to the podium, and the reason for that is that we would like to, when we call the testifier and announce the second, the person to follow, if that person would please proceed to take that empty seat.

Mr. Clerk.

COUNTY CLERK: Madam Chair, proceeding with public testimony. We have established limited telephone interactive communication that enables individuals from Hana, Lanai, and Molokai to provide testimony from the District Offices. Individuals who wish to offer testimony from Hana, Lanai, and Molokai, should now sign up with the District Office staff. Individuals who wish to offer testimony in the chamber, please sign up at the desk located on the eighth floor lobby just outside the chamber door.

Testimony on all locations is limited to the item posted on today's agenda. Pursuant to the Rules of the Council, each testifier is allowed to testify for up to three minutes with one minute to conclude if requested. When testifying, please state your name and the name of the organization you represent.

Madam Chair, we have no requests from the Hana Office, Lanai Office, or the Molokai Office for public testimony. And Madam Chair, we have four individuals who have signed up to provide testimony in the chamber.

The first individual is Steven Cappelli. And Mr. Cappelli will be followed by Mahina Martin.

## TESTIMONY

### MR. GIOVANNI STEVEN CAPPELLI:

Good morning, everybody. My name is Giovanni Steven Cappelli, I'm the owner of Casanova Restaurant in Makawao and the President of the Makawao Merchants Association. I'm here to testify about the appropriation of \$200,000 for Makawao Municipal Parking Lot lights.

Few months ago, we had a meeting of the merchants and they . . . of Makawao and there was a lot of fear in our community. Fear of violence at night, fear of violence to person, and to objects, to cars and, and to buildings. The Maui Police Department was present and confirmed that the case of violence and crimes in Makawao were not a big deal compared with what happen in Kahului, Wailuku, or Kihei.

But they are a big deal for the waiters that goes at night after an eight hour shift and finds the window of cars smashed, or the cook who's tires are, are slashed. Or the merchant that has to close his shop earlier and earlier because he's simply afraid to walk back to the Municipal Parking Lot without lights and to be subject to violence there.

To find this appropriation in the proposed budget has been a reason of satisfaction for us because it feels like we have been listening. When we stop complaining and we start asking, obviously that helps and we have been listening. On the private level, I need to confirm that landlords have been installing lights and video cameras. That we are organizing ourself with the Maui Police Department Neighborhood Watch, and things are happening.

The presence of this line in this budget confirms that direct democracy works. So, please thank you for listening and . . . there. Thank you very much.

CHAIR BAISA: Thank you very much. Members, any need to clarify the testimony. Seeing none, thank you very much.

Mr. Clerk.

COUNTY CLERK: Calling Mahina Martin, to be followed by Valerie Monson.

CHAIR BAISA: Good morning.

MS. MAHINA MARTIN, KA 'OHANA O KALAUPAPA:

Good morning, Chair Baisa, Councilmembers. My name is Mahina Martin. Last month I came before you in support of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa's funding request for a memorial at Kalaupapa. The memorial would honor the thousands sent to Kalaupapa suffering from leprosy and labeled at that time an inmate. The memorial will pay tribute to their courage through humanness and help keep alive their names for generations to come. Thank you for your consideration and support of this project.

As you may recall the Kalaupapa memorial honors the estimated 8,000 people sent there. Those taken to live in exile at Kalaupapa were separated from their parents, spouses and children, taken away by force and fear by a government who believed that they, that that was the only way to deal with a disease brought on by Westerners.

Last month I told you about a story from the year 1918 when patients of Kalaupapa and some of the paid workers accepted their kuleana, their responsibility to support others in need. They gathered among themselves donations ranging, ranging from twenty-five cents, to twelve dollars, a lot of money 96 years ago and it was covered in the newspaper, Ka Nupepa. Ka Nupepa carried the headline that \$248 were collected by this group. The donation was accompanied by a declaration that said that those at Kalaupapa would give to those in need despite their own needs.

I shared with you about the article but today I want to read you the names, just some of those names that gave twenty-five cents to twelve dollars, 96 years ago to help others in need, specifically U.S. soldiers who were at war. You will notice that some of these names are the names of Maui ohana. Kamahana, Freeman, Nailima, Keanu, Texeira, Ah Choy, Kahoolalahala, Kamaka, Holstein, Dowsett, Aiona, Mokuahi, Kalua, Nascimento, Davis, McVeigh, Keliikuli, Dias, Palikapu, Long, Paele.

Even in their difficulty, they gave because others needed. Last month I talked about being a kokua, a healthy person that at that time asked for permission from the State of Hawaii to live on Kalaupapa and helped a love one, sacrificing their own comforts and their own health. Some requests were granted, and some were denied.

So what will a memorial of names mean? And what will that serve? When we are all long gone, we will not have anything more meaningful to leave behind than our name and the memories that we have made as individuals on this earth. The families of those who were exiled to Kalaupapa and lived out their final days and years there, did not have a chance to make the kind of memories most families repeat generation after generation.

As election year approaches, your own names become your memorial. Your own names are posted for those to see and as now kokua of today, we can help make their names known and acknowledge their struggles. And I'll end. By your support you serve as this County's, and this century's kokua for Kalaupapa. To be a kokua for the people of Kalaupapa both present and past, you are able to give back and make something pono from an unjust time in our history. Mahalo nui for your consideration, me ke aloha.

CHAIR BAISA: Thank you very much. Members, any need to clarify the testimony. Seeing none, thank you.

MS. MARTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR BAISA: Mr. Clerk.

COUNTY CLERK: Valerie Monson, to be followed by Mitch Skaggeburg.

MS. VALERIE MONSON, KA `OHANA O KALAUPAPA:

Aloha, Council Chair Baisa and Councilmembers. My name is Valerie Monson, Coordinator for Ka `Ohana O Kalaupapa. I want to thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of the funding for the design and planning of the Kalaupapa Memorial that was approved by the Budget Committee. We especially want to thank Molokai Councilmember Stacy Crivello for taking the lead on this.

We greatly appreciate Budget Chair White and all of the Budget Committee Members for seeing the importance of this memorial, which as Mahina noted will list the names of the estimated 8,000 people who were taken from their families and isolated at Kalaupapa because of government policies regarding leprosy.

Ninety percent of these people were Native Hawaiians. Fewer than a thousand of these individuals have marked graves today, tombstones have faded over the years and others were taken out by the 1946 tsunami.

The Kalaupapa Memorial would return all of these people to their rightful place in history. A history that they helped to create. More than 2,000 of these people, of the people who were sent to Kalaupapa were sent from their homes on Maui, Molokai, and Lanai, so it seems fitting that Maui County wants to do what it can to make sure they are remembered. Many of their families still live among us. It's quite amazing how many of the leaders at Kalaupapa throughout the history from the very beginning until recent times, have come from Maui, Molokai, or Lanai, and had they not been sent away, they most likely would have been leaders here. Maybe they would have been on this Council years ago.

You have heard family members testify over the past two months about how much a memorial will mean to them to be able to see their ancestors name returned to the landscape they were a part of. The impact of the memorial will not be limited to the current generation, it will be a living memorial and will continue in future generations to help families learn about their ancestors and educate the public and school groups about this very important history.

The history of Kalaupapa has been told with a great deal of inaccuracies over the years because it left out the people themselves. We are now having the words of the early residents of Kalaupapa translated from Hawaiian into English and we are learning a more accurate and inclusive version of this history. The Kalaupapa Memorial will greatly help to correct this history and give families a place of healing and pride.

Thank you for your support for this item. When you visit the completed memorial, you should be proud that you were part of bringing it to life. Thank you.

CHAIR BAISA: Thank, thank you. Any need for clarification, Members. Seeing none, thank you.

Mr. Clerk.

COUNTY CLERK: Calling Mitch Skaggeburg, followed by Paul Laub.

CHAIR BAISA: Good morning.

MR. MITCH SKAGGERBURG:

Good morning, Councilmen, Councilwomen, and Council Chair. Excuse me. We're here to support, we were here several weeks ago asking you to supplement the budget, the annual budget, up to \$18,000 from 9,000 for the Veterans Council, Maui Veterans Council. Most of that hike, or addition would go to putting on two special plaques up at the cemetery; one for the World War II and one for the Vietnam Veterans. We start construction today, I understand, up there, on the, on the expansion, and we want to first of all thank many of you who really fought hard to get the appropriations for that.

Today, I want to support Mike White and Don Gu, I apologize for, for this morning, it was a very moving ceremony yesterday up at the cemetery and sometimes its difficult to let that go. And we thank you for being up there. But Don Guzman has suggested that the entire 18,000 go to the Maui County Veterans Council, half of that would be for those two plaques. And Don I understand has a special way of handling the, the request for the Molokai Veterans as well.

We thank you for your continued support. We thank you for seeing you up there yesterday and we ask you to approve this funding. Mahalo.

CHAIR BAISA: Thank, thank you very much. It was our pleasure to be there yesterday, our honor.

Members, any need to clarify? Seeing none, thank you.

MR. SKAGGERBURG: Mahalo.

CHAIR BAISA: Thank you for many . . .

Mr. Clerk.

COUNTY CLERK: Calling Paul Laub, followed by Louis Cambra.

CHAIR BAISA: Good morning.

MR. PAUL LAUB:

Aloha. I'm Paul Laub, and I'm President of the Maui County Veterans Council. Unfortunately what has come to light in the VA world is not pretty. We have some serious problems, not just nationally, but locally as well in taking care of our, our veterans. What we have here is something called CBOC, which is Community Based Outreach Clinic, which is in lieu of having a hospital, it's a clinic for veterans. But, unfortunately its understaffed, and has been understaffed. And it has not been taking care of our people adequately to the extent that you cannot phone in and actually reach a human being. You'll reach a machine in Oahu.

You know, actually, we have a gentleman here who has been volunteering his time to answer the phones down there. What he can do is limited because a lot of it is very personal information so he's not allowed to be, do deal with that. But imagine for a second that somebody is calling in and he's suicidal or he's homicidal, even worse. And you get a machine. This is not tolerable. What has been going on is not tolerable. And, what we don't need is tragedies happening here.

So I want you to also consider that perhaps some of this money may end up going in us reaching out. And part of that outreach is I'm, I'd like to go to see the other counties and the other veterans operations in other counties and see how they are coping. And perhaps we can learn something to improve what we have here.

So, I think, I don't know exactly how to put this, but I think that it behooves us to give some additional care and consideration to the health of our veterans here. We cannot just leave it to the Fed. They can't, they obviously cannot do the job adequately. We can't just leave it to the State, because the State has cutback in the past, our people at the Office of Veterans Services. We need to be proactive here in the County. Thank you very kindly.

CHAIR BAISA: Thank you very much. Members, any need to clarify the testimony? Seeing none, thank you.

MR. LAUB: Thank you.

CHAIR BAISA: Mr. Clerk.

COUNTY CLERK: Calling Louis Cambra.

CHAIR BAISA: Good morning.



MR. LOUIS CAMBRA:

Good morning, Chair Baisa and Councilmembers. I, I'm here as a fill in. I came as a, I'm on the board, the Board of Directors, I'm a Director with the Heritage Hall. However our speaker today was Audrey Guerrero, she's not here so I'm taking her place. All I wanted to ask you is, you've cut our budget in half and I would really like to have it, request that to reconsider and give us some money back, cause right now we only can have enough money for one building and so I'm asking you for your support. If it's possible, please reconsider our first request. Thank you.

CHAIR BAISA: Thank you. Members, any need for clarification? Seeing none, thank you.

Mr. Clerk.

COUNTY CLERK: Madam Chair, there are no further individuals signed up to testify in the Council chamber. If there, if there are any individuals in the chamber or at District Offices who would like to provide testimony, please identify yourself to the appropriate staff and approach the lectern at this time.

CHAIR BAISA: Good morning.

MR. MICHAEL COVICH:

Good morning, Chair. Good morning, Council. I'll go up and fill my paperwork out in a minute.

CHAIR BAISA: Thank you.

MR. COVICH: The first thing I want to do is I want to thank you people--

CHAIR BAISA: Your name please.

MR. COVICH: --for the hard, hard work you did.

CHAIR BAISA: Sir, if you could please--

MR. COVICH: Oh, Michael Covich.

CHAIR BAISA: Thank you.

MR. COVICH: I'm President of the Vietnam Veterans of Maui County, I'm a veterans activist and a concerned citizen. I would like to thank the County Council for the hard work they did in doing this budget. There was a lot of tension, sweat, tears, but you guys did it.

I, I really am thankful for the raise in our, in the County Council's, Maui Veterans Council budget for a number of reasons. You were all up there last, yesterday, at least six of you, the rest were attending your home areas. Just the flower drop alone, the expenses have doubled for us. That's another reason why we need the money. And it's not because of the company, it's because they've been subsidizing us for a couple years and they subsidize, subsidize us again.

Another issue that Paul had mentioned is the problems we're having at the CBOC. I'm one of these people that am kind of fed up with the Veterans Administration, their policies. And, it's almost time to put the Veterans Administration in Oahu on notice of pending liabilities. As you all know when that kind of thing gets tossed around, that costs money.

I would like to be able to use some of this money to consult with a really good attorney that understands the Federal process so we can get the . . . attention in the proper way. Because over the years, the only time we ever had real success with getting changes from them is when we had to spend, oh, it's been ten years now, but at one time I had \$13,000 in personal deposition costs to get the VA off the dime. I can't afford that kind of thing anymore. But we have to have a united community to help us to meet this. So once again, I thank you for the extra money we're getting, we will spend it well. Thank you.

CHAIR BAISA: Thank you. Members, any need to clarify the testimony. Seeing none, thank you.

Mr. Clerk.

COUNTY CLERK: Madam Chair, there is no other individuals in the District Offices or the chamber who wish to offer testimony.

CHAIR BAISA: Mr. Clerk, have we received any written testimony.

COUNTY CLERK: Madam Chair, we have, we have received no written testimonies.

CHAIR BAISA: Members, without objection, can we receive that into the record.

MEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTION.

CHAIR BAISA: Thank you.

Is there anyone in the chamber who would like to testify? Last chance. Seeing no one coming forward, Members, without objection I would like to close public testimony.

MEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTION.

CHAIR BAISA: So ordered.

Mr. Clerk.

COUNTY CLERK: Madam Chair, there is no further business for the Council.

CHAIR BAISA: Members, without further business, this public hearing is adjourned.

### ADJOURNMENT

The public hearing of *MAY 27, 2014*, was adjourned by the Chair at 9:24 a.m.

  
DENNIS A. MATEO, COUNTY CLERK  
COUNTY OF MAUI, STATE OF HAWAII