

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

April 2, 2015

Kihei Community Center

CONVENE: 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Mike White, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Gladys C. Baisa, Member
Councilmember Robert Carroll, Member
Councilmember Elle Cochran, Member
Councilmember Don Couch, Member
Councilmember Stacy Crivello, Member
Councilmember Don S. Guzman, Member
Councilmember Michael P. Victorino, Member (out 7:20 p.m.)

EXCUSED: VOTING MEMBERS:
Councilmember Riki Hokama, Chair

STAFF: Scott Jensen, Legislative Analyst
Kit Zulueta, Legislative Analyst
Raynette Yap, Committee Secretary
Susan Clements, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Don Couch
Adrienne Nalette, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Don Couch
Arthur Suyama, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Stacy Crivello
Troy Hashimoto, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Mike White

ADMIN.: *In the audience:*
John Buck, Executive Assistant I, Office of the Mayor
Mary Kielty, Parks & Recreation District Supervisor III, Department of Parks
and Recreation

OTHERS: Marik Fontanilla
Adele Rugg, Maui Economic Opportunity
Lehuanani Huddleston-Hafoka, Kihei Youth Center
Buck Joiner
Judith Aikawa, Maui Humane Society
Penny Dearborn, HARF, Maui SPCA
Leigh Drewry, Maui Humane Society
Mike Moran, Kihei Community Association
Shannon Sheldon, Maui Humane Society
Bobby Mcgee Lopez, Maui Urban Arts
Larry Shapiro
Michael McCormick, Best Buddies Hawaii
Kent Diaz
William Wandell

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Danny Sevier
Madge Schaefer, Hana Dialysis
Aldo Cavallo
Alisha Cordeiro
Bryan Berkowitz
Chuck Burke
J. Kamiki Carter
Scott Martin, Captain E-6, Department of Fire and Public Safety
Edmund Wong Leong, Fire Fighter I, Department of Fire and Public Safety
Jerry Javier, Fire Fighter I, Department of Fire and Public Safety
Sue Van Blarigan, Feed My Sheep
Michael Elam
Doug McLeod, DKK Properties
J.J. Iuorno
Della Nakamoto
Tova Callender
John Fitzpatrick
James Worley
Alex Haller
Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez
Tricia Wilstead
Others (15)

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: . . .(*gavel*). . . This meeting of the Budget and Finance Committee will please come to order. I'm Mike White the Vice-Chair of the Committee. And I'd like to ask your representative from Kihei to please introduce the rest of the Members. Mr. Couch?

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On my far right is Bob Carroll from the district of Hana. And then from the district of Wailuku is Councilmember Mike Victorino.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: And then from the district of Kula, Councilmember Gladys Baisa. And from our favorite west Maui side, Elle Cochran.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: And as you met Council Chair Mike White, he's also the Vice-Chair of this Committee, so he will be doing the meeting today. And then from Molokai is Councilmember Stacy Crivello. And from Kahului, Councilmember Don Guzman. And I wanna thank everybody for coming tonight. We're gonna be

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taking down all what you have to say; and if we can fit it in, we're gonna certainly work on getting stuff that you want in the Budget. I'm not promising anything, I'm only one of nine; so I'm gonna try and argue the best I can if we can find a place for it. So thanks for coming.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Don. And I'd like to introduce our Committee Secretary, Rayna Yap and Legislative Analyst, Scott Jensen, on this side. And in the back of the room we have Adrienne Nalette and Susan Clements from Don's office. And at the sign-up table we have Troy Hashimoto from my office and Arthur Suyama from Ms. Crivello's office. So please welcome them. And looks like we've got a good number of testifiers this evening, so we'll get right into it. So without any objections, Members, we'll start public testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

**ITEM BF-1: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY
OF MAUI (CC 15-41)**

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: And our first testifier this evening is Marik Fontanilla.

. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

MR. FONTANILLA: Aloha. My name is Mark Fontanilla. Thank you for letting us speak today. I'm testifying on behalf of the Best Buddies program. And I kindly ask you folks to keep funding this program, 'cause I think it's a very good program for kids like my daughter, she's special needs. So it gives them confidence in school to make them feel like they belong with the other students. And it's not only good for her, it's good for the mentors as well; so it's a win-win situation. And this program helped my daughter live one of her dreams. Through Best Buddies, she got to enter the Hawaii Stars contest and she won, so that's a big achievement. And so, yeah, I kindly ask you to help this program. It's a very good program, and it's good for both special needs kids and the mentors. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you for coming tonight. And I think all of us, after listening to Best Buddies and seeing what they've done over the years, all wish that this program had been around when we were in school. So thank you. Our next testifier is Adele Rugg.

MS. RUGG: Good evening and aloha, Councilmembers. I've been watching you on TV today, so it's wonderful to see all of you in person. Welcome to my hood. I'm gonna be very short and sweet. I'm wearing my hat. One of my hats I'm wearing is I'm a board member for MEO, Maui Economic Opportunity, and I just encourage you to continue your awesome support of MEO. You do a wonderful...we do wonderful work for the community, and so we appreciate your support. And also, the other hat I'm wearing,

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I'm on the board of the Kihei Community Association; so just thank you for putting in the Budget—thank you, Don—for our community. Mahalo.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Adele. That was short. Any questions? Members, please let me know if you have questions; otherwise, we'll just keep moving through the testimony. Our next testifier is Lehuanani Huddleston-Hafoka. And I hope that I didn't mess up your name too badly.

MS. HUDDLESTON-HAFOKA: No, that was perfect, thank you. So aloha. My name is Lehuanani Huddleston-Hafoka. I'm the Executive Director of the Kihei Youth Center. I did write something, but I will probably make this maybe not as short as Adele's, but kind of right to the point. I just really, really want to thank the County of Maui and the County Council for allocating, this current fiscal year, \$217,950. And we were extremely humbled and actually quite surprised by the increase that we had received. And we know that—at least we feel that—we're worthy of that increase because we service over 700 kids as of today. It's exactly 703 youth members that we do have as registered members between the ages of eight and eighteen years old. We have been operating since 1983, so we recently celebrated 32 years. I'm here also with my board member Kamiki and I have a coworker here, Emme, as well. But, sorry, kind of when throw me off little bit, so I'm happy that she's here, but I was on a roll. So, Kamiki...I'm just now I'm gonna read off what I wrote; so if you don't mind please. No, no, no, it's all good, I'm glad Kamiki's here. So on behalf of the Kihei Youth Center youth members, staff, board, parents, guardians, and supporters, we'd like to thank the County of Maui for the current Fiscal Year '14-'15 grant in the amount of \$217,950. We were pleasantly surprised and very humbled by the gracious amount that we received. It is our hopes that once again the County of Maui County Council finds our organization worthy of allocating our County's public tax dollars to our organization so that we may be able to continue to serve one of our most vulnerable and precious members of our community, our youth. Through the many challenges that most nonprofits often face, the Kihei Youth Center has been able to provide a safe and nurturing place for the youth of Maui for over 32 years. And this achievement would not be possible if it were not for the County of Maui and our other grantors and donors. And, through this partnership, it is the goal of the Kihei Youth Center to continue to serve our community by perpetuating our mission. For this fiscal year alone, we have served over 700 registered youth members thus far between the ages of eight and eighteen years old. Our daily average has been 120 youth members per day. Through our community partnerships with the Maui Food Bank and the Kihei Lutheran Church, we have provided over 6,000 meals. And that's a combination of breakfast and lunch during vacation periods, and over 21,000 daily snacks. And this is a true number and this is just from July 1st to yesterday. So we are able to provide over 21,000 daily snacks in addition to other needed necessities for our youth members and their families. Through community networking, we have been able to bring in programs that we would otherwise not be able to provide if it were not for people who believe in what we do. MEO Youth Transportation, Rotary Club of Kihei Wailea, UHMCC Nursing Program, NOAA, Kihei Canoe Club, Waste Not Want Not,

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American Red Cross, and the Lahaina Art Association are just a few to name. The fact is that without the County of Maui allowing us to lease their premises that we use and without the much needed funding that you bestowed upon us, Kihei Youth Center would not be as successful as we have been. And because of the yearly grants from the County of Maui, we are able to do what we do best, and that is to provide a safe place for our youth to call their own. So we humbly ask the County of Maui to continue to support the Kihei Youth Center in addition I'd like to also ask that you continue to support MEO and their Youth Transportation program. And, together, I believe that we can make a difference. It says here, together we can, and have all made a difference in our community. So once again, if it wasn't for the County of Maui and our partners, such as MEO and the aforementioned, we would not be as successful as we have been for over 32 years. So I just really wanted to say, mahalo nui loa on behalf of the kids. And, again, humbly ask you to continue supporting our youth centers. So I do have a written...eighteen written testimonies, I think, that was advised to give. So I'll give Raynette?

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Yeah, you can give it to us now. Thank you.

MS. HUDDLESTON-HAFOKA: Okay. So thank you again.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you for your testimony, and thanks for being here this evening. Our next testifier is Buck Joiner.

MR. JOINER: Aloha kakou. Delighted to have you join us here in south Maui. I'd like to talk about the 3 Can Plan. When that was first proposed by the County, I said, it's totally unnecessary. I recycle everything, don't need it. They were gonna try it; and, you know what, we really liked the 3 Can Plan. It makes us feel good. We get to recycle material things, we get to send our green waste off, it saves us trips, and it really works. We are extremely happy with it. As you know, the program was terminated before it was supposed to. And it was supposed to run into July, and it was ended early. They said they ran out of money. Okay. When the cans were going to be picked up, we went to the Mayor and we had a little friendly discussion. And the Mayor said, okay, you guys can keep your cans and we will sharpen our pencils, figure how much it costs and then we'll get back to you. We got the letter back and they said, okay, you can have the 3 Can Plan and it's going to cost you \$22 a month extra. And we're going, are you kidding me? Our bill right now is \$18 a month, and now they want to add \$22 for this. Now, let's just take this apart. Consider the green waste. The green waste goes separate to EKO Compost, right? And then there's no drop-off fee for the County, and the County gets the compost from it. There's no charge to that. You have actually a benefit because you don't have to use the landfill's space, so there's no charge that should be additional. For the recyclables, those, you actually get money for. And I'm not talking about returnables, I'm not talking about the five-cents stuff. I'm talking about the plastics and the cardboard and the paper and all the rest of that. There's some economic return for that. And one of the benefits is that it doesn't go into the landfill; so there's an economic benefit. To come

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back and tell us that it's going to cost you \$22 extra per month is totally ridiculous. It looks to me like it's actually going to be less expensive. So this is not a specific part of your Budget, but would like for you to consider pushing the button to make that happen, to include that. It may be coming from the Administration as a separate item after the Budget, but we'd like to see you incorporate it into this Budget, and we'd like to see that go islandwide. There's something wrong with the analysis –

MR. JENSEN: Three minutes.

MR. JOINER: --from the refuse department, and it just doesn't work. Okay. And that's it. So please consider adding the 3 Can Plan to the Budget. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Our next testifier is Judith Aikawa, and she will be followed by Penny Dearborn.

MS. AIKAWA: Hi, my name is Dr. Judy Aikawa, and I'm a member of the Board of Directors of the Maui Humane Society --

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Yeah, pull it down a little bit.

MS. AIKAWA: --and I'm speaking on behalf of the Humane Society. Thank you to the Council for this opportunity to testify. I'm here, first of all, to thank you for your past support and to ask you to fully fund the animal management contract for the coming year. We're proud of our 30-year partnership with the County which has enabled MHS to serve the people of Maui by providing animal management services for the County. I also want to let you know that under the direction of our new CEO, Jerleen Bryant, wonderful things are happening at the Maui Humane Society, which we feel makes us worthy of your support. Under Jerleen's leadership, we've seen an emphasis on improved customer service, better response times and communication for enforcement issues, improved cooperation between Maui's animal welfare groups, and a multi-faceted approach to improving the number of animal lives that can be saved. The management and staff of the Board of Directors have also participated in a two-day strategic planning workshop, which has enabled us to more clearly define our goals and priorities so that we can better serve the Maui community. We are now hard at work implementing our new, strategic plan. In closing, I thank you again for your past support and hope that you will fully fund the animal management contract. By working together, the Maui Humane Society and Maui County can provide the best animal management services for our community. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Dr. Aikawa. Next testifier is Penny Dearborn, and she'll be followed by Leigh Drewry.

MS. DEARBORN: Good evening. Thank you for all being here. I'm hear about the SNIP program. I'm actually here for the SPCA. I'm the President of Hawaii Animal Rescue Foundation. We're a no-kill here on the island. And this is gonna affect us as much it

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is anyone else. People on the island have started using, over the use, Maui Humane Society and groups like myself as their birth control. They just have puppies and then dump 'em with us or kittens and dump 'em with us rather than fixing them, because it's become so expensive on this island to do this kind of thing. I don't know about you, but if I had two dogs and it was gonna cost me \$750 a piece to get them fixed, I'd let 'em have puppies, and that's exactly what's happening here. The SNIP program, on the other hand, is helping people to be able to afford this. It's keeping the veterinarians interested, it's helping defray some of the costs that they're absorbing. It's just, you know, birth control over here is just not happening. So we need to keep this program going. It's affecting me, I mean we use the SNIP program, also, for our animals that are dumped with us. We need to get to the point that 10 o'clock at night on Christmas Eve...and I get called for three babies that are found out in the pouring rain for a dog that's had her fifth litter in four years and they can't catch her or the parents can't afford to fix her. So if we keep this going...I gave you each a copy of this—Diana Custer, we all know her and her guides—and basically, I'm just gonna touch the five points at the bottom. It says, increase the SNIP funding to 135,000; keep SPCA Maui on the job administering the program at no cost to the County; keep the program operational by requiring 50 percent of the funding be released to the SPCA Maui by August 15, in time for the first SNIP reimbursement cycling; allow unused funds to carry over into the following year. If there's any unused funds, I'll eat my shoe. That happened one year because they didn't have the funding to keep it going. It's really, really, really important that they know that when they put the money out, it's coming back. I mean none of us can afford to just put it out for the heck of it and say, gee, I hope it comes. It's not going to happen guys. I don't know about you, but I hate the thought of animals being put down just because there isn't any more space, because somebody's just tired of them; and this is definitely going to help. Thank you for your time.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Ms. Dearborn. And Leigh Drewry will be followed by Mike Moran.

MS. DREWRY: Hi everybody. How's it going? Thank you for coming --

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Come a little closer to the microphone.

MS. DREWRY: --thank you for coming --

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: There you go.

MS. DREWRY: --and seeing us this evening in Kihei. My name is Leigh Drewry. I'm also testifying on behalf of the Maui Humane Society. I'm a current board member. I think Dr. Aikawa's talk...hit on most of the major things. But I did want to share with you a little bit. That one of the reasons why we have a...well, we have a renewed focus on saving more lives, and it has started to pay off for us. We're proactively preventing unwanted pregnancies by offering low-cost spay and neuter surgeries for owned pets

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on the island. Speaking of saving more animals, we're excited to share that our live release rate for dogs during the month of February was 89 percent; that makes three months in a row where our live release for dogs was over 80 percent. And, typically, we hovered previously around 65 percent. So that's a combination of our spay-neuter programs, some of our transfer programs that we've implemented, et cetera. We also saw a bump in live release for tame cats. What do we owe this success to? Basically, our staff are amazing and dedicated volunteers and our transfer partners. I've got one more thing on this other page right here. Members of our community who've taken the pledge to spay and neuter their own dogs and share the message with their family and their friends. It does take a village. And what we'd like for you guys to do—we wanna thank you for your support in the past—and please fully fund our animal management contract for the upcoming year. Thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Ms. Drewry.

MS. DREWRY: You're welcome.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Mike Moran will be followed by Shannon Sheldon.

MR. MORAN: Aloha, Chair White and Councilmembers. Mike Moran testifying as a concerned individual, first, before offering testimony for Kihei Community Association—thank you, I couldn't have managed that—speaking just for myself, very briefly, please support funding for the animal welfare to the appropriate nonprofits. It's pono and practical. Mahalo. Okay. So to be clear, I now have my KCA hat on so we know I am switching now speaking as the President of the Kihei Community Association, for the Association. Two Points. One, please support the funding for the gym. If you have any doubt of this need, please check with the single member of the Council who has been most vocal over the past several years--and this is not the south Maui one--but it is Mr. Victorino. Thank you very much, Mike, for your long-time vocalizing to everyone, Kihei is the only place without a gym. So we really do need that. The second point, when we submitted testimony several months ago to the Administration in this very room, we limited our request to filling the missing segments of the north-south collector road and for more continuous sidewalks and bicycle paths. So when we saw the sizable increase in the total of the 2016 Budget, we expected some of this would be fulfilled. We were disappointed that the CIP, which included many of the needs, aren't only for over the next six years but manini for the 2016 Budget. As we have the same eight Members as we did one year ago, you may recall I donned this same hat in requesting support for safe, walkable, bikeable south Maui. For emphasis, I gave the tragic example of the loss of life of Karl Hagen, runned down in a marked bicycle lane on the highway just south of here. Now, having just attended the pretrial for the driver yesterday, we reflect if his loss of life has generated any changes; and unfortunately conclude, no. Yes, this incident was on a State road, not County. But do we say, well, let's wait till we have another tragedy on a County road before progressing on this front. Borrowing from the deceased, Mr. Hagen's family and friends, we respectfully say, we are here for Karl. In his memory, we

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respectfully request progress in making south Maui a safe location to walk and bicycle. We commend Councilmember Guzman for his efforts in this area in 2014 advocating support of the Central Maui Pedestrian Bicycle Plan for 2030. Our community is looking for this type of support for south Maui. Councilmember Couch, on your radio program, at the end of it, on Tuesday, you heard Jack Gist advised, at the conclusion of the radio show, that South Kihei Road is totally unsafe for bicyclists. How do we rectify this situation in our community? Mahalo.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Moran. Our next testifier will be Shannon Sheldon followed by Bobby Mcgee Lopez.

MS. SHELDON: Good evening, my name is Shannon Sheldon, I'm Vice-Chair for Maui Humane Society. I'm asking you today to fully fund the management contract between the County of Maui and Maui Humane Society. It was touched upon by other testifiers today. Maui Humane Society is in dire need of the monies. In particular, the staff could definitely be increased as to the spay and neutering program as far as the vets and the vet techs, which is one of the primary control systems for Maui Humane Society in keeping overpopulation of animals down. So, again, in conclusion, if you would please fully fund the management contract between the County of Maui and Maui Humane Society, we greatly appreciate it. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Ms. Sheldon.

MR. LOPEZ: Aloha.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Mr. Lopez will be followed by Larry Shapiro.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: You know what, give it to them, they gotta stamp it that's why.

MR. LOPEZ: Aloha. So Maui is a very beautiful place and...

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Your name?

MR. LOPEZ: Oh, I'm sorry. Bobby Mcgee Lopez.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Okay.

MR. MCGEE LOPEZ: Yes, my name is Bobby Mcgee Lopez. And Maui is a very beautiful place and I think that that's a big reason why most of us live here. It's at the top of the list, if not. And when that beauty is threatened, it's very noticeable here. One of the threats to that beauty is graffiti, which is becoming more prominent on the island. And there's a lot of ways that you can go about dealing with graffiti. You can continue to cover it up, you can call the police and try to track the people down who did it, you can prosecute those people. You can do a lot of these things which takes a lot of time

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and money, and the perpetrators are usually the youth. The age range between 12 and 19 are usually the ones who are doing the graffiti. And this really is just a creative expression of the youth. And we want our youth to express themselves creatively, but we also want them to have a directed form that's a bit more positive. So this program hits both of those. What it does is it allows me to create a program that utilizes youth, teaches them the difference between graffiti art, mural art, and fine art. We work together to create murals in areas that are graffiti hot spots; and those hot spots are all over the island. They're on the highway, they're on private property, they're on houses, they're on shipping containers; you've seen it. So it affects all of us. And when we drive around and we see it, it is a blight. It's something that is omnipresent. Things like the World War II bunker along the highway, on the sugar cane factory. You see it every day if you drive that, and it's been there for a long time. Now, whose responsibility is this? There is nobody's responsibility. I'd like to take responsibility for this, and I'd like to integrate the youth into that process. I've done this in other cities around the nation. I came to Maui specifically to do this because I saw a need for it, and I understand that there's a lot of creativity but a lot of need to help some of the youth here through some of those processes. And I've found that communities rally around these projects more than any other project I've seen. It integrates the keiki all the way from elementary school to middle school, high school, college, it doesn't matter, all of them have something to offer; and, as a professional artist, I can help guide them through that process and we can create something that's very beautiful, harmonious with the Hawaiian environment. Now I'd like to start this here on this island, but eventually I'd like it to be a Maui County project so that we can spread this art throughout.

MR. JENSEN: Three minutes.

MR. MCGEE LOPEZ: Thank you very much for taking the time to take a look. If you have any questions, then you can contact me on my website there. Aloha.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Lopez. Larry Shapiro will be followed by Michael McCormick.

MR. SHAPIRO: Thank you very much for coming to Kihei, and thank you for your time today. I wanted to talk about the --

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Your name please?

MR. SHAPIRO: --oh, sorry, Larry Shapiro --

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Okay, thank you.

MR. SHAPIRO: --the 3 Can curbside recycling program in the context of the 2016 Budget. The community really needs your help, and I'll get to that in a minute. About two-and-a-half years ago, there was a three can—as you probably know—a three-can, pilot

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program started in Maui Meadows and Kihei for curbside recycling. It was prematurely canceled in February. The County claimed that the program wasn't successful and was too expensive and that they needed to use the money to hire staff for the landfill. The truth is, the program was extremely popular and all objective evidence proves its success. The actual cost of the program has been a moving target. With County figures ranging from \$44 a year per household to \$70 a year. In January, the Department of Environmental Management head, Kyle Ginoza, on multiple occasions, confirmed that the cost was \$70 a year, which works out to about \$5.83 a month. At a Maui Meadows Neighborhood Association meeting, also in January, Mr. Ginoza again confirmed that the cost was \$70. Neighbors overwhelmingly indicated at that meeting, they would be willing to pay the \$5.83 to keep the curbside recycling service alive instead of canceling it. Mr. Ginoza refused. He said that the neighborhood association members didn't understand budgets. This triggered a huge grassroots effort and campaign to block the pickup of the recycling bins, which had been scheduled by the County. We knew that if the cans were picked up, there'll probably never be an opportunity to restart the recycling program again. The County was flooded with calls and a petition with about 3,000 signatures, gathered islandwide, presented to the Mayor; at which point, he agreed to halt the bin pickup and to reevaluate the plan. Last week, the County announced a new number for the cost. It's not \$5.83, according to the Department of Environmental Management, but a whopping \$22 a month, or \$264 a year. It's interesting that only when the community appeared willing to contribute, the cost only quadrupled. There's been no transparency on this issue whatsoever; so it's no wonder that many members of the community have lost confidence in what the Department of Environmental Management says.

MR. JENSEN: Three minutes.

MR. SHAPIRO: The real tragedy is that this may kill not just the 3 Can pilot, but any chance for islandwide recycling. So our ask is that the Council, as part of the Budget process, do whatever you can to have 3 Can become a reality, include it in the Budget, and investigate exactly how the newest cost figures were determined. Doing so is critical to restoring a sense of trust in our local government. Oahu has a very successful program serving 160,000 households there and they've been doing it islandwide since 2011 at a very low cost. Thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Shapiro.

MR. McCORMICK: Aloha. My name is Mike McCormick. I'm the State Director of Best Buddies Hawaii. Thank you Vice-Chair White and fellow Councilmembers for coming to our community tonight to listen to concerns of a lot of great citizens out here willing to tell you what our needs are. One of the organizations that I am the State Director of. I've been privileged since 2008 to be in charge of the Best Buddies program here in Hawaii. And, over the years, I've had the privilege of working with thousands of kids at our schools. I wanted to make the Council aware, currently, we have eight schools

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in the program. Our newest school is Iao School that I've been working for to try and get that started, and we had a donor put up the money to start that program just recently. So I was there two days ago and have recruited the teachers that will be running the program and interviewed some students. So that'll make eight schools now here on Maui. Once again, just to be brief, this is a really important program. A lot of the kids with disabilities cannot be out here advocating on behalf of themselves; so we will have some of their peers at some of the other meetings around the island testifying on behalf of the program. And I ask you to just please support the Mayor's request for Best Buddies. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mr. McCormick. Our next testifier is Kent Diaz followed by William Wandell.

MR. DIAZ: Hi. My name is Kent Diaz, and it's really good to be here and meet you guys, all the Councilmembers. I'm here on behalf of MEO. And I like also to ask you guys to continue your guys' generous support for the rental assistance and B.E.S.T. program. And I also have here a Director of MEO, Mr. Gerry. Without his help, I don't know, I would not survive, you know. I also have, like, family back home that I need to support, so I kind of manage to save my budget and I started, also, help pay my grandma's life insurance. And also, you know, it's really good to have this kind program because otherwise, there would be no hope, you know, for others out there that having a hard time financially. So especially, you know, this year is really hard. But, with this program, I ask you guys to continue support, support them. Thank you, mahalo.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Diaz. And Mr. Wandell will be followed by Danny Sevier. I'm not sure if I'm pronouncing that right. Please proceed.

MR. WANDELL: Hello Maui County Councilmembers. My name is William Wandell, and I'm here on behalf of the nonprofit organization, Feed My Sheep for the funding that they're requesting. I don't know how much they need and all that, but I do know what I've experienced as a volunteer over the last...I think it's been about five years that I've been volunteering almost every Saturday here in Kihei. I don't come on Saturdays because I need something to do on the one day I have off, it's because I've seen a lot of people, a lot of lives changed, a lot of testimonies. People come to me...people come to a lot of us, but I've heard, specifically me, lives that have been touched by us. Our motto is, the community helping feed the needy in body, mind, and spirit. I'm actually able to pray with a lot of the people that come to us for the help. And, through that, I've had a lot of people tell me about, after we prayed with them, loved ones that have gotten off drugs and, you know, they found housing, and just lives have improved. That's why I do it every Saturday is because I want to be a part of that, I wanna see changes. It helps me to realize that it's not quite as bad of a place as I sometimes think it is, out here. So I just ask that you would really consider the request for funding, because it does help the community. Thank you.

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VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you for what you do, Mr. Wandell. And, Mr. Sevier--you may have to help me with your last name, but--will be followed by Madge Schaefer.

MR. SEVIER: Good evening, everybody, my name's Danny Sevier. That's how you pronounce it. Anyway, I'm here on behalf, as a citizen here in Maui County—and I live here through the grace of God—and I want to thank the people here on the board which are here to listen tonight, because there's a wonderful group here called Feed My Sheep. What they do? They give people food that don't have food. They get 'em guidance that need guidance, but they give it through peace and love, and they reach out to the people of the community. They also are an integral part that picks up and fills the gap for all the other agencies that people cannot do. But they're very faithful, they're there, and they humbly do it. Also, too, they have progressed to where they now got three vans, a flatbed truck, and a refrigerated truck; which is a great asset to our community. They hit here in Kihei and through the whole island every week. And I was just thinking the other day, if we have a disaster...which, you know, I live here in Kihei and every time them great sirens go off, I see everyone running for the mountain. And it's...really, I'm serious, you know, and it's like everyone's just running mad going nutso. And I'm thinking, well, they gotta do one thing, they gotta eat. We all gotta eat, and guess what? There ain't places to eat when everything's shut down. 'Cause I watch the gas station within the first so many hours, everything on them shelves get emptier and emptier, and I'm thinking, alright, then the gas goes. And then within after about the first twelve hours, everyone's really, really on edge, which is natural. Here in America, there's over 50 million people in America on Food Stamps program; it's everyone's problem. We're all...we all eat every day, we have to, we have to do that to survive. Reason why I'm here is because these people are reaching out for whatever they can to help the people. They're not a corporation, but they reach out with dignity to the people, you know, and I don't have to even know these people that, you know, we live in a place that where they really care. As well as you came out here in the evening, you know, most people, you know, 5 o'clock, we're out of here, you know. But, no, because we all care 'cause this is Maui, it's a special place. But I was just focusing on, if a disaster hits, these people are going to be there to help us. What happens if they have no food to give? You know, just I don't have it. And I know, like, you all don't either 'cause that's a lot. I was thinking right at just 149,000 people in Maui County, if you could get just \$1 out of everyone, that's \$149,000, or \$2, or whatever the amount is. But whatever it is, it'd be great, a least to do what we can. 'Cause if everyone pitches in, 'cause this is a village and we all need. Because I receive help from them. Even though I get Food Stamps, you know, there's times where it's not enough, food continually goes up and up and up, as we all know. But not necessarily, you know, when you're on fixed incomes, things don't really go up, 'cause they give it to you in this hand and they take it away on that hand for some reason. But, you know, we all know there's just great needs. Like, I just heard here in Maui County that they had to cut the budget for the hospital for \$28 million. Right now, in two days, I have to fly to the Mainland, you know, for a treatment to see if I got cancer or not, they can't do it here.

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MR. JENSEN: Three minutes.

MR. SEVIER: So...is it up? Well, pardon me. Anyway, it's a great need and these people have been very faithful fulfilling it for many years here in the community, and I support them and I hope you do, too. And thank you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Sevier. And Madge Schaefer will be followed by Aldo Cavallo.

MS. SCHAEFER: Mr. Chairman, with your permission, I hope that I could have one minute at the end to...a personal comment, because right now I'm speaking on behalf of Hui Laulima O Hana, which operates the Hana dialysis house. I have sent a letter to all of you, and I'd like to read it briefly so that we have it also in the record. We're pleased and grateful to see that our grant request is in the Mayor's Proposed Budget. The dialysis home has faced many challenges in the past year. Previous County grants have covered dialysis technicians' salaries only, which are just slightly above minimum wage, because that's all they can afford. While the balance of operating costs have been met with fundraisings such as garage sales, car washes, and volunteer labor to do maintenance and upkeep. In previous years, successful fundraising and Hana community support, allowed us to create a reserve to be used in emergencies. We received about six weeks' notice from Liberty Dialysis when a new dialysis patient is coming from Hana. We're advised that there may be a certain number of patients in the pipeline, but that number changes often. This really complicates budgeting. An emergency arose this past year due to patient load increase and the necessity to add an additional dialysis tech per the requirements of our contract with Liberty Dialysis. The increase in salaries and the corresponding fringe costs wiped out our emergency reserve fund. Grant quarterly payments were delayed leaving the Hui Laulima O Hana scrambling to cover utility bills and taxes. We did submit a request for a larger grant this year in order to ensure continued operation of the dialysis home. It will allow us time to rebuild our operating emergency fund through fundraising. However, if we receive additional patients this year, we may be faced with having to turn down those new patients because of a budget shortfall. We would respectfully request the Council consider earmarking \$25,000 for the Hana dialysis home to be tapped only if there is an additional patient load that requires additional dialysis tech or a substantial increase in tech hours. I have spoken with Budget Director, Sandy Baz, regarding this potential earmarking, and he felt it was a good way to address our unique problem. I also really appreciate Councilmember Carroll's assistance with this. He is truly a friend of the dialysis center. The dialysis home continues to be a model, rural operation that provides outstanding care to its patients. The road Hana, while beautiful, becomes a treacherous, triple-weekly trip for those Hana residents needing dialysis if this dialysis facility were to close.

MR. JENSEN: Three minutes.

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MS. SCHAEFER: We appreciate your consideration for our request.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: We'll give you one more minute to make your other comment.

MS. SCHAEFER: Alright. What I would...I'd like to speak for myself, and that is to say, as a resident of Kihei, we appreciate you coming. I'd also like to say that I think Councilmember Couch has done an outstanding job for Kihei. He is everywhere. He is where, before, we only knew our Councilmember because of his picture, we never saw him. Don is everywhere, and he does a good job for Kihei. He listens, he has been very open with us. We appreciate Don.

MR. JENSEN: Four minutes.

MS. SCHAEFER: He does, I think...

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Okay. I didn't know that...I didn't know it was going to be a paid, political announcement.

MS. SCHAEFER: No, you know, I am not one for faint praise. And I think Don does deserved to be recognized. All of you, all of you certainly are good stewards -

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Okay.

MS. SCHAEFER: --for your districts.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Don has a question for you.

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: And I had a question before she said that. Thank you, Madge. You had asked for a \$25,000 earmark, is that on top of the 82,000 that is already in the Budget?

MS. SCHAEFER: Yes. So basically what's happened, in the past five years—and last year, too—the money from the County only goes for salary, it doesn't even cover fringe. So their fundraising efforts are monumental for this little town. People are so motivated, in what they can't pay for, they get people to volunteer to do. Like me, I don't know how I...was the right place at the wrong time I think. But it's such...it is really something to admire, the way they go about solving their problems in Hana. So what's happening is, they're done, I mean they have no money left. I talk to utilities, I talk to the County, because the water bill was overdue; and we were able when the grant finally came through to pay those bills off. But this year...

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: I think you've...

MS. SCHAEFER: Wait, I'm getting to it, it just takes me a little longer.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: But we've given you much more time than anybody else.

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MS. SCHAEFER: But Don's...to answer your question, yes, Don, on top, because they need some breathing room to catch up so they can restore that emergency fund, 'cause they're done.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Okay. Thank you very much. Any other questions? Seeing none, thanks for being here this evening.

MS. SCHAEFER: Thank you.

MR. CAVALLO: Hi. My name is Aldo Cavallo.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: And after Mr. Cavallo...

MR. CAVALLO: Thank you for being here tonight. In behalf of MEO, Enlace Hispano, thank you for supporting the program. I live in Kihei for five years. Enlace Hispano helped the community in many ways I know for a fact, because they helped me with the translation of letters...and others. Please continue supporting the program. We need Enlace Hispano to go on. Thank you for your time.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you for being this evening.

MR. CAVALLO: No questions?

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: I don't see any, thank you very much. Our next testifier is Cheryl Gowadia; she will be followed by Alisha Cordeiro. Last call for Cheryl Gowadia. Okay. Alisha Cordeiro? And Alisha will be followed by Bryan Berkowitz.

MS. CORDEIRO: Hello. My name is Alisha Cordeiro. My daughter, Leila Cordeiro, attends MEO Headstart.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Could you get a little closer to the microphone?

MS. CORDEIRO: Okay. My name is Alisha Cordeiro. My daughter, Leila Cordeiro, attends MEO Headstart, Kihei Center. Thank you for funding the program. Please continue to fund the program so more families and children can have the same opportunity as my daughter. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you. And Bryan Berkowitz will be followed by Chuck Burke.

MR. BERKOWITZ: Hi. My name is Bryan Berkowitz. Thank you for coming here tonight. I'm here on behalf...well, asking to continue supporting the MEDB, Maui Economic Development Board. I, myself, am a software engineer. I actually moved to Maui almost ten years ago to work in the software industry here. It's small, but thriving, in the Kihei Tech Park. All throughout the island, freelancers and independent

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contractors. Maui Economic Development Board brings much needed support to the local tech industry. Also, with everything they do with the STEM education for kids, that's greatly needed opportunities there. So I ask that you continue to support MEDB. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Bryan. And Chuck Burke will be followed by Kamiki Carter.

MR. BURKE: My name is Chuck Burke. Thank you very much for taking the time to come down tonight. You guys have quite a challenge in front of you. I am also here to testify here on behalf of Maui Economic Development Board. I've been able to take a small tech startup within a year and a half from nothing into a thriving business because of the support I receive from Maui Economic Development. What this does is help you guys with the tax base so you can fund all of these wonderful programs. What Maui Economic Development has done for myself and several other people in the tech industry is provide meeting rooms, education, and networking opportunities to help us grow our skills, to help us build technology to help the businesses of Maui grow. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Burke. And Kamiki Carter will be followed by --

MS. CARTER: My exercise today.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: --she'll be followed by Scott Martin.

MS. CARTER: Aloha e, County Members. Mahalo for being here. My name is Kamiki Carter. Please come with me on a little journey as I take you with me in playing different roles in my life. As a board member for the Kihei Youth Center, mahalo to all of you for your continued support for the Kihei Youth Center and MEO transportation. Through your funding, as Lehua shared earlier, children have a safe and nurturing place to go to after school and on intercessions. As a Kihei Community member, I'd like to mahalo you for your support with the south Maui gym. Being one of the people who attended the gym-planning meeting, I am very hopeful and excited to know that the gym will be a place our keiki will be able to go to with their volunteer coaches and participate in positive, organized activities. Please support that efforts and make the dream come alive. And now, as a mother, mahalo or supporting Best Buddies thus far and please continue to support them because my son, Makaiwa, who has special needs, has been blessed to have participated in this program and looks forward to participating every month and every year. I can go on and on, but I think we all tired on just that short journey we just went on. So I want to humbly say, mahalo to all of you for your individual roles you play in advocating for the various agencies and also the role you play as a team. Through your hard work and commitments, Maui County will continue to thrive, imua. Aloha.

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VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Ms. Carter. Scott Martin will be followed by Edmund Wong Leong.

MR. MARTIN: Hello everybody. My name is Scott Martin. I'm a captain down here at the Kihei Fire Station. I've come here today to ask you for your support with our Fire Chief's budget that he's turned in to you folks. In order for us to operate safely in the community, I'm sure you all have done your research over the years, you've been in this position for a while. Without the budget that he submits, we won't be able to do our job properly. So I'd like to thank you guys. We have a brand new fire engine in Wailea. So the community has a very valuable piece of equipment there that will do the job very well for us. Appreciate your guys' support on the new equipment that's been coming in. We ask you to continue for your support on new equipment that is needed. Based on a standard that we follow, this NFPA 1901—NFPA is National Fire Protection Academy—and they write standards and guidelines for the fire departments to follow, nationwide—and based on that standard, they say every 10 to 15 years, you should get a new vehicle and replace the old vehicle. Around that time, 12 to 15 years, vehicles start to fall apart. And that's where it becomes less cost saving to continue to repair vehicles than it is to replace them. Currently, our Engine 6 that we have for this area is out being repaired. It's been in repair off and on this whole past year. I'm not sure how Chief does the budget, but if you were to look at maintenance records on Ladder 14 on Engine 6 and any other vehicle that is reaching that timeframe, you would see how much more frequently they're going in for maintenance. And we have a very good maintenance crew and we appreciate the support for the extra mechanic and the secretary that you guys have appointed for them, because we are able to get our trucks in and out much faster than we did in the past. So, on behalf of our Chief, on behalf of our community, I'd like to thank you guys for your support; and I'd like to ask that you please consider the Chief's budget. And I'd like to thank you. You know, everybody over here, my daughter goes on the MEO bus to Kihei Community Center. I ride the bike to work sometimes on South Kihei Road, so I know how dangerous that is. South Kihei Road is always having problems, it's a old road and never was widened and we always having sewer problems and water problems. And so, like Mr. Moran said, it's something that needs to be evaluated. And maybe that collector bypass road is something that we need. So, as a resident down here, I appreciate Mr. Couch for all you do for us. And all of you guys', thank you very much. Have a good evening.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Martin. And Mr. Leong will be followed by Jerry Javier.

MR. LEONG: Aloha. I'm Fire Fighter Wong Leong from the Wailea Fire Station. I'd like to just thank the Council for supporting our apparatus replacement program. As Captain Martin said, it was based off the NFPA 1901, which recommends trucks be replaced every 10 to 15 years. And with that being said, being stationed in Wailea, I'd like to thank the Council for getting us a new engine in Wailea. Our old Engine 14 was about 12 to 13 years old and it did have its problems. It would be taken out of

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service and we would have to use a old fire engine. Also like to just thank you guys for supporting our overall budget. Thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Wong Leong. Mr. Javier will be followed by Sue Van Blarigan. Sorry I messed that up, but you can correct me when you come up.

MR. JAVIER: Good evening.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Good evening.

MR. JAVIER: My name is Jerry Javier. I am a Fire Fighter I, Maui Fire Department down in Wailea. I'm also a 20 year resident of south Maui. And I'm stationed at the Ladder 14 in Wailea, now about 12 years. And so I've been a direct beneficiary of your foresight in the Council. I really wanna thank you guys for looking ahead and having the big picture when it comes to, you know, emergency services here on Maui. And I was reminded of that especially as my fellow fire fighters just announced that when we...earlier this month we dedicated our brand new truck. And it's brand new, state of the art pumper that will really serve our community well. You know, we can already tell how good of a vehicle it is. And so I'm looking at this, you know, this amazing vehicle and...or dedicating it and we also started to train on it already. And I can attest how much of a confidence booster, a piece of equipment like that gives every single fire fighter. And it is living proof that, you know, the principal that having the best training equipment and programs in the Department allows for, what they call, a minimum amount of people to do the maximum amount of work; and that's very helpful. One of the most gratifying things I've ever experienced as a fire fighter--and I think I speak for my brothers here--is when people from the community just come up to us randomly just to thank us for what we do; it's one of the best feelings we could ever have. And one of the things I've noticed with speaking to these people is that the vast majority of these people who are so thankful to us have never actually used 911, have never actually had to, you know, call the Fire Department to help them out for any kind of emergency. And what that really tells me is that they understand that the primary job of the Fire Department isn't just to respond to emergencies, it's to be prepared and ready to respond to emergencies. And that's why we're so thankful that you folks have supported us all these years with the best possible stuff that we could ask for; and as well as the payroll, I know that's a big deal as well. And so thank you guys for that. And in closing, I just want to say, again, with speaking to all these neighbors of ours, when we think about the pursuit of happiness and improving our lives which is basically what the government is here to do, it is so much easier to pursue happiness when you know that when you go to sleep and you wake up in the morning, not only will we be there to respond, but we'll be there with the best possible equipment and training that the nation has to offer. So thank you very much, appreciate your time.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Javier. And, Sue, I'll let you pronounce your name.

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MS. VAN BLARIGAN: Sue Van Blarigan. I'm here to speak on behalf of Feed My Sheep, which is requesting some funding. I can only speak as a volunteer. For the last ten years, I've worked with Feed My Sheep. I know they go on all parts of the island. I'm familiar with the Kihei. And I know that in Kihei we don't have as many families as Wailuku and some of the other locations, but we do have homeless that depend on little food...not little, but on the food that we give them. And, also, we have a number of seniors who are on that limit where they have just enough to pay for housing and for part of their needs, but they can't make it the whole month. So these people are depending on the food that Feed My Sheep is able to provide for them. We get a lot of returns, we get customers that come every week, and then we get some that only come when they really need it. And we do build community, and they do care about each other. If somebody doesn't show up, the other ones will try to find out what happened to them that they didn't show up. So Feed My Sheep is a very great organization that does serve the community, and I just encourage you to consider funding them this year. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much for being here this evening. The next testifier is Michael Elam, and he'll be followed by Doug McLeod.

MR. ELAM: Aloha. My name's Michael Elam. And thank you, Council, very much for coming tonight and listening to testimony from the community. I'm here to testify in support of the Maui Economic Development Board, MEDB. One of the hats that I wear is a leader and organizer for the Maui Social Media User Group, known as Maui SMUG. And it was formed to provide an organized forum for people on Maui to meet regularly and talk about social media, which is a vast area: Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest, Google+, and I can go on and on. The purpose of our meeting is to provide a fun and non-threatening environment for people here on Maui to share what they know about social media and discuss ideas and successes and challenges and learn from each other. We meet regularly, once a month, at MEDB's Malcolm Center in Kihei. And MEDB provides us with meeting rooms. In addition to that, education opportunities, not only in the area of social media, but a vast number of other areas as well. And also provides a nice networking capability, too. The meetings generally include 20 to 30 people from a wide variety of backgrounds including realtors, retailers, IT professionals, journalists, artists, and musicians, and people serving the visitor and hospitality industry. I've had the pleasure to attend a number of MEDB's education opportunities that they provide to the community, and found them to be very valuable and they're very, very well attended. And I thank you very much for your support of MEDB. Mahalo.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Mr. Elam. And Doug McLeod will be followed by J.J. Iuorno.

MR. McLEOD: Chair White, Councilmembers, my name is Doug McLeod, and my wife and I own a business around the corner on Wai Wai Place. Thanks for coming down here to

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Kihei. I'm also a former County employee and active in the energy space. I'm here tonight to testify in support of your continued funding for MEDB. And I know you've had a number of people talk to you about how they're active in other business areas, particularly the tech areas. I wanted to just mention two things related to the energy space. First, we recently did the Maui Energy Conference for the second year, and I think it's fair to say, it's become either the leading or one of the leading events in the state and it simply would not have happened, or at least would not have happened with good execution without MEDB. And so I wanted to just emphasize that that organization has really become important as far as making Maui a place that's prominent in the energy field in Hawaii. The second thing I wanted to point out is that Maui, now, has the highest EV, electric-vehicle density, in the world, as far as we know. And if you think about MEDB's involvement in projects like JUMPSmartMaui and getting the EV chargers, you know, going around the County, it's hard to believe that we would have reached those kinds of levels without their involvement. So, again, I just...these are areas that the general public may not be as aware of, and I just wanted to step up tonight and say that in the energy sector, MEDB is really just a critical presence. So thank you, and thank you for coming down to Kihei.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: It's nice to see you, Doug.

MR. McLEOD: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thanks for being here. And J.J. will be followed by Della Nakamoto.

MR. IUORNO: Good evening. My name is J.J. Iuorno. Thank you very much for visiting Kihei. And my main concern tonight was to testify on behalf of MEO, the Enlace Hispano, that provides me with documentation, notarization that I need to submit to my country twice a year, and they do an excellent job and they do it for free. So I want to emphasize that. I'm also a Kihei resident, south Maui resident for the past 22 years, and I have seen a continued attrition of public parking in order to access the beaches. And Wailea is becoming almost completely for the tourists, and there is no form...or there is form to access the beaches to a certain degree, but the public parking ends at 8 o'clock. And every time there is less and less and less parking and more restrictions like what is happening now with the Shops at Wailea. And the way they're cutting the road to pass to the beach from the Marriott. So I just want to express that because it's been obvious in the 22 years that I find myself sometimes having to do complicated maneuvers in order to go to the beach. Also, as a Maui Meadows resident, I have enjoyed the possibility of recycling and that is something that worked very, very well and I want to emphasize that it would be wonderful if we could continue in that way. That is all. Thank you very much, good evening.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Iuorno. Ms. Nakamoto will be followed by Tova Callender.

MS. NAKAMOTO: Good evening.

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VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Good evening.

MS. NAKAMOTO: Thank you very much for this opportunity. My name is Della Nakamoto. . . .*(clears throat)*. . . Sorry, this is my first time. I'm here in support of funding for the nonprofit organization, Feed My Sheep. Feed My Sheep has been addressing hunger in Maui community for many years helping Maui families islandwide, including the people from my small community. Sorry.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Take your time.

MS. NAKAMOTO: I've been in Toastmasters many times, and I am...I'm still a cry baby. Anyway, I'm from the Marshall Islands in Micronesia, and we are located...my islands are located in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. We are categorized as Pacific Islanders. Feed My Sheep has been helping a lot of my people. Well, not my people, people from my community. So sorry, I'm gonna use up my three minutes. A lot of the people from my country come here to seek better education, better paying jobs. We...our minimum wage in my country alone is \$2 an hour; and so you can imagine making over \$7 an hour here, minimum wage. We're also here to seek medical assistance. The problem with our people is, there's a language barrier. And so Feed My Sheep's really helping us during this transition period of our people coming here to embrace the culture, to survive in the new culture. So please continue to support. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Ms. Nakamoto. And Tova Callender will be followed by John Fitzpatrick. Good evening.

MS. CALLENDER: Good evening, Chair, County Councilmembers. Thank you very much for this opportunity to share here in Kihei. My name is Tova Callender, and I'd like to offer a few bits of support for a number of items on the Mayor's Budget. So, as a board member of Malama Maui Nui formerly known as Community Work Day, I'd like to thank you for your past support and ask for future support for the many invaluable services that they provide to Maui County. These include weekly clean ups at strategic locations throughout the island, the art of trash projects with the schools, beautification projects to support school gardens and other native plantings, recycling services and partnership with MEO on request to kupuna, battery paint and oil recycling programs, education and outreach to our children about caring for the land, and to gauge a large number of volunteers in experiential opportunities that hopefully not only help clean things up and beautify but also create a shift from that experience so they wanna malama. Thank you for supporting storm water management funding for the Department of Public Works through the projects and processes involved with the MS4 permit. This is a really important first step 'cause I'm sure you know most of the waterways around Maui are noncompliant by DOH standards, most of them are impaired; and the Department of Public Works seems very motivated to move in the right direction there. So thank you for that support. Kindly continue your generous support for the watershed partnerships, so the folks that are stewarding those

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upper-conservation lands that are both protecting the quality and quantity of fresh water that supplies the island. Thanks for supporting and continue to support the Soil and Water Conservation Districts, which I think are kind of unsung heroes people don't hear about in how they leverage a small amount of funds to achieve a lot in the way of soil and water conservation, but also protection of life and property through the many projects they steward, over decades, for the communities that they're based in. As many other people have said and as a community member in Kihei, kindly support any initiatives or projects that make Maui a more bikeable, walkable community. I've been fortunate to have a bit of travel in the last year, and the thing that has stood apart in making the places I've been to great is that they've had an amazing network of paths that go through, and I think it would really raise the quality of life for everyone here and not to mention the health benefits you get from making that really accessible to get people out of their cars and get walking. So thank you very much for your time and you do have a difficult job. Thank you for taking it seriously and bringing it to the community.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Ms. Callender. And Mr. Fitzpatrick will be followed by James Worley.

MR. FITZPATRICK: Aloha kakou. Thank you, Councilmembers for being here. It's good seeing you again. I'm just here asking you that when you look over the Budget that you make sure you put education, the environment, infrastructure, innovation, and the most vulnerable in our society first, alright, so those are some major priorities. As far as education, there's really great programs like MEDB, the Boys and Girls Club, Best Buddies, the Community Garden at the Homeless Shelter which serves our youth and teaches them how to garden and not hurt the chickens. As far as the environment, there's really great watershed partnerships: the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council and really great things going on in environment. Infrastructure, like many have said, it would be really nice to walkable, bikeable community here in Kihei. Taking care of South Kihei Road and also possibly making the north-south collector road a bikeable path, that would be really nice. Thank you guys for supporting the new gym that's gonna be going in, that's gonna be really nice as well. Innovation, again, MEDB really encourages us to be innovative and also teaches our youth to be innovative and gives them tools and funding to learn the next generation of science and be creative that way. And then just taking care of the most vulnerable so like just MEO does a really great job of giving transportation to people, things like that. Best Buddies teaches us how to be nice to each other and make sure we lift everybody up, 'cause if we're lifting everyone up, we're a good society. So that's pretty much it. And then also, I know things need to be paid for, so when you're talking about taxes, make sure you give the tax breaks to those that really need 'em and ask for those that can afford a little bit extra to pay a little bit extra so we can do all these extra things in our community. So thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Fitzpatrick. And Mr. Worley will be followed by Alex Haller.

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MR. WORLEY: Good evening, Members of the Council.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Good evening.

MR. WORLEY: We're glad to see you here in Kihei tonight. I'm a local business man here in Kihei. I've lived here 36 years. And my wife and I have been involved in a number of organizations that you have supported over the years, and I appreciate it, as do all of those people. I'm here tonight as a individual, but I do serve on the board of Maui Economic Development Board, and I serve on the board of Ka Hale A Ke Ola, the homeless resource center and affordable housing programs. I've been on both of those boards for over 20 years, I believe. And I really appreciate what you've done there. I am here to speak to you about the facilities that we have at the shelter. And with some of the deterioration that's just age-process related and living in them, that are at that center now and we have made a grant request and other approaches for additional funds to bring those properties up to specs and to help them stay in the condition they are or need to be to serve 1 percent plus of the population of Maui who are in there fulltime in affordable rental programs we have. And are in there on a program learning basis in the emergency and transitional housing that we have which brings people back to paying their economic way in this community. It's a phenomenal program, and I'd be glad to discuss it further with you at any time. I'm also very supportive of the needs of that, and so that's the...that specific program, and that's why I'm here tonight. We have a very good, new Executive Director there. And I've been a business man for many years, I've even run big factories throughout the world in a prior experience. The lady that's running this program now in my assessment is one of the few kinds of people I've ever seen whose skills and capabilities far exceed her age and experience. She's a phenomenal person, and I've gotten to know her quite well, and I'm very respectful of her. She will do wonders for this organization and help us repair some patches that were and prior to this for a few years. I'm very, very favorable towards her. Secondly, Economic Development Board, the money that you have spent and put into there have brought about a number of things just in my tenure. Maui Economic...well, the High Tech Park, which has brought in one of the largest super computers in the world –

MR. JENSEN: Three minutes.

MR. WORLEY: --and all of the research work going on. All of the people that have come in and spoke tonight about the start-up companies, they bring economic power to this community that we didn't have before. When Colin Cameron opened it up and started this and Don Malcolm, it was to diversify the two economic engines of this community: tourism and agriculture and the little...construction, the third one. They have proven their worth, and if you add it up, there's hundreds and hundreds of jobs here today as a result of that, and a lot of it is due to what the mission is for the Economic Development Board. Further, Hale Kau Kau –

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MR. JENSEN: Four minutes.

MR. WORLEY: --this program...

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Could you please give us a concluding thought.

MR. WORLEY: Concluding thought: I basically said everything I can except that the Hale Kau Kau Program of feeding 120 people in one spot every night, seven days a week for over 20-several years and now 60 or 80 home deliveries every night is a miracle in of itself. Thank you for your support.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you for all you do, Mr. Worley. And, before Mr. Haller starts, if there's anyone else who would like to provide testimony and has not yet signed up, please do so and we'll be happy to take you. We've got three more to go. Mr. Haller? And Mr. Haller will be followed by Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez.

MR. HALLER: Good evening, Vice-Chair, County Council. My name is Alex Haller. I'm from Haiku and I will not be able to make it to next Tuesday's Budget hearing on Molokai, so I'm here tonight to testify in support of the County Council working with Sea Link of Hawaii to restore full ferry service to Molokai. I know that the Molokai Princess is their...their ferry has a capacity to hold 149 people, yet, they're averaging about 25 people per trip; so it's really not feasible. So I was wondering if there was any way that the County could look into maybe doing some sort of procurement to get a smaller ferry to Molokai, something that has a max capacity of anywhere from 30 to 50 people so that nearly every trip would be near full capacity and it would be as efficient as possible. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Haller. And Mr. Blackburn-Rodriguez will be followed by our final person who's signed up, Tricia Wilstead.

MR. BLACKBURN-RODRIGUEZ: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Budget Committee, my name is Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez and I reside in Kihei. I simply wanted to take an opportunity--in a very calm, relaxed, Kihei environment, it's a very mellow night tonight in Kihei--I wanted to say thank you for coming out. And these are the stories that don't get in the newspaper, but to the backbone of our democracy that we're here and able to talk to you. This Council and other Councils that I've observed, an outstanding group of individuals; and I think you are responsive to the community. I believe that you struggle with balancing priorities, but that you do produce, you do come through and you do listen to the community. We may not get it as fast as we want it, but my experience has been that you do listen, you do try to deliver, and we appreciate that very much. One thing about walkable and bikeable, I'm right there with you. I'll be having a double-hip operation, and like to speak to the senior citizens in the room, which is don't forget transportation. The bus system, both public and paratransit, is critical, and Maui's population is aging, so let's keep that in mind. Also, I want to thank Councilmember Don Couch, the beautiful sidewalk that got put

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in last year, very nice, as we're going into Wailea, and thank you for that. But, again, basically, it is just to recognize that on a quiet evening, under the full moon, as we approach Easter, we can all talk in a civil way. We live on a small island, and it's very much appreciated here in Kihei. Thank you very much for everything you do, thank you for the tone of discussion that you have, and thank you for your contributions to our community. Aloha.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Tom, very nice. Tricia Wilstead?

MS. WILSTEAD: Hello there. I'm Trish Wilstead. I'm a tennis instructor down at Kalama Park who offers classes through the Park and Rec program. And we have an average of 30 to 40 kids that are showing up to both of our classes each week and an average of 15 to 20 adults every class, so those are pretty high numbers. And we had the honor of having Kalama Park resurfaced and had some attention a couple years ago, which is greatly appreciated. And now we would like to turn our attention to Maui Sunset tennis courts. They are not safe at the moment. We have fences that are falling apart, ground that is uneven, cracking big roots of weeds pulling through. And, you know, we run the largest junior program as well as a very large adult program, and getting these people out in the community, they need safe, adequate places to play, places where these kids can go, keep them out of trouble, places where families can hold healthy activities and be involved with each other. So let's keep them active and keep them in a healthy direction. So but we've got to have safe places for them to play. And four courts at Kalama Park is not enough for the amount of people that we're turning into this, that tennis is a game for lifetime. Yes, let's make it good, okay. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Question for you.

MS. WILSTEAD: Yes?

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Are the Maui Sunset tennis courts on County property?

MS. WILSTEAD: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Okay.

MS. WILSTEAD: Yes. People think that they belong to the condos because they're aligned in front of the condos, but they're not.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Okay.

MS. WILSTEAD: There are six courts out there, four are very, very...I mean it's cracked. I mean you...there's no...it's a lot of uneven surfaces, tripping, weeds, fences falling apart, it definitely needs a lot of attention.

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VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Do you know if it's –

MS. WILSTEAD: And it's a safety thing.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: --is it in the Budget, do you know?

MS. WILSTEAD: We would like for it to be in the Budget.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Mr. Couch is looking it up.

MS. WILSTEAD: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: I talked to the Parks Department –

MS. WILSTEAD: Yes?

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: --and they have either...have it planned for this year or next year. But they definitely are going to --

MS. WILSTEAD: Address this?

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: --review all those.

MS. WILSTEAD: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: But I'm checking right now to see if it's in this year's CIP --

MS. WILSTEAD: Great.

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: --and I'll let you know.

MS. WILSTEAD: We are here just to follow up. We are trying to keep the community involved here. Okay. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you for your testimony, Tricia. Is there anyone else who would like to testify this evening that hasn't yet done so? Seeing none, Members, without objection, we'll close public testimony

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objection.

COUNCIL MEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS (excused: RH, MV).

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.

. . .END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

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VICE-CHAIR WHITE: I'd like to thank all of you that stuck around the entire evening, and I'm sure if you have questions that you haven't been comfortable coming up and asking, all of us will be here for a little bit...well, at least...I should say several of us will be here for a little bit. I'm not going to promise that everyone's sticking around. Elle's got a long drive and so does Bob. So thank you, again, for being here. And, with that, we are adjourned. . . .(gavel). . .

ADJOURN: 7:27 p.m.

APPROVED:



RIKI HOKAMA, Chair
Budget and Finance Committee

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Transcribed by: Raynette Yap