

# **BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Council of the County of Maui**

## **MINUTES**

**April 20, 2015**

### **Lihikai Elementary School, Dining Room**

**CONVENE:** 6:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councilmember Mike White, Vice-Chair  
Councilmember Gladys C. Baisa, Member  
Councilmember Robert Carroll, Member  
Councilmember Stacy Crivello, Member  
Councilmember Don S. Guzman, Member  
Councilmember Michael P. Victorino, Member

**EXCUSED:** Councilmember Riki Hokama, Chair  
Councilmember Elle Cochran, Member  
Councilmember Don Couch, Member

**STAFF:** Sharon Brooks, Legislative Attorney  
Michele Yoshimura, Legislative Analyst  
Mark R. Pigao, Legislative Analyst  
Tammy M. Frias, Committee Secretary

Troy Hashimoto, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Mike White  
Arthur Suyama, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Stacy Crivello  
Gerald Keoni Enriques, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Don S. Guzman  
Kathy Kaohu, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Don S. Guzman  
Stephanie Ohigashi, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Michael P. Victorino  
Sherilyn Otsubo, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Michael P. Victorino  
Miki Yokouchi, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Michael P. Victorino

**OTHERS:** John Fabella  
Jadynne Zane  
Evan Aquinde  
Brad Aquinde  
Karen May Taroma  
Wyman Tong  
Glesa Mae Tolentino  
Preston Rodrigues, Student, Maui High School  
Austin Alimbuyughen, Student, Maui High School  
Dayna Yamasaki, Chapter President, Best Buddies, Baldwin High School  
Austin Pascua  
Nalani Caulford, Teacher, Maui High School  
Alexis Cruz-Balles, Student, Maui High School  
Michael McCormick, State Director, Best Buddies Hawaii  
Mary Joy Sioson  
Makana Naeole

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Victoria Satoafaiga, Club Director, Boys and Girls Club of Maui - Paukukalo  
Alexandria Tyau  
Alyssa Yoshimura  
Grayson Taylor-Farley, Club Member, Boys and Girls Club of Maui  
Sarina Angel, Club Member, Boys and Girls Club of Maui  
Adrienne Baldwin, Club Director, Boys and Gils Club of Maui  
Miriamanne Alesi Kaauwai, Student, Hui Malama Learning Center  
Shawn Perry, Student, Hui Malama Learning Center  
Kevin Lauterbach, STEM Teacher, Hui Malama Learning Center  
Josiah Patao, Student, Hui Malama Learning Center  
Katie Farley  
Amanda Malubay  
Brian Nagami, Program Director, Imua Family Services  
Anthony Arcuria, Program Director, Aloha House, Inc.  
Mario Sol, Client, Aloha House, Inc.  
Tamara Sherrill, Executive Director, Maui Nui Botanical Gardens  
Whit Germano, Program Manager, Maui Nui Botanical Gardens  
Susan Lussier, Volunteer, Feed My Sheep  
Chris d'Avella, Collections Manager, Maui Nui Botanical Gardens  
Gwen Morinaga-Kama, Board Member, Maui Nui Botanical Gardens  
Bruce Dudoit, Groundskeeper, Maui Nui Botanical Gardens  
Henrietta Mollena  
Heather Kanemoto, Board Member, Kansha Preschool  
Monica Borge  
Sally Black-Barron, Manager, National Kidney Foundation  
Robert Littlejohn  
Michelle Evans  
Tony Krieg, CEO, Hale Makua Health Services  
Danny Macias  
Sandy Freeman, Executive Director, Maui Adult Day Care Center  
Jen Azuma  
Peter Tierney, President, Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals  
“(SPCA)”  
Roannamarie Kauhaapo  
Audrey M. Guerrero, President, Heritage Hall  
Alfred Boteilho  
Anna-Marie Hartman  
Ron Vioria  
Jeffrey Giesea, Captain, Department of Fire and Public Safety  
Jeremy Irvine, Fire Fighter, Department of Fire and Public Safety  
Shanelle Nerpio  
Philip Valentine, Board Member, Heritage Hall  
Pamela Martin  
Geraldine Carroll  
Sherman Baisa

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Additional attendees (20+)

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**ITEM BF-1: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY  
OF MAUI (CC 15-41, CC 15-103)**

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Good evening.

COUNCILMEMBERS: It's not on.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Try again.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: I, I turned it off so that I wouldn't bother anybody but good evening and thank you very much for coming out tonight. We're looking forward to hearing your mana`o and hearing what your issues are, and to open the meeting, I would like to call on Mr. Victorino to introduce the Members.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Thank you, Chair. Good evening, everyone, and aloha.

AUDIENCE: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: I would like to start to my far right, the good-looking, handsome gentleman at the end of the table is representing East Maui, Mr. Robert Carroll.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: And the pretty young lady next to me from Upcountry, Ms. Gladys Baisa.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Now going to my far left, that other pretty young lady over there, from the Island of Molokai, Stacy Crivello. And your Central Maui District representative, the Vice-Chair of the Council and the guy we call "the kid", Mr. Don Guzman.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: And the good-looking gentleman with just a little more white hair than I do, Mr. Mike White.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

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COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: And if anybody doesn't know who I am, which I'd be amazed, Councilman Mike Victorino from the Wailuku-Waihee-Waikapu District.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: So would you like to introduce the Staff, Mr. Chair?

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Okay. And then we have Staff. . .we have Tammy Frias. . .I can't see, Tammy. . .

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: . . .and Sharon Brooks at the far end, the good-looking young lady at the far end.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair, and. . .oh, and you know what, we have a number of helpers tonight. From Mr. White's Office, we have Troy Hashimoto--I think they're all in the back somewhere. Where are you, Troy? Please stand. He's manning the table.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Arthur Suyama. Where's Arthur?

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Okay. And then we have Mr. Enriquez from Don Guzman's Office.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: You guys gotta stand up so people know who you guys are. And then from my Office, I have Sherilyn Otsubo and Miki Yokouchi and Stephanie Ohigashi, which is over here.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Did I miss anybody from the Council Staff? Did I get everybody? And then Mark Pigao. Mark, will you stand? Mark? Thank you, Mark.

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AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: I hope I got everybody, but if I missed anybody, please forgive me. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Victorino. And we have quite a few testifiers this evening, so we will be asking you to hold to three minutes. And with that, we'll get right into it. And as you know, we always ask the young kids and their parents that need to drive them back to where, wherever they're going, whether it's home or other activities, we ask them to come up first. So with that, we'll start with our first testifier, John Fabella.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: And John will be followed by Jadyne Zane.

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

MR. FABELLA: Good evening, Honorable Councilmembers. My name is John Fabella and I'm an eighth grade student at Maui Waena Intermediate School. I am also here to testify, I'm here to testify on behalf of MEDB. MEDB has also been supportive our media program. We were a Ke Alahele Grant recipients and it has helped to attend the National Student TV Convention for the past four years. Because of, because of grants we received, we have been able to compete with schools from across the nation, and this year we were actually the most awarded middle school in the nation. Even more than that, we were able to learn from industry experts and make friends from students around the nation. If it had not been for the assistance of MEDB, we would not have been, we wouldn't have the funds to travel all that way. MEDB also helps us to support digital media training and provides summer classes so we can hone our skills. This summer they are helping us to bring Emmy Award Winner Les Rose to teach us more about journalism and storytelling. We are so fortunate to have this partnership. I have learned so much through my experiences and want to personally recommend you support Maui Economic Development Board with funding. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, John, and congratulations. Can you hear me in the back? I don't see anyone in the back nodding. Staff, maybe you can turn the volume up a little bit. Our next testifier, Jadyne, go ahead and Jadyne will be followed by Evan. Go ahead.

MISS ZANE: Good evening, Honorable Councilmembers. My name is Jadyne Zane and I am a sixth grade student at Maui Waena Intermediate School. I am here to testify on behalf of Maui Economic Development Board. For the past five years we have applied for the . . .at for and received Ke Alahele Educational Grant to support our robotics

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team. This has allowed us to travel to Oahu to participate in the State tournaments. Our robotics club has grown in size and ability over these years in great parts because we students are excited to compete with middle and high school students from across the State. We have even placed first in VEX and qualified for nationals, and we have won awards for documentation in Botball. Maui Economic Development Board also provided us with two laptops, which enabled our students to practice programming throughout the year. Without MEDB we would not be able to participate in these competitions, and I, personally, would not have learned how to program. Please support MEDB for me, my team, and the students of Maui.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Jadyne. Next we have Evan Aquinde and he'll be followed by Brad Aquinde.

MR. AQUINDE: Good evening, Honorable Councilmembers. My name is Evan Aquinde and I'm a seventh grade student at Maui Waena Intermediate School. Not only have we been lucky enough to have received funding from MEDB, but they have given us the opportunity to attend many workshops and conferences. They have graciously included us in Photoshop training, web design training, workshops on renewable energy, and the STEMworks conference, at which we're able to learn about everything from optical technology to game design. MEDB has enriched my life in giving me learning opportunities in life experiences that I never would've had without them. Their staff is caring and dedicated and their funding is so important to the youth of Maui.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Evan. Brad must be dad.

MR. AQUINDE: Yes, I'm dad. Alright. Good evening, Honorable Councilmembers. My name is Brad Aquinde and I have two children in the program at Maui Waena. Having my children involved in all this club has to offer from learning how to code a robot, to create a video, a new story has been amazing because growing up we played pong on TV, that was about it. So they have so many more opportunities than I did at their age and so much more of it is provided by Maui Economic Development Board. This past spring break my wife and I were fortunate enough to go up to San Diego--wasn't a vacation, we were actually chaperones. So we fed them, took them around to do their stuff, but we were actually amazed at what the kids did and it was all possible through funding from MEDB. They had nine entries in the student television network competition, and they took three first place, a third in two honorable mentions. So seeing that firsthand with all the work that they did, they didn't get much sleep while they were up there, they didn't play a lot, and they also volunteered while they were up there as well at Balboa Park and also at a homeless shelter feeding the homeless for two mornings in a row. So without MEDB's funding they wouldn't know what it's

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actually like to go out there and do things for other people and actually learn at the same time. So thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Brad. Our next testifier is Karen Taroma, she'll be followed by Wyman Tong.

MS. TAROMA: Good evening, Honorable Councilmembers. And good evening, everyone. My name is Karen May Taroma and I am one of the team captains of Maui High School robotics. I am testifying, I am testing on behalf of MEDB, and MEDB have supported to help Maui High robotics for many years. Through your support of STEM programs and initiatives promoted through MEDB's educational program, I have been given many opportunities to explore my abilities and skills. Our mission is to inspire and challenge a new generation to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and math. From my experience, two important skills that I will take on with me are the leadership skills and communication skills. In robotics we do not just emphasize on the intellectual learning, but we learn through each other. Students are able to become self-directed learners, critical thinkers, and problem solvers. Students also experience teamwork and the use of high-level technologies that was helped, provided by MEDB. Students also. . .the robotics program provides students to explore their skills and abilities by giving them the options of either going to the building, programming, or documenting. Each department plays an important role in their team. As one of the team captain, I learn not just by mentors but also through my peers. The Maui High School robotics team pushes each student to go beyond what they can do to have them reach their full potential to build their character, programming their mind, and documenting their life. The Maui High School robotics program has been serving the community for many years because of the help of MEDB. They have been mentoring medical stu..., medical, middle school teams in VEX and spending STEM conference, and hosting the Maui VEX regional competitions. The team spread awareness and similarly children's interest in the program through the robotics demonstrations. However, as a robot grows in complexity, so does the necessities of our teams. But because of the help of MEDB we were able to find our resources and were able to go traveling around the world to compete. We weren't just able to, we weren't just able to represent Maui, but we also represented Hawaii. As we all strive together to spread awareness in our community we would, we will be greatly appreciative if you continue to fund MEDB. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Karen. And Wyman will be followed by Glesa Mae Tolentino.

MR. TONG: Hello and good evening, Honorable Councilmembers. My name is Wyman Tong and I am testifying in, on behalf of the Maui Economic Development Board. A little bit

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about myself is I'm a four-year member at Maui High School robotics and I am currently in my first year of UHMC's Associates Program. I . . . in my four years at Maui School I've been a robotics member and in my senior year I was, I had the honor to become the build captain for the team. Also in my fourth year of robotics, I was able to qualify for the world championships, and without MEDB's help I would not have been, the team would not have been able to attend the world championships. More, more things that MEDB has done for me is the internships. I participated in two internships, the first one being two years ago. I got to work with J.D. Armstrong at the Institute for Astronomy, and just last summer I was able to work with ArdentMC and basically from scratch learn how to program. The last thing I would like to talk about is that just this past January, I actually got a call from one of the Maui Economic Development Board Members asking if I could go and help update their computers for one of their upcoming workshops. I thought it was just . . . I just wanted to do it to give back to somebody who gave so much to me and put so much effort into me, that I would just do it as a volunteer, I would just volunteer to do it. But actually at the end of it, they actually hired me and asked me to continue going monthly to the Kihei Tech Park in order to update their computers. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . . (applause) . . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: We, we might give you a call, too. Thank you, Wyman. And Glesa Mae will be followed by Preston Rodrigues.

MS. TOLENTINO: Hello and good evening, Councilmembers. My name is Glesa Mae Tolentino and I'll be testifying on behalf of Maui Economic Development Board. So a little bit about myself is that currently I'm a Maui High alumni and I devoted a lot of my time in the robotics program at Maui High. And MEDB has helped our program for many years and through, and my senior year we were able to compete at the world championships. So MEDB helped us a lot to fundraise a lot of our flights, payments, and for our trip. And also Wyman was talking about internship programs, and so I was able to participate in the internship program last summer and I helped Walker Industries, which is a concrete product company, and they create like sewer manholes. And so what I did was to create 3-D models of their sewer manholes and drain inlets and MECO pool boxes, and other concrete products. And also, throughout high school people told me that networking is very important and ME..., M..., I'm sorry, and MEDB helps a lot of, a lot about that. So one of the programs . . . another program that they host is the STEM Conference, which was this past weekend, and they bring a lot of professional, industry professionals where students can come and talk to them and get inspired and actually learn about how it is in their, in the workforce and learn about different, different profession, professions that they can pursue. And so through the help of MEDB and the exposure of robotics, I'm currently going for an electrical engineering degree at UH Manoa. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . . (applause) . . .



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VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Good for you, Glesa Mae. Thank you. Thank you for sharing, and Preston will be followed by Austin Alimbuyughen.

MR. RODRIGUES: Good evening, my name is Preston Rodrigues. I'm currently a senior at Maui High School and I'm here to testify on behalf of MEDB. At Maui High School, I'm the Maui High robotics team captain as well as a very active STEMwork student. My main interest in computer science and through STEM and MEDB, they've given me many opportunities to explore this interest and develop into a, kind of a passion for mines. Through MEDB the . . .not only through robotics programs that they help fund, but also as well as different opportunities they've given me. One of these opportunities has been the internship. I was able to, last year I was able to participate at an internship at ArdentMC over at the Kihei Tech Park, and at the Kihei, at ArdentMC I was able to hone my computer science skills in different . . .*(inaudible)*. . .or different programming languages that I would not be able to kind of know that they would actually use in the real world sense. I've only been exposed kind of in like, you know, a school network, never really in the out world, in the outside world or the real world, and I never really thought those opportunities would be available. I was also able to get different projects from MEDB, one of 'em being from the Maui County Clerk's Office, to turn currently in the testifying sense, you know, in the back where you have paper and pencil style. They came to and talked to MEDB about trying to upgrade it to the twenty-first century a little bit and get into the computers and then from there they looked for different students who would be able to do it. And I participated in the internship as well as the robotics team as a programmer, so they felt they could give the project to a student and see if they could do it. So, I'm currently developing that, developing that with another student while at Maui High and it's in the process of getting pushed out. But the main thing that MEDB has shown me is opportunities available on Maui that I never really knew was there. You know when you hear computer science or programming, you always think about big companies like Microsoft or Apple, you know, all in the mainland, all in Silicon Valley. I never really heard about the Kihei Tech Park until I really talked to them. It's amazing things that they're doing out there, that I really want to stay home because I, I have a real love for Hawaii and these skills and opportunities follow my passions that are right here at home, has really opened my eyes. So, I would love the continued support for other students like me who wants to pursue interest and still keep it home in Hawaii. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Preston. And Austin will be followed by Dayna Yamasaki.

MR. ALIMBUYUGHEN: Good evening, Councilmembers. My name is Austin Alimbuyughen and I am testifying on behalf of Maui Economic Development Board. I am, I am a senior at Maui High School and currently I'm pursuing my passion in film and video, and at Maui High School we do a lot of, we do a lot of contests with film and video and do a lot of community, community events. But actually I don't own my own camera

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and actually don't own my own computer to do these, to do these events and to do these videos. But with the funding of MEDB, they have been, we've been allowed to have, we've been fortunate enough to have access to a lot of equipment that students wouldn't be allowed, wouldn't be able to have access to. And without the funding of MEDB. . .actually they've been connecting with just so much with the, the amount community, they've been integrated with their community at school a lot that I really think, I personally ask you to keep funding for Maui Economic Development Board. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Austin. Dayna will be followed by Austin Pascua.

MS. YAMASAKI: Good evening, Councilmembers. I'm Dayna Yamasaki and I'm a senior at Baldwin High School and the President of Baldwin, Baldwin's Best Buddies Club. Our job is to break down barriers and help create an environment of inclusion for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. To break down barriers, the program has taught me how to accept and teach others how to accept. Acceptances by others are slowly changing and they're starting to have a more open mind when it comes to people with disabilities. Teaching people how to accept is a task that I will never give up on. Best Buddies has taught me three valuable lessons, like leadership, acceptance, and friendship--all great attributes to the shaping of my character to become the better person I, I ever was before. On behalf of Baldwin's chapter, we ask that you please continue to fund Best Buddies as it, as it is a program that changes lives forever. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you for participating. Austin will be followed by Nalani Caulford.

MR. PASCUA: Good evening, Councilmembers. My name is Austin Pascua, a senior at Baldwin High School. I've been a member of Best Buddies for the past four years, officer for three, and I wish that you continue to support Best Buddies because the funding helps organize events for our members, giving students with disabilities more opportunities to interact with regular education students. This club's been really amazing for me because it really taught me the value of friendship, and I'm sure a lot of members share, feel the same way. And although I am graduating this year, I will treasure the experiences I've had because although we forget the faces of our friends, we will never forget the bonds carved in our souls. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Austin. Nalani.

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MS. CAULFORD: Good evening, Councilmembers.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: No, go ahead.

MS. CAULFORD: My name is Nalani Caulford and I'm a teacher at Maui High School, and this is one of my students. We are here to testify on behalf of MEO Youth Services. I teach a class to build character. I work with at-risk students who may be struggling with academic or behavior issues, and my job is to build their character and make them better community members.

MS. CRUZ-BALLES: Hi, my name is Alexis and I am a sophomore at Maui High School. I have, had the opportunity to take classes through the MEO Youth Services which has helped me learn about the consequences of some of my choices. I'm grateful for the MEO because they have taught us, listened to us, and given us opportunities that we wouldn't normally get. Their bus services have helped us to go on field, two field trips. We've attend, attended the courthouse where we learned what they, what they do there and we've also attended MCCC. My eyes were as wide as, were open wide as I realized that I never want to end up there, and these services have helped me become a better person and make better choices. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you. Very good. Next testifier is Mary. . .either Mary Joy or Mary Jay Siosa, and she'll be followed by Makana Naeole.

MR. McCORMICK: This is Mary Joy's and I ask the Councilmembers, there's a speech that Mary Joy has given each of the Councilmembers a written copy, so maybe you can follow along. Thank you.

MS. SIOSON: Aloha, everybody. My name is Mary Joy. I am from Baldwin High School. I love going shopping and spending time with my family. I am happy and strong because of Best Buddies. Before Best Buddies I was bullied in, in my own school. Now I am here and I am strong enough to stop, and strong enough to help stop bullying. In my old school people called me names to my face and behind my back. They called me ugly, they called me stupid. I felt sad. I would cry and I would be by myself a lot. Then I changed schools. I now go to Baldwin High School and joined Best Buddies. This changed my life. It felt so, it felt so good to meet new people. I now hang out with my friends who make me happy. Now I am strong enough and excited and powerful. My friends have my back; they don't talk behind it. I am, now I am a Best Buddies ambassador. I want to help others and stop bullying. If I see someone bullying someone like me, I would stop them. I will stay, "stop calling names; don't treat people like that". All people are beautiful just the way they are. This is the way I am. Thank you for letting me tell my story. Thank you for listening. Thank you to my teachers, friends, and family. Go Best Buddies! Be nice!

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AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mary Joy.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Chair. Mary Joy?

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Mary Joy.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Mike.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Mary Joy. Mr. Victorino?

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Mary Joy, how many students you have involved in Best Buddies? Do you know?

MS. SIOSON: About 100 people.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: One hundred people. And you know, Mary Joy, I'm very proud of what you've done and, you know, if anybody says what they said to you, they're actually it. Okay.

MS. SIOSON: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Makana will be followed by Victoria Satoafaiga.

MS. NAEOLE: Aloha. . . .(Spoke in Hawaiian). . . Aloha, my name is Makana Naole and I am 14 years old. I currently go to King Kekaulike and I am in the Hawaiian emersion program as a freshman. When I go to the Boys and Girls Club, I finish all my homework and then I help the staff with anything that they need, helping them with the kids, cleaning up the club, anything. I help tutor the younger kids who are also in the Hawaiian emersion program. We share an open community center with about 160 kids, and it is hard for us teenagers to do our homework because of all the noise and distractions. I am very grateful for everything that we have, but I think it is time to build our very own, new clubhouse. Mahalo nui loa.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Makana. And Victoria will be followed by Alexandria Tyau.

MS. SATOAFAGA: Aloha, my name is Victoria Satoafaiga and I'm the Club Director of the Boys and Girls Club, Paukukalo. We currently have 364 registered members, with an

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average daily attendance of 160 kids a day. This past year we were forced to close membership 15 days after the new school year had started due to our high daily attendance and low staff to member ratio. It is very difficult for me to turn away parents and youth who want to be a part of our program, especially for our families that are involved in the Hawaiian immersion program that you just saw, and we currently have two fluent Hawaiian speaking staff who assist 60-plus members daily with Hawaiian language homework. As you may know, we currently operate out of the Paukukalo Community Center. Although we are very appreciative of what we have, we feel we have outgrown the facility. We are currently in the beginning stages of building our new facility and we ask for your continuous support. Mahalo.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Victoria. Alexandria will be followed by Alyssa Yoshimura.

MS. TYAU: My name is Alexandria Tyau and I'm a sophomore at Maui High School. I'm currently involved in the Best Buddies Club at Maui High School, I'm a, I'm the Club Secretary, and today I'm asking for your support in continuing to support Best Buddies. Best Buddies has really helped me in my understanding of people with disabilities. It's made me realize that they're really no different than we are, and we need to continue to support them and help them, because people with disabilities do have a harder time making friendships. And I feel that if we continue to help support Best Buddies, they will have a better opening to the world and be more accepted. At my school I have a buddy, her name is Shelby Fontanilla, and we hang out a lot at school, we do activities outside of school sometimes, such as club day. And when we hang out together and stuff, I feel like we're really. . .I'm sorry, I feel like that I'm really helping her, I'm really opening her up to another side of things because she's not only hanging out with people maybe in her building which are other people with disabilities as well, but she's hanging out with my friends and making new friends herself. It's really opening her up more and she has a really amazing singing voice, which she loves to show off a lot. And I really just want her to have a better. . .to be more accepted so that nobody makes fun of her like they did to Mary Joy before because those things are really hurtful. I thank you for your past support and I hope you will continue the support as well. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Alexandria. Alyssa will be followed by Grayson Taylor-Farley.

MS. YOSHIMURA: Good evening, my name is Alyssa Yoshimura and I am the Vice-President for the Best Buddies Chapter at Maui High School, and this is my buddy Diane. I am here to ask for your support in funding Best Buddies chapters on Maui, in Maui County. This program has made a significant impact on the students at our school

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with and without disabilities. Our club participates in many activities in and out of school to spread awareness and acceptance for people with disabilities. Some of these include our annual Spread the Word to End the Word Campaign, where students and faculty pledge to stop using the "R-word", Autism Awareness Day, and Super Clubs. Best Buddies has also made a big impact in my life. I've been a part of Best Buddies for the past three years of high school, and I've been paired with Diane as my buddy for two years. Through this program we've developed a really strong friendship, and I've also been able to see the other members of our school develop friendships with people with disabilities also. Thank you for your support. . .the support you've given us and I hope you will continue with your support of our program. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Alyssa. Grayson will be followed by Sarina Angel.

MR. TAYLOR-FARLEY: Good evening, Honorable Council . . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Come, come a little closer.

MR. TAYLOR-FARLEY: Oh, okay.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: There you go.

MR. TAYLOR-FARLEY: Good evening, Honorable Councilmembers. My name is Grayson. Thank you for supporting the Boys and Girls Club of Maui Central Clubhouse. If it wasn't for you, Boys and Girls Club wouldn't be the amazing place it is today. The Boys and Girls Club has given me a fun and safe place to hang out when I am not at school. When I am there, I get help with my homework, play lots of fun games, and go on field trips. The staff at the club push me to succeed academically and to be the best person I can be. They encourage, they encourage me to be myself and even take time to listen and laugh to all my jokes. I know that they will support me while I grow up to become a successful comedian.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(chuckle)*. . .

MR. TAYLOR-FARLEY: If the Boys, if the Boys and Girls Club did not exist, I don't know what my mom would do because she routes all the way in Kihei and I go to school in Waihee and, well, you can put the picture together. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Grayson. I was going to ask you what your best joke is, but. . .

AUDIENCE: . . .*(chuckle)*. . .

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VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Oh, looks like...oh, okay. Sarina will be followed by Adrienne Baldwin.

MS. ANGEL: Good, good evening, Honorable Councilmembers. My name is Sarina Angel and I am talking on behalf, I'm giving testimony on behalf of the Central Boys and Girls Club. I had the honor of being this year's 2015 Central Representative for the Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year Program, which is an awesome opportunity for me and all the other youth of the year to be able to go to Oahu, or come here and be able to do our program and then also go to Oahu and watch the, our local winner compete for states, which she then won states and now she's going on to regionals. I'm gonna give you a little excerpt from my speech that I gave here on what the Boys and Girls Club did to me, for me.

Growing up after the loss of my father was devastating to me and my four siblings. My very special mom losing the man she loved only made her stronger and more amazing than ever. As I am reminded as a child, I often ask the same question of when I was going to get a new dad. It never dawned on me the fact that dad's don't grow, dad's don't just up and appear. Two years later when reality finally hit me and I realized my dad would be gone forever, the insecurities that I felt sapped away my confidence and my sense of self-acceptance. That is what the loving support of the Boys and Girls Club helped me to develop. Since attending the clubs, I have been in many programs. Some of which I found most influential in my life end up being club community service, smart girls, and college bound, which helped me to emphasize the importance of education and provide me the drive to, drive to succeed.

So as you can see, the Boys and Girls Club has, had me accomplish many things in my life. So far I've been able to choose what I'm going to do in life. I was able to meet Senator Inouye two months before he passed away, which was amazing for me, and from that I have decided that I want to become a politician which I will be running for, hopefully, I'm going try to run for our State Senator and hopefully take over what Senator Inouye had as President Pro Tempore, which is the highest seat in the U.S. Senate. And for anybody in here, when I do run, I hope for all your guys' support. . . .(laughter) . . . Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(chuckle) . . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you. Thank you very much, Sarina. And Adrienne will be followed by Miriamanne Alesi Kaauwai.

MS. BALDWIN: Aloha. I'm Adrienne, the Interim Club Director for the Central Boys and Girls Clubhouse. I want to start by saying a great big thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to the mission of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Maui. Without your support, we would not be able to open the doors to the Central Boys and Girls Club. I honestly believe that the kids in our community need an organization like this

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to continue running. The first time I ever set foot in the Boys and Girls Club was actually for my interview, and I really wished they had a place like that when I was a kid because I was really blown away when I walked in. . .not just by the facility, because it really is a nice one, the Central Clubhouse, but also by the kindness and the compassion of the staff and the respectful nature of the kids. The club members were quick to greet me and offer me to work. This respectful and friendly attitude started with the staff and is taught to the kids through example. As our shirts say on the side of them, on the sleeve, we are professional role models. We are role models to 445 current members at the Central Clubhouse alone. On a daily basis we provide 125 kids with guidance and support through one-on-one interaction and club activities. Our staff at the Central Clubhouse has a wide variety of talents, which they incorporate into running fun, exciting, and successful programs. On any given day you could walk into our club and see a variety of activities going on. You can see Uncle Ryan doing sports with the kids or cooking lessons. You'll see Auntie Ane doing ukulele lessons or running her art classes. You'll see Uncle Jerome running his Passport to Manhood Program or his community service club with the kids, and Auntie Cyn who runs Project Learn and power by learning games. And you also might see myself also running SMART Girls Club or sometimes doing fitness classes with some of the girls around the club. You may also see outside organizations that we have built relationships with in order to further opportunity for our kids. Once a month we have the Assistance Dogs of Hawaii come in and they do a reading program with our kids, and that helps some of the kids that maybe we have trouble getting involved in different educational activities and they'll come in and actually sit with the dog who just gives them a little extra support and confidence to feel like they can read out loud. We also are currently doing a program with the EAs around the community--

MS. BROOKS: Thirty seconds.

MS. BALDWIN: --okay, and they come in and play fun, educational games with the kids. At our clubhouse we live our mission--to inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as caring, productive, and responsible citizens. Mahalo, again, for your assistance in us successfully accomplishing the Boys and Girls Club mission. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Adrienne. And Miriamanne will be followed by Shawn Perry.

MS. KAAUWAI: Good evening, Councilmembers. My name is Miriam Kaauwai and I am a high school student at Hui Malama Learning Center. I recently started attending Hui Malama because my family was no longer able to homeschool me and I'm originally from California so. . .and I moved here when I was about 6, so I'm like 14 now. Yeah. . . (chuckle). . . And I've been here for about eight years, and in those eight years I've been, never been to a school with other students. I was actually really nervous when I



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started at Hui Malama because I'm really bad at math, it's terrible. But I've gotten a little better at it with help from our STEM teacher, Kumu Kevin and our math tutor, Mr. Buchter. One of my favorite projects that happened with him was a straw project where we built bridges from thin straws. It involved a lot of creativity, critical thinking, and a lot of math--I was surprised--but it was also really fun. At Hui Malama, even though it's not really a normal school part of the DOE, they teach you a lot about respect and how to treat your elders with kokua. And I feel like my behavior has been slowly improving since I've been there, and my mom always used to tell me that even if people can remember your name or your face, they would always remember how you treated them, and I've tried to live by that but. . .it's been kind of hard. . . .(chuckle) . . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: . . .(chuckle) . . .

MS. KAAUWAI: The nicest thing I could probably say about Hui Malama is how thankful I am to them for helping me come out of my shell because I'm actually a really shy person, but the people there have been so welcoming. And I got into the routine of things a lot easier than I thought I would and for that I'm grateful. Thank you so much for your time today as well as for the support you give to our school. It really means a lot and I actually enjoy school. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Miriam.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: And Shawn will be followed by Kevin Lauterbach. You could. . .if you want to, you can adjust the knob and pull it up a little higher.

MR. PERRY: Good evening, Councilmembers. My name is Shawn Perry, I'm 16 years old and--

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: You'll have to get a little closer. . . .There, that'll probably work.

MR. PERRY: Okay. Good evening, Councilmembers. I'm Shawn Perry, I'm 16 years old and currently attending the high school program at Hui Malama Learning Center. I chose to come to this school because me and my family found out that this school helps kids study hard to reaching their proper grade level. They also prepare for GED testing. Hui Malama is important to me because they help, they help. . .they're helping me to prepare to get a job and reach my goals. They have helped me accomplish putting my thoughts onto paper which used to be a problem for me in school. This Friday, I will be receiving an award for a poem I wrote in answer to Dr. Martin Luther King peace poem contest. At Hui Malama I've also learned how to grow my own food, speak Hawaiian, Japanese, swim, fish, cook--and for those of you who have kids--wash dishes the right way. . .

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COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Hey.

ALL: . . .(chuckle) . .

MR. PERRY: . . .and do other chores and tasks that require getting dirty. In the beginning of the year I used to be very sarcastic and had made sarcastic comments all the time. I don't know what happened, but over the year that I've been here. . .I rarely make any comments anymore and no more nasty thoughts coming out of my mouth. And most importantly, I learned how to take correction and work hard without complaining. In the future, I want to be able to travel. I want to travel because I really feel uncomfortable staying in one place all the time. I also want to experience the world and enjoy my life before I have to grow up. In order for me to do so I have to have a good paying job, of course, and I feel as though the skills that I've learned at Hui Malama will help me reach my goal. It would. . .they also help teaching me how to be a good worker that people would want to hire. Thank you, Councilmembers, for this time tonight and your continued support for our school.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Shawn, good job. And Kevin will be followed by. . .it looks like Josiah Patao or something. Anyway. . .

MR. LAUTERBACH: Thank you and good evening, Council. My name is Kevin Lauterbach and I am the, the STEM Teacher that these two wonderful student were just talking about. And actually, I just had the privilege of seeing one of my former students from my previous jobs, Sarina Angel. And let me just tell you a little bit about myself. I knew I was moving here five years before I did, and I know this is kind of cheesy, but I asked myself what can. . .what. . .not what Maui can do for me, but what can I do for Maui, and I thought it was going to be taking care of the environment. So, I went back to school and got my Master's Degree at Yale in Forestry and Environmental Restoration. I studied about miconia, erosion, and coastal zone management. I mean, I was ready. I was going to be your guys' go-to guy for answers. And then what happened? On the day that I was offered a job with the West Maui Watershed, I was also offered a job at Kamehameha Schools, and I was 33 and I'm like. . .working out in the field all the time or working in a very nice school that is very, very interesting, I'd like to check it out. And I didn't know how important that decision was that I was going to make that day because what was supposed to be one semester job filling in teaching math ended up five years as part of their outreach working with kids from Kalama, like Sarina. Lo and behold, Kamehameha changed everything up and next thing you know I thought I was done in education and then I met my Executive Director Pua Enos who explained to me what Hui Malama was about, and it suddenly clicked, for the first time talking to someone who understood that the kids that are going to our school, we had a promise as a society to take care of them and to educate 'em. It's not a privilege, it's a right. And if they did not succeed at the schools that we gave them, we need to keep trying. And Hui Malama is the place that these kids

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finally get it. The two kids that just spoke, you would not believe how shy they are and how proud I am of what they just did. And it's this connection that Hui Malama has with the students, that we basically said, you know what, we're going to adapt to you, we're going to make it so that you are gonna learn and you're going to actually enjoy learning. I have students that didn't go to school for years and actually get up every morning wanting to come to class, and it's because education at Hui Malama is purposeful. We don't sit there with text books. We do things hands-on. We work with the community, we meet all sorts of people. And what we're doing is we're taking what kids were literally going to be tossed out. There is no other place for them to go other than Hui Malama. They're either not going to go to school. They're gonna--

MS. BROOKS: Thirty seconds.

MR. LAUTERBACH: --go to Ko'olau. But instead we're now turning these people into productive members of the Maui community. They're actually feeling involved. They are now a part of the society and they're gonna bring to this place instead of being a cost or a burden. And I appreciate all the support that you give to Hui Malama and I'm just glad that I was able to bring these kids back to Maui and give 'em what they need. Thank you guys very much.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Kevin. And Josiah will be followed by Katie Farley.

MR. LAUTERBACH: I apologize, I just found out that Josiah had to leave for a family emergency--

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Oh, okay. Thank you for letting us know, Kevin. So Katie Farley will be up next, followed by Brian Nagami.

MS. FARLEY: Hello there, good evening. Thank you for this opportunity to talk to you tonight. I'm here to testify for the Central Boys and Girls Club. My name is Katie and I'm a teacher and I am a mom. I teach in Kihei, but my son goes to school at Waihee Elementary. He rides the bus to school in the morning and then rides the bus to Boys and Girls Club after school. The transportation from school to the club is so helpful for our family, since I'm still at work when his school lets out. I'm not sure how I would pull off my job and, therefore, our life without Boys and Girls Club. When my son is at Boys and Girls Club, he is getting his homework done, he's getting some exercise, he's using the computers, he's making friends. He's in a safe and fun environment that he enjoys being in and I really appreciate because he learns life skills there. I love the fact that he's doing his homework. I don't have to . . .wrestle with another kid to do their work at the end of my day; that's already taken care of by the time I pick him up. And sometimes, for me, meetings and other work events can make it so that I have to leave Grayson at Central Boys and Girls Club a little bit later.

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I never think twice about it. The staff there is keeping him safe. They're making sure he's taking care of his responsibilities. They're being positive role models for him to look up to. My confidence in the staff and the program makes it so that I can focus on what I need to do, and ultimately makes me a better teacher for my students, and so it's a win for all the kids. Boys and Girls Club is essential, is essential for families like mine, and the Central Club goes so far above and beyond for our kids, I would strongly encourage you to continue to support this organization that does just such a great job for our community. I'm truly grateful and happy that the Central Club has become part of the village that is raising my child. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Katie.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Chair.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Hold on.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Hui.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Excuse me, Katie. Mr. Victorino.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Katie, don't walk off until we say you are dismissed.

AUDIENCE: . . .(laughter) . . .

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: You ought to know that as a teacher.

MS. FARLEY: I, I was trying to run away, you caught me. . . .(chuckle) . . .

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Yes, I know. I just have one quick question.

MS. FARLEY: Yes, sir.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Is he as good as he says he is at telling his jokes?

MS. FARLEY: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: He is?

MS. FARLEY: He is.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Okay, that's all I needed to know. Thank you.

MS. FARLEY: . . .(chuckle) . . .

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VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you. And Brian will be followed by Anthony. . .I can't quite read this handwriting, Arcuria.

MR. NAGAMI: Good evening, Honorable Councilmembers. My name is Brian Nagami and I live and work here in Kahului. I've come here today as an employee of Imua Family Services. Many of you know our Executive Director Dean Wong. He expresses his regret not being able to be here tonight as he's off-island. I'm here to speak in support of Imua Family Services Inclusion Preschool. As you know, Imua has a number of long-standing programs in the Maui community. We provide services for children living with disabilities, special needs, and developmental delays. You may also be aware that with generous support from the County of Maui, Imua Family Services recently completed work on its new building at 161 South Wakea Avenue. And if you haven't been there yet, please come by and we'd be happy to give you a tour. Along with the beautiful office spaces and specially designed therapy rooms, the space was also designed to incorporate an inclusion preschool. So, I have a little bit here about inclusion since a lot of times when I talk about inclusion, people are kind of like give me a blank stare. So inclusion is an ideal that mirrors a question we have been asking for millennia--how do we live with one another? Inclusion is about learning to live with one another, including those with special needs and limitations. Preschools are among the earliest and best places to start the inclusionary process. It's not a single event, but rather the process of educating children with disabilities in the same environment that they would normally attend if they did not have a disability. It refers to the commitment that to educate each child to the maximum extent possible as equal participants in society in which all children are given the same opportunities to reach their potential. It is not simply about placing a child with special needs in the regular classroom. Inclusion is about how we deal with diversity in our society and how we deal with or avoid dealing with our own differences, weaknesses, and fears. An often overlooked outcome of inclusion is the change in attitudes of teachers, parents, as well as the children without special needs. Compassion and sensitive, sensitivity grow when we face our fears and concerns and help others. Parents report that typically developing children enrolled in integrated settings display less prejudice and fewer stereotypes and are more responsible, responsive and helpful to others. In other words, inclusion education benefits typically developing children by developing their respect for human diversity. Of course there are real benefits for the children with, with special needs. Most agree that developing the social skills of young children is a primary goal, and that is often done through playing and developing friendships. And where do many of us find our friendships? Family, neighborhood, school, daycare centers, preschools, and play groups. But children with special needs often only see family and some paid professionals.

MS. BROOKS: Thirty seconds.

MR. NAGAMI: I'm going to skip to the end. Okay. So inclusion is a value much like the commitment to racial or gender equality. It may not always be easy, it may require

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change and accommodation, but the process of inclusion and the encouragement of each individual child for all us to develop the much desired qualities of compassion, empathy, and helpfulness can teach us and our children that the greater diversity, the richer our capacity to create a more humane and respectful society. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Brian. Anthony will be followed by Mario Sol.

MR. ARCURIA: Good evening, Honorable Chair and Members. My name's Tony Arcuria. I'm the Program Director of the Residential Detox and Residential Addiction Treatment Programs over at Aloha House. And first and foremost, I want to thank you for your support of the programs there. I'm lucky enough to get a chance to see firsthand the, the difference that your support and, and funding has, you know, been able to impact on individuals that come through our program and also on the family members and the greater community. I've been able to see 154 people treated in our Residential Detox and Treatment Programs within the last year based on your funding alone. Although I'd love to go on and on and talk more about the clinical aspects of our program, what I'd mostly want to say is mahalo for your support for Aloha House's Residential Detox Programs.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Tony. And Mario will be followed by Tamara Sherrill or Sherrell.

MR. SOL: Good evening, Councilmembers. My name is Mario Sol and I am testifying on behalf of Aloha House. I'm a former client. I graduated from Aloha House and first off, I would like to thank you for your guys' support. And what Aloha House has done for me. . .has done a lot for me. Without Aloha House I think I would be in, in jail or in a . . .in the cemetery or in an institution. But on Maui, Aloha House is the only treatment center there is and. . .what they've done for me is they helped me through. . .I guess help me diagnose, their doctors helped me diagnose my, my CODs, which is co-occurring disorders; I suffer with a few. And today, I currently go to school part-time, I, I work full-time, and I'm in other programs. I commit myself with the Aloha House alumni, I keep following up with them. And without Aloha House, I, I don't think I would be able to get up, back up on my feet. They. . .after the residential and the detox treatment, they helped me get into a sober living program, and today I have about a year clean. I'm close to graduating from college, I need three more classes. I live on my own and I'm fully independent. But I don't think I would be able to do that without the help of Aloha House. There's no other treatments that I can think of here on Maui, and I just appreciate you guys' help. Thank you. That's all I have.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

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VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mario. And Tamara will be followed by Whit Germano.

MS. SHERRILL: Aloha kakou, Council Chair White and Committee Co-Chair Guzman and Honorable Members of the Council. My name is Tamara Sherrill and I'm the Director at Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. Our mission is to foster appreciation and understanding of Maui Nui's plants and their role in Hawaiian cultural expression by providing a place for discovery, education, and conservation. We also work to save and promote and distribute plants that are only found in Hawaii. And I'm here tonight to testify in support of the line-item grant in the Mayor's Budget. This is our, our base operational funding and from it all other funding sources are leveraged. And I, I'm really proud to say that in Fiscal Year 2015 our County grant was used as a match to achieve 150 percent increase in, from previous years in finding non-County funding such as membership, donations, and grants. Also a third of our staff positions were funded by other sources this year, which is a 30 per cent increase. And, last but not least, I just found out last weekend--and this is not in the information that was provided by OED--but our new master plan has finally led us to achieve the first \$100,000 from a private foundation towards the first phase of implementing some capital improvements on the grounds, which will be building a new nursery and new equipment storage facility. And this is a really concrete step towards improving the value of this County property. I believe this shows how much we've been working in this last year towards making every County dollar count. You know, we're also charging admission fees, we've increased our Saturday workshops from 0 to 8 this year. We are having, still having partner organizations come and hold their own fundraising events, and we're really, really grateful to the Parks Department this year, I'd just like to say, because we're working a lot better with them about allowing these kinds of events, and that brings in all of kinds of new people to learn about what we're doing and become members. And this year, I just wanted to invite you to our first annual fundraiser dinner which is going to be a night with the flowers or Nanea na Pua, which will be Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, and I hope you'll consider attending. I hope you agree that these recent accomplishments demonstrate that partnering with Maui Nui Botanical Gardens is fiscally responsible, and mahalo for your attention and your past support.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Tamara. And Whit will be followed by Susan Lussier.

MR. GERMANO: Aloha, Councilmembers. It's always nice and frightening to see you at this time of the year. My name is Whit Germano. I'm the Program Manager at Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. I would like to state my strong and blatantly obvious support for Fiscal Year 2016 funding for the gardens. We are an important, educational, and community resource, and we hope to continue the upward momentum into next year and beyond. Thirty-one school groups and nonprofits were hosted by the staff and volunteers at the gardens last year in a variety of activities, including three different

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tours, botanical drawings, a seed treasure hunt, Hawaiian crafts, and botanical identification. We continue to educate visitors and residents about native plants in Hawaiian culture. Native coastlines are rare and native forests are inaccessible. MNBG offers a central location with 112 labeled native species, most from Maui. Cultural demonstrations and workshops this year included kapa making, native plant dyes, cordage and net weaving, processing ipu gourds into containers, and growing and cooking with Hawaiian foods like sugar cane, taro, sweet potato and breadfruit. We are a site for job training and we have a large volunteer base. We continue to work twice a month with Maui High School's workplace readiness program. We host up to 12 University of Hawaii College service learning interns each semester, and we're a field site for the college. The course is in Hawaiian ethnobotany, Hawaiian field biology, and geographic information systems labs. Our social program partners include Kaunoa Senior Center, the First-To-Work Program, SNAP, and the Drug Court Programs. Four hundred eight-four volunteers donated more than 4,000 hours of service to the gardens last year. This kind of commitment from the community means that there is public support for our mission, and that support is helping us to build the gardens into a destination that Maui County can be proud of. Mahalo.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Whit. Susan will be followed by Chris d'Avella.

MS. LUSSIER: Okay. Aloha, Honorable Councilmembers and Chair. Susan Lussier. I hope you folks read my letter about the hospital, but anyway this is another topic. I'm here in support of a nonprofit humanitarian agency that feeds the hungry, Feed My Sheep. I'm sorry, I'm supposed to address you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: You need to. . .no, you need to look our way.

MS. LUSSIER: Okay. I'm, I'm a teacher, I'm used to talking to a class here. Okay. There are many priorities as we can see here. The basic first priority of survival is water--I'm glad we have water, not California--and food. Then comes shelter, as you all know, and health and physical, emotional health, safety, et cetera, education, and everything else. But food. . .Feed My Sheep, as you know, has been, was first started by Joyce Kawakami. It's a mobile food distribution program that goes to all the various neighborhoods passing out bags of groceries to everyone who needs help that has needs. In addition to that, we give emotional support, a friendly smile. They are not considered clients, they are friends. I only go about once a month when I can, but the regular workers with Feed My Sheep know every single person by name. They're given a friendly handshake, sometimes a hug, a listening ear. So it's not just clients, they are friends, they're considered friends. The results are. . .I think 69,000 half pound meals have been given, about two years ago, about 6,000 people were. . .people working but poor families, ill, fragile, disabled, seniors on fixed income, and homeless men and women. Each person comes for a few minutes, moments with someone who cares, truly cares, and food for their week. The staff are mainly volunteers like myself;



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we're not paid. Some of, some of my co-workers, I noticed, started using their own funds and they're making little toiletry bags for some of the homeless that come by asking for razors and other kinds of things like that, and it comes out our pockets. And Feed My Sheep mainly is just a citizens, neighbors helping neighbors. But I believe this is a first, maybe first time that Joyce is going to be approaching the, the Council for some assistance. I guess the need, need is growing. But anyway I, I just want to share. . .there was one friend, he was a homeless guy, he said thank you so much because I don't need to steal anymore because you give me food to eat. And I thought that was very touching.

MS. BROOKS: Thirty seconds.

MS. LUSSIER: Okay. Who are the friends? They're elderly, frail, ill, unemployed, new arrivals, people in wheelchairs, walkers, and moms with kids, and many of them often need help in carrying their groceries to the store, I mean to their cars. So, I just wanted to say Feed My Sheep literally are feeding the hungry. I'm there, I'm, I'm looking and I see who they are, and they are given such care and compassion that they, they come more. . .not just for the food, they're coming for friendship and compassion. So this is. . .remember Feed My Sheep, please. We're staffed with very few paid employees. We're all volunteers like most of these guys. Thank you very much for all you do.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Susan. And Chris will be followed by Gwen Morinaga-Kama.

MR. d'AVELLA: Aloha, Members of the Council.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: If you'd come a little closer.

MR. d'AVELLA: Aloha, Members of the Council. My name is Chris d'Avella. I am the Collections Manager at Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. I'm here tonight to testify in favor of the line-item grant for Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. This year we are expanding on two programs at the gardens. First, to preserve and make more common the unique Hawaiian varieties of five traditional crops; and second, to more effectively partner with land managers who seek coastal and native species for land restoration. Maui Nui Botanical Gardens supports agriculture. The gardens act as a genetic bank for heritage varieties of agricultural plants. In the past years, we have worked to become an authority on Hawaiian kalo. We have become known as a reliable source for more than 60 kalo varieties for farms and community groups. We received a 2015 grant from the Hawaii Tourism Authority to help us meet public demand for heritage varieties of kalo, banana, sweet potato, awa, and sugar cane. This support has enabled us to expand our program to facilitate the verification and exchange of heritage Hawaiian varieties with dozens of local residents, farmers,

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researchers, and various community groups. Maui Nui Botanical Gardens also partners with NGOs and with government to save endangered species. We are a resource for native plants. Because of our location in, in a former dune system, we are one of few sources for Maui Coastal Native Species which are in demand for beach restoration. We received an additional 2015 grant to improve our ability to store seeds of coastal native species so that land managers can utilize them for current and future plantings. We continue to provide cuttings, seedlings, and genetic banking for our conservation partners. We donate annually more than 1,000 native plants to restoration projects and school gardens in addition to the 1,000 native trees we give away each year as part of our Arbor Day celebration. We sell an additional 1,000 plants throughout the year. Mahalo for your time tonight and thank you for making our work possible.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Chris. And Gwen will be followed by Bruce Dudoit.

MS. MORINAGA-KAMA: Good evening, Honorable Members of the Maui County Council. Aloha mai no kakou. My name is Gwen Morinaga-Kama and I am a full-time lecturer at UH Maui College, teaching several sections of Hawaiian Ethnobotany. As a board member of Maui Nui Botanical Gardens, I would like to express my undivided support for the garden, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to foster appreciation and understanding of Maui Nui's plants and their role in Hawaiian cultural expression by providing a gathering place for discovery, education, and conservation. In my work teaching students about the ethnobotanical uses of native flora, the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens provides a, the Hawaiian studies staff and open laboratory to view and utilize Hawaiian plants as prescribed by the culture. I cannot reiterate..., reiterate enough how important the garden is as an invaluable resource for UHMC students and faculty. Additionally, the garden plays an essential role in Maui County. It provides a venue for events such as Ola Ka Honua celebrating the earth; Ho`omau, Punana Leo's annual fundraiser; and the 1,000 native plant giveaway celebrating Arbor Day. And just this past weekend UHMC's Institute of Hawaiian Music, Aloha `Ia No `O Maui benefit concert, I have witnessed its transition from the old Maui Zoo to a botanical conservatory for rare and endangered plants of Maui Nui. Due to Uncle Rene Sylva's vision and hard work to conserve, protect, and teach about native Hawaiian plants, today we have a living legacy to share with all of Maui Nui and its visitors and, more importantly, a resource for generations to come. Being truly appreciative of the support that the County of Maui has provided to Maui Nui Botanical Gardens since its inception, I encourage you, the Council, to continue in partnership with Maui Nui Botanical Garden as they work to achieve their mission and serve Maui's community. Mahalo for your time and your support.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

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VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Gwen. And Bruce will be followed by Henrietta Mollena.

MR. DUDOIT: Aloha, Councilmembers. My name is Bruce Dudoit. I'm a groundskeeper at Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. I'm here to support the funding needed to maintain this garden. I did Hawaiian Studies at UH Maui College and native plants provide materials for many important Hawaiian arts. This project touches a lot of people, but you may not know that it also helps Maui businesses and nonprofit organizations. Fifty-three local businesses and entertainers come to our events, came to our events this year. Thirty nonprofits came to our events this year. We have tours, workshops, and events all year-round that promote native Hawaiian plants and their historic uses. People get interested in using these plants and that helps businesses like local nurseries and cultural practitioners. Altogether we have more than 150 varieties of Hawaiian kalo, awa, sugar cane, sweet potatoes, and bananas. These varieties were developed here in Hawaii by Hawaiians. Besides helping the Maui farmers in saving these varieties, it could mean that chefs, cooks will have more choices in what they can use to create Hawaiian food and that's good for visitors too. Mahalo nui loa, Councilmembers, for hearing my testimony tonight.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Bruce. Henrietta will be followed by Heather Kanemoto.

MS. MOLLENA: Good evening, Honorable Members of the Maui County Council. I would like to testify on behalf of the Maui Economic Opportunity Head Start Program. My name is Henrietta Mollena and I am grandparent/guardian for a preschooler at UHMC Head Start. I would like to first thank you for all the years of funding Head Start. My daughter was one of the first students to graduate from UHMC Head Start 20 years ago. My grandson has, who I take care of, has grown and benefit greatly from the Head Start Program. He has learned to share, take turns, plan, follow directions, and have respect for others. The MEO, the MEO, Maui Economic Opportunity Head Start Program helps me to work and volunteer and prepare for my grandchildren's future. Lastly, I would like to thank you. . .excuse me, lastly, I would like to thank, I would like to ask you to please continue funding the Head Start Programs and thank you for sharing your time and support. Mahalo. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Henrietta. And Heather will be followed by Monica Borge.

MS. KANEMOTO: Good evening, Councilmembers. My name is Heather Kanemoto and, and standing with me are follow board members for Kansha Preschool. We are here today to again humbly ask you for your support of our very special program. As you know or may not know, we are the only intergenerational program on the island of Maui,

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and with your help we are able to bring together our preschoolers and our elderly to engage in hands-on activities and learning experiences. Together with Maui Adult Day Care, we are looking to improve on the program's future by providing more experiences such as gardening together and to encourage more meaningful relationships. We thank you again for your time and most continued support of our special program. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Heather. And following Monica will be Sally Black-Barron.

MS. BORGE: Hi. I didn't know what to expect today, so I just made notes while I was waiting. So, I am here in support of the--what is it called?--it's Kahi Kamalii, but the, the County funding. So, I'm sorry? It's the Good Beginnings, that's what it is. So just an FYI, my husband has been working for 22 years, I have at his place of employment; I have been 8 years at mine, I supervise a team of therapists. I also have been a supervisor at an agency for kids 0 to 3. I have a master's degree and we both work really hard and we cannot afford quality day care. Just by education and experience, I know what is needed for the developmental needs of young children. I know all about the research, the, the significant positive impact that early education has for school readiness in the long term. But by my own desire, I want to be the best mom I can be. One of the things I had said when I first signed my daughter up at Kahi Kamalii to the director was that I knew that it wasn't cheap, but I'd gone to graduate school and I felt like why should my daughter suffer and not be able to experience something because I have a school loan to pay. I mark the "x" box for the highest income for combined. I qualify for nothing. But with the County funding I can get her into a program. With no respect to my mother-in-law, she was at grandma's house. I want her somewhere where she can interact with other children. I want her to be somewhere where people know CPR. I don't think that's too much to ask. She comes home singing songs I didn't teach her. She's not even two-and-a half, she sings the alphabet. It's stuff that I can't stay home for. . .because this is not a community or a generation where two parents can do that. So, I can't afford to stay home, I can. . .and we have to work. So, I'm not going to apologize for working, and I want her to be able to get into college without the \$99,000 loan that I have to pay. So even that, I work for a public service agency. I can't afford the monthly payment for the public service loan forgiveness. So, so without the funding we wouldn't be able to get her into a day care so we can go to work every day. And I appreciate all the support for that. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Monica. And Sally will be followed by Robert Littlejohn.

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MS. BLACK-BARRON: Most Honorable County Councilmembers, thank you for allowing me to come tonight to, to speak to you. I'm representing the Maui Office, the National Kidney Foundation, to humbly ask for your personal consideration of our preliminary line-item grant application for Fiscal Year 2016. Our grant request for \$46,232 will allow us to significantly expand our efforts to combat the fast, escalating, silent and deadly kidney disease epidemic affecting the health and safety of Maui residents. Some of you are aware that prior to the serious downturn in the economy, our nonprofit organization had forged a unique partnership with the County of Maui as a grant recipient for four years. During that time, we excelled at surpassing our outcomes meeting compliance requirements and encouraging many hundreds of Maui residents each year to participate in our free early detection screenings and disease intervention programs. We made significant progress during that time and we're back to ask you for your much needed help in this critically urgent and uphill battle. Did you know that Hawaii leads the nation in kidney disease with a rate 30 per cent higher than the mainland? Over 162,000 people in Hawaii are being treated for kidney disease and 3,300 are on dialysis. Additionally, one in seven Hawaii residents have kidney disease but without intervention they won't even know it until their kidneys actually fail. The high risk groups for kidney disease in Hawaii include native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, Filipinos, Japanese, residents with diabetes, high blood pressure or over 60 years old. Did you know that 26 million Americans have kidney disease? A recent John Hopkins study now estimates that one in three Americans will have kidney disease in their lifetime. Worse yet, with Hawaii's high incidence of kidney disease and kidney failure the rate is estimated to be one in every two Hawaiian residents will have kidney disease in their lifetime. So this is a very serious epidemic, and kidney disease impacts our local economy and cost Medicare up to \$41 billion annually.

MS. BROOKS: Thirty seconds.

MS. BLACK-BARRON: This a major epidemic on Maui but with our programs kidney disease can be stopped or significantly delayed from becoming kidney failure. The National Kidney Foundation of Hawaii is the only organization on Maui, Lanai, and Molokai which provides these critically needed services free to our island residents. Your approval of our grant request will provide the needed resources to address this epidemic for the health and safety of Maui residents. Thank you so much for your kind consideration of our grant.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Sally. Robert will be followed by Michelle Evans.

MR. LITTLEJOHN: Aloha. Poha kahi. I'm here to testify on behalf of the grant submitted by the National Kidney Foundation - Maui Office, the County of Maui for the Fiscal Year 2016. This is for the Maui County chronic kidney disease prevention, intervention and education program. I believe kidney screening and early detection is of great importance. Being a transplant recipient after being on dialysis for 15 years I can attest to this because it would have helped me preventing my whole life from being

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shattered financially, and physically. My lifestyle changed overnight. And part of it was being exhausted most of the time feeling inadequate. I had no energy to hold down a full-time job to provide for my ohana. Now that I've gotten a new kidney, I am very grateful. Please grant this needed to prevent kidney dialysis for a person to go through all this pain and suffering. If I had known early enough that I had kidney disease, I could have prevented my kidney failure. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Robert.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: After Michelle's testimony, we're going to take about a five-minute break.

MS. EVANS: You folks deserve a break. Aloha, Councilmembers. My name is Michelle Evans and I'm testifying for MEO Community Service, their Rental Assistance Program. I am a full-time employee of Iao Preschool. I'm an Aide there and I'm also a part-time employee at Maui Family YMCA, and I'm also part-time school at our college pursuing my degree in Early Childhood Education. In August, we were living with a family and the family didn't pay their portion of the electric, and we were paying our portion but they didn't pay theirs. They didn't tell us and they disappeared from our household. Maui Electric came around to collect the electricity bill and there was no money to be able to collect because I couldn't pay their portion plus our portion because it was so high 'cause everybody was using the electricity in the household. It was two families living in a two-bedroom household. And so with the help of MEO we were able to move into our own home and now we have control over our own bills. The bills get paid on time and they're much cheaper because we have control over it, and I hope and pray that you guys continue to support their community service rental program and the electricity program as well because they helped us out to pay the deposit for the electricity, which was another \$500 that we did not have. And my boyfriend who I live with he works two part-time jobs as well so we are trying to make it as much as we can but it is expensive living here on Maui, and to come up with the rental deposit plus the first month's rent on top of the electricity deposit is too much to imagine. Plus you have food to buy and everything else you guys understand. Thank you, again, for your time. Have a good night!

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Michelle. And with that, we're going to take a five-minute recess. . . .(gavel) . . .

**RECESS: 7:58 p.m.**  
**RECONVENE: 8:10 p.m.**

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: . . .(gavel) . . . Okay, thank you for that break. And we'll go with our next testifier, Mr. Tony Krieg.

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MR. KRIEG: Good evening, Councilmembers. Hale Makua is asking for your support in the Maui County Budget to provide some relief for the cost of physician services to many of the Hale Makua residents at its two nursing homes, and for those who need to be admitted to Hale Makua in the future. By Federal and State rules, every person must be admitted and attended throughout their stay in our nursing homes or any nursing home by a primary care physician. Ten years ago, nearly all of the community physicians on Maui except Kaiser stopped admitting to Hale Makua and Maui Memorial Hospital. The reasons were a shortage of primary care physicians in the community and the declining reimbursement for physician services in nursing homes and hospitals. So, Hale Makua Health Services was left with no choice but to find a physician for, at that time, 160 residents if not admission from the hospital and the community that Hale Makua would stop because there was no admitting physician. To meet this ongoing need over the years, we've initially contracted with some community physicians but when they stopped we were forced to contract with temporary physicians staffing companies on the mainland. The annual cost of this has been over \$400,000 a year. This is much higher than just a physician salary as you know but we must also pay for mainland air fare, housing and transportation. And we're able to bill Medicare for about a third of that but then that cost to Hale Makua is around \$300,000 a year. Over the last five years, we've experienced year over year operating losses due to changes in reimbursement and cuts. And if we were to stop admitting patients from the hospital due to a lack of physician resource, the backlog would seriously jeopardize the hospitals ability to admit patients who need acute care. And nearly 87 per cent of Hale Makua's patients are admitted from Maui Memorial and so no physician at Hale Makua would greatly impact them and the community. So, in a sense, we're all stuck. In addition, with no physician resource existing, residents would have to be transferred to other facilities across the State as they would have no attending physician. In short, we would not be able to meet our requirements which would ultimately result in and possibly closing our nursing homes.

MS. BROOKS: Thirty seconds.

MR. KRIEG: We strive to be self-sustaining. We've tried to create with willing community physicians to solve the problem and at one point we had discussions with the Community Clinic of Maui to come up with a solution. However, the Federal agency which directs policy for the Community Clinic disapproved this idea. So we're discussing this issue with our Board of Directors and other players in the health care industry to find a more permanent solution but at this time, we humbly ask for your support.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much. Ms. Baisa?

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you, Mr. Krieg, for being here. And I certainly understand the predicament you're in. But I'm wondering . . . I can't remember, there's so much, so many items before us, is your request in the Mayor's budget?

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MR. KRIEG: Yes, it is.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Okay. Thank you very much. That matters. Thank you.

MR. KRIEG: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: The next testifier is Danny Macias and he'll be followed by Sandy Freeman.

MR. MACIAS: Good evening, Councilmembers. My name is Dan Macias. I'm an independent product developer, and I'm testifying in support of MEDB. Specifically, MEDB's line item for the upcoming fiscal year is fully funded. I enthusiastically support MEDB for these reasons. I arrived on Maui from Oahu eight months ago. When I moved here with my spouse I had no business contacts, no social media skills, and building a website seemed impossible for me. I also did not have steady work so I needed to reset. There is one organization that I have to thank for providing me with the tools to change all of that and that's MEDB. Social media for business was so foreign that I focused on building a website to try my hand at developing my own product and selling it online. I was happily surprised to find that there's a group where people meet and get excited about building websites. The meeting place was MEDB and it was free to attend, thanks to MEDB. That went so well that I got up the nerve to attend social media training. The address seemed familiar. Sure enough it was MEDB. Everyone there seemed like a wiz. I kept my head down but I still learned. At MEDB I've attended two meetings per month and I built my skill sets, my contacts, my websites, and my product and it's going on sale on Wednesday, but I'm not here to talk about that. My product required a marketing video and I needed a place to shoot it, and who came to my help - MEDB. I attended a legal function at MEDB and next month I'll be there for startup weeken--startup weekend Maui. I could go on. Support small business. Support entrepreneurship. Support MEDB. Please fully fund them in the upcoming fiscal year. Thank you, Councilmembers.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Danny. And following Sandy we have Jen Azuma.

MS. FREEMAN: I'm Sandy Freeman with Maui Adult Day Care. And I'm not going to take a lot of your time tonight because I think we've spoken with all of you. And, of course, after 41<sup>st</sup> year I think you know about Maui Adult Day Care. But I do want to re-emphasize the importance of Maui Adult Day Care to our families. And I think if those of you that saw our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary we did a little video about ten minutes and it



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really told the story of what we do not only for the clients but also for the families. And over this past year we're now open seven days a week and I know I hit a couple of questions when I came and visited you about, well, you know, is it financially good, and yes, it is. We haven't been in the red at all. And in fact, it helps us financially. But it's not, we didn't do it for the financial. That was kind of a good outcome but we did it because the families really need that extra time on Saturdays and Sundays as well. And then we started the new ITouch Program, which is no money out of our budget because I've written other grants to get that funded. So, all in all, and as most of you know, 90/95 per cent of our clients have some form of Alzheimer's and they just need the respite and so we give the respite to 'em in the sports so . . . So anyway, I do want to mention to you we made \$53,000 on our walk that we just had. So we felt good and we're going to shoot for \$60,000 for next year. But anyway, I want to say mainly to thank you, thank you, thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Sandy. I know you weren't suggesting that we reduce your grant by that amount.

MS. FREEMAN: No, no. I'm not even asking for an increase, so don't reduce it.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much.

MS. FREEMAN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Thank you, Sandy.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: And following Jen will be Peter Tierney.

MS. AZUMA: Hello. My name is Jen Azuma, and I'm here to testify on behalf of Ka Hale A Ke Ola. I'm one of the residents. I'm one of several hundred that they help each and every day. I've lived there for about a year and in my time there I've noticed or watched them help countless families. They help us to remove the obstacles and the barriers, the economic barriers that have gotten us there to begin with. Without being said, I know that their mission statement is to break the cycle of homelessness and I've noticed that since Erin has been there her and our staff has really been working hard to help these families truly overcome it so that we don't return, so that we don't come back through those doors. So I'm asking humbly if you would help her by providing the necessary resources that she needs so she can provide the resources for us. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

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VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Jen. And following Peter will be Roannamarie Kauhaapo.

MR. TIERNEY: Good evening, Councilmembers. Good evening, Chair White, good to see you down here especially in Kahului. I'm here tonight representing the Board of Directors, the volunteers, and the cats and dogs that have been fixed through SPCA Maui and Maui County's Spay/Neuter Incentive Program. It is a line-item in this upcoming budget. We want to thank you very much for your support in past years. I have some really great numbers to read off real quick. Your support in the \$77,500 in last year's SNIP line-item grant allowed us to assist in the sterilization on 814 female cats, 835 male cats, 295 female dogs, and 228 male dogs. That is tens of thousands of puppies and kittens that will never show up at our island County's supported shelter. We do ask for your continued support. We feel that we are approaching the point where we've got this problem under control. Without your continued support we'd be right back where we were so we want to thank you for that, and we certainly appreciate all your support for Maui's cats and dogs.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Peter.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: And following Roannamarie will be Audrey Guerrero.

MS KAUHAAPO: Aloha. My name is Roanna and I'm here on behalf of Ka Hale A Ke Ola. This is my third trip in there. This is really not a bad place. It's an awesome place. I had my kids there at one point. This time around I really actually got to let this program sink into my life and allow it to do its job in me. From where it was to where it is now Erin has done the most craziest jobs there. I mean, she's cleaned up so much things. She made things possible this time around. And honestly, I'm glad that they picked her. The program is one of the only programs here that deals with homelessness. People come and they go, they use and abuse the place. The staff there they, to me, they become like family. It's easy to talk to them. You call, they answer. You need to switch something up, they'll do it. You need help because you can't get to a computer, they'll go on theirs to help you do what they gotta do to help you to get to where you need to be. In advance, I thank you for all you're going to help us with, and I thank you all for what you've done so far. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Roannamarie.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: And Audrey will be followed by Alfred Boteilho.

MS. GUERRERO: Good evening, Councilmembers. I am Audrey Guerrero, and right now the President of Heritage Hall Board. First and foremost, we want to thank you very much

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for all the help you have given us. It is very much appreciated. As you probably know, construction is already underway and this is a project that we have waited a long time for. The problem now is that we have to pay for all the change order costs. The change order costs are changes that are being done to satisfy the individual County departments. We thought we had a fire hydrant within 500 feet of our property and then we had to put in a fire hydrant. On top of that, we have to do it separately from our domestic water so we have two trenches with two pipes. And it's just the change orders. Every time you change an order, of course, the architect has to do it too, and then the contractor within 90 days he has to go out to rebid cost is up again. So it ends up that we owe a whole bunch of money. And that's what we're asking for - \$600,000. We're also anxious, we've been anxiously awaiting for this project. Its completion not only serves our cultural center for the Portuguese and the Puerto Ricans but it provides a facility that the whole community can use. That's what we're really looking for . . . use for gatherings and for everything they want, anything they want. And we're not only asking but pleading for more money to pay for the pipes, the new fire hydrant, the sprinkler system that's required and that we hope never, ever have to come back and beg you again. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Audrey.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: And Alfred will be followed by Anna-Marie Hartman.

MR. BOTEILHO: Good evening, Councilmembers. The chairs are hard, the subject disturbing, I'm well over 60, I'm afraid for my kidney, there's no doctors at Hale Makua, and you gotta feed the sheep.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Al, just get to the point.

MR. BOTEILHO: The point is, I'm getting old and I'm waiting for that hall. I've got three minutes and I'm going to talk about what I want.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Please don't interrupt.

MR. BOTEILHO: We're born on the same day but many years later. The point here is that none of this stuff should have taken 13 years, but it did. One of you, I'm not going to mention his name, long ago said, Al, how the hell did this take so long? And gosh, I have no idea but it has been uphill all the way. You know like going to school in the old days in the rain and snow we walked uphill, came home uphill. The community needs this, we need it as a place for everybody to remember who they are, what the culture is, and what the forefathers went through when they moved here. Sometimes we never ever talked about that, you know. They didn't speak the same languages, they had to learn to be together. How did they manage all of this and from all of this came the ukulele and the sweet bread and the malasadas, and you have it with poi

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and you have it with sushi, you know, how did all this happen? Because people talk to each other and work together. It's important. We're a big part of Hawaii, you know. Our forefathers came to the kingdom of Hawaii, not the United States of America and that should never be forgotten that we work for the king, we're part it. Here we are, this is something the next generation needs to know, you know, how we did it, how everybody used tarais, you know, and even what a tarai is. So our hope is that we'll get this hall done, we'll get that down written and be able to bring in intelligent people to talk to our youth and let them know how the language pidgin became, how it was used and how we communicated and how we became a great country . . . a state like we are. So, thank you guys for your help and we still need you. Everybody is going to talk about the money but the reality is we need the hall and the hall costs money, and that's why we need the money. Thank you, guys.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you.

MR. BOTEILHO: And we don't have cushions.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: We feel very blessed to have these cushions. Anna-Marie Hartman will be followed by Ron Vilorio.

MS. HARTMAN: Hi, good evening, Councilmembers. My name is Anna-Marie Hartman. My son is Mason Hartman. He goes to Kahului B for MEO Head Start. He's the youngest of my three children. He's currently five years old. MEO Head Start has made a great impact on him and I would like to say thank you for funding it. And I would also like to say please continue on funding them because education to our children are the most important. Because without the education we would not have the young adults that we have today. For my son Mason he has grown to be a confident and independent young boy for his age. I'd like to thank the MEO program for providing the services for him. I would like to say . . . I would also like to ask to continue once again to supporting them in the whole funding process so that they can be molded into young women and men of Hawaii. And on behalf of Kahului A & B and our families, we would like to say thank you and mahalo for your funding for them. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you.

MS. HARTMAN: This is my first year.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: And following Ron will be Jeffrey Giese.

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MR. VILORIA: Hello. My name is Ron Viloría. I have my own small business, uh, reasonability and I'm a consultant for Pacific Defense Solutions and also an employee of the Maui High Performance Computing Center. I'm here to provide testimony in support of Maui Economic Development Board (MEDB). I consider . . . I see them everywhere. If they're not putting on an event, they're teaming and being a good citizen in the community for joining an event. If they're not joining an event, they're participating. If they're not participating, they're promoting. They're everywhere . . . from STEM to participating in TEDx to Start Up weekend. I see them as both proactive and preventive for the future of small business on the island of Maui, and I humbly ask for your continued support for them. I consider them my small business ohana and if you can help me support them, they can continue to support me and supporting local so we can provide a change global. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . . (applause) . . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Ron. And Jeffrey will be followed by Jeremy Irvine.

MR. GIESEA: Good evening and aloha, Honorable Members of the Council's Budget and Finance Committee. My name is Jeff Gieseá. I am a Captain at the Kahului Fire Station and I'm here in support of the Fire Department. My family and I also live here in Kahului so I'm here as a private citizen as well. I'd like to start off with the most important thing which is to say thank you. We have a very well-funded Fire Department here in Maui County, and that reflects I think very favorably on your, the Council's commitment to providing quality emergency services for our community and our visitors. As a member of the Fire Department, I can assure you that we appreciate that very much. And I'm confident that those citizens and visitors that have had need for our services appreciate it too. So, again, thank you very much for that. As we all know, quality emergency services are not cheap. You need an adequate number of personnel. You need lots of high quality training. You need the right equipment, equipment that's surprisingly expensive as I'm sure you've all found out, right. And this is a challenge all communities face. It's an even greater challenge here in Maui County and even more critical here in Maui County because with very rare and very limited exceptions the local emergency responders are the only ones coming. We can't call the neighboring Fire Department and say, hey, can you send us your Hazmat team? Can you send us your helicopter? Can you send us that Ladder truck or even can you send us more people? We just don't have that option, right, for very obvious reason . . . we live on an island or islands and we're surrounded by miles and miles of ocean. And because we are the only ones coming we have to ready to handle anything foreseeable that comes our way. Not just what we do daily or weekly or even on a monthly basis but anything that we can foresee happening here. And to pull this off in a safe and effective way in accordance with national standards and Federal legal mandates and with the efficiency and professionalism that our community deserves, it takes a real and lasting commitment. And so, I urge you to please continue that commitment and continue to support the Fire Department and the budget that our

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Fire Chief has submitted. I know they work extraordinarily hard on it all year. They make a lot of difficult decisions. They have to decide what we need most, what's gotta wait, and I'm confident they do their very best on this and really work hard to be as fiscally responsible as they possibly can as I know you all have to be as well. In any case, I want to assure you all --

MS. BROOKS: Thirty seconds.

MR. GIESEA: -- you got it, my personal commitment and one that I think is shared by a great many of my colleagues in the Fire Department whatever funding you provide us we're going to make sure that you and the people of Maui County are getting your monies worth. That's very important to us. Thank you. Also, I don't know if you can even do this but if you can get a road off a Kuihelani Highway to the new sports complex, that would be awesome 'cause traffic here is going to be ridiculous without that. So, anyway, thank you very much for your support of the Fire Department. We really appreciate it. It's so necessary. Aloha.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Jeffrey.

MR. IRVINE: Good evening, Councilmembers. Thank you guys for being here. My name is Jeremy Irvine. I'm a Fire Fighter at Kahului Fire Station. I also live here in Kahului so I serve in the community that I live. And it's very important to me. So I wanted to say thank you, first of all, for your continued support. I understand budgeting can be very hard and public safety shouldn't be a place where we should be trying to find shortcuts, in my opinion. Our department is the most progressive and forward thinking, well-equipped, and well-trained, most trained in the State, and that's something that I take pride in, something my co-workers take pride in, and I think you guys should take pride in that too because without your support you know that doesn't happen. So we really do appreciate it. As I said, I do live here in the Kehalani area and Maui is growing exponentially fast. Just behind our station industrially, residentially you know, hopefully, we can keep up with the public infrastructure. I just wanted to end like I said, we appreciate it. The people that we serve are right here in this room, my family, my neighbors, your families so, hopefully, we can have that continued support from you and we really do appreciate it. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Next testifier is Shanelle Nerpio.

MS. NERPIO: Good evening. I didn't really prepare a speech. I'm speaking on behalf of Maui Economic Opportunity Head Start. They're really helpful because they've allowed my

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son to go to preschool. And it gave me time to go to work and try to further my education for myself and for my son. They've helped him open up more socially, teach him very important skills and things that he needs to know. It's very interesting hearing all of these other kids with high aspirations and I want him to be one of those kids to grow up having big hopes and dreams and aspirations. And having you guys funding is good. You guys continued support would help for other kids and other families. I thank you guys for supporting them and I ask you guys to continue to support them. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Shanelle.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Next testifier is Phillip Valentine and he will be followed by Pamela Martin.

MR. VALENTINE: Aloha, Councilmen. I would like to especially express my feelings towards Heritage Hall. For me, it means a lot that the younger generation know what we're doing, what you guys are doing and that, hey, that we can help them and they have a place to be there and learn so that they can better themselves and get the generations that are coming to know and feel what we have and learning our background and present it to the different generations that they'll continue on. But I especially like to thank you all for your help and we really would like to have your continued work for us. Thank you very much.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Phillip. And Pamela is the last person who signed up to testify. So if there's anyone else that's here that would like to do so, please let the staff in the back know or you can just wait and come up. Please, go ahead.

MS. MARTIN: Thank you. Hello, everyone. I'm going to be testifying on the County Communication 15-41.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Which communication is that?

MS. MARTIN: Your budget.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Okay. Thank you.

MS. MARTIN: On the budget. I am for it but I would like to keep in mind that I would like to maintain and not see such a large increase. A 16 per cent is quite a bit. So if we could look at other areas that we may be duplicating and take that into consideration. Also, I would like to say that I think we should send or we should be lobbying more at

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the Capitol for us to bring in more funding for maybe to help with the budget. Yes?  
That's it for me. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Okay, thank you very much.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Is there anyone else who would like to testify this evening? Seeing no  
one rushing for the microphone, without objections we'll close public testimony.  
Thank you all very much for coming this evening. With that, we will adjourn.  
. . .(gavel). . .

**ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.**

**ADJOURN:** 8:41 p.m.

APPROVED:



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RIKI HOKAMA, Chair  
Budget and Finance Committee

bf:min:150420-Kahului

Transcribed by: Jo-Ann Sato