

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

April 14, 2016

Haiku Community Center, Social Hall

CONVENE: 6:02 p.m.

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

STAFF: Kimberley Willenbrink, Legislative Attorney
Raynette Yap, Substituting Committee Secretary
Troy Hashimoto, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Mike White
Stacy Takahashi, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Mike White
Arthur Suyama, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Stacy Crivello
Morris Haole, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Robert Carroll

OTHERS: Lilia Maeda
Lei-Ana Giovannoni
Shawn Perry
Leilani Maui
Tai Beck
Kaimana Brittain
Peter Swanzy
Farrah Bellinger
Ruby Swanzy
Morgan Leeks
Antonio Greco
Olivia Bellinger
Jacelyn Kane
Ty Simpson-Kane
Kaika Lacio
Jhorden Shimabuku
Louise Corpuz
Marty McMahan
Alison Samilleda, Senior Program Manager, Best Buddies Hawaii
Stacy Casco
Rebecca Kehano
Sierra Knight

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Chris Speere, Site Coordinator, Maui Food Innovation Center of UH Maui College
Noelani Sugata, Executive Director, Paia Town Association
Vanessa Ghantous
Kat Bourgea
Bridget Hinman, Unit Director, Haiku Boys and Girls Club
Sharon Freitas, President, Tom Morrow Equestrian Arena
Lucienne deNaie, President, Haiku Community Association
Lehn Huff
Richard Lucas, Program Manager, Friends of Old Maui High School
Jamie Fitzpatrick, Maui Roller Girls
Simon Russell, President, Hawaii Farmers Union, Haleakala Chapter
John Hoxie
Trinette Furtado
Becky Erickson
Michael Howe
Billy Jalbert, Board President, Paia Youth Center and Cultural Center
Lisa Darcy
Daniel Grantham, Board Member, Sierra Club Maui
Chanelle Kapuni
Laurel Loesberg
David Fry, President, Tanuki Interactive
William Knowlton
Elisa Plauche, Maui Invasive Species Committee
Nikhilananda
Sarah Gray, Maui Roller Girls
Darcy Henderson
Alex Haller
Susie Peck
Jennifer Livingston, Vice President, Haiku Community Association
Leinaala Kuloloio Vedder
Ali Young
Others (21)

ITEM BF-1: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2017 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (CC 16-29)

CHAIR HOKAMA: . . .(gavel). . . Okay. Settle down, we're going to start our meeting. First, turn off all your noise-making devices or put it on silent mode. This evening your Council's Committee on Budget and Finance is present in Haiku. We are here to take your comments on the Proposed Fiscal Year 2017 Budget as proposed by your Mayor Arakawa. The rules of the Committee are that when your name is called up, please come forward, state your name. If you represent an organization or entity, we request that information. Since we will give everyone their same opportunity as each other for testimony, by rules of this Committee, you have three minutes and three

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minutes to speak. There is no additional minute to conclude, okay? Three minutes. Staff will assist you. Once you start speaking your time starts. If you conclude before the three minutes, thank you very much. If not, you have three minutes as I stated earlier. At the two-minute, forty-five-second mark, the staff will indicate that to you, which means you have approximately two sentences to conclude your testimony, okay? And at three minutes you will stop so that the next person can have their same amount of time to give their comments. With that I'm going to ask your district representative, Mr. Mike White, to do the introductions of the Committee and then we'll proceed with testimony.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Riki. And thank you all for being here this evening. And we're going to start on your left, our right: Representative Bob Carroll from East Maui --

COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL: Aloha from Hana.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: --and next is our lovely lady from Upcountry, Gladys Baisa; and from West Maui, Elle Cochran; from South Maui, Don Couch; and the Chair of our Committee, Riki Hokama; and Stacy Crivello from Molokai; Don Guzman from Central Maui, Kahului; and Shane Victorino's youngest son, Mike Victorino from Wailuku --

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Aloha everyone, aloha everyone.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: --and then we have our staff, Kim Willenbrink and Rayna Yap; and at our sign-in table, staff from my office, Troy Hashimoto and Stacy Takahashi; and Arthur Suyama from Stacy Crivello's office. So we look forward to hearing your thoughts and wishes. And so, with that, we'll get started. And our first testifier...and by the way, most of you have been doing this for a while understand that we start with the seniors and the children so they can go home while the rest of us stay here and finish the rest up. So we'll start with Lilia Maeda.

. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

MS. MAEDA: Aloha, Members of the Council. My name is Lilia Maeda, and I am the Co-Director and President of Operations of the Maui Math Circle, a student-run organization dedicated to providing free math enrichment programs for elementary school students all across Maui. Every full month of the school year, we have a monthly workshop at Puu Kukui Elementary School for 2½ hours. We have taught students probability, arithmetic sequences, basic word problems, divisibility, percentages and fractions, and perimeter and area. We receive our funding from Women in Technology and would love their continued support to help us expand our program for 150 students to 200 next year and enrich our program by providing the funding needed to pay for facility fees at the elementary school, math manipulatives, and supplies to create an engaging learning experience. I decided to lead this program last July when I realized that resources are limited for younger students to excel in mathematics in Maui County. I was inspired to start this service project to instill passion for mathematics within Maui

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County's youth and encourage them to pursue a STEM career. In closing, the Maui Math Circle would like to respectfully recommend the Council's continued support for next year's program, as I would love to see the Maui Math Circle expand as I pass on the torch to classmates below me when I leave for college. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Mahalo.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Lilia. And next we have Lei-Ana Giovannoni.

MS. GIOVANNONI: Thank you very much for supporting Boys and Girls Club. Hi, my name is Lei-Ana, I'm 12 years old, and I have been coming to the Boys and Girls Club for two years now. My favorite part of being at Boys and Girls Club is getting to hang out with my friends and the staff. If the Boys and Girls Club was not here, I would have to walk home from my bus stop which is a 15- to 20-minute walk; and there is dogs that will attack. Both parents work. My mom sometimes has night shift and my dad is off island. The Boys and Girls Club is so awesome to me. I love and trust all the staff here at the Boys and Girls Club. The Boys and Girls Club really helps me and my family. Thank you for your time.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Lei-Ana. Our next testifier is Shawn Perry.

MR. PERRY: Good evening, Councilmembers. My name is Shawn Perry, I'm 17, I've been going to Hui Malama for two years. I go to...

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: If you grab the black part...

MR. PERRY: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Start over again, please.

MR. PERRY: Okay. Alright. Good evening, Maui Councilmembers. My name is Shawn, I'm 17, and I've been going to Hui Malama for two years. I go to this school because I don't fit in my old school. I don't fit because I'm a kinesthetic learner, and in your typical school, you don't get the classes that you would necessarily need for people like me. Hui Malama's important to me because when I started here I had a problem putting my thoughts onto paper and I was way behind in my reading and language arts. My writing wasn't so good and I wasn't very social with others. All that changed inside this small school, per se. Now I am ahead in my language arts, I'm making more friends every day. I have a lot less problems, as you see, putting my thoughts onto paper. I'm also learning Hawaiian history, Hawaiian language, Japanese, learning culinary, how to do dishes...the first time, how to grow my own food, take apart TVs/put it back together, and how to behave in a...how to dress and behave in a business-manner setting. Through Hui Malama I've excelled in many things. Things that I've learned in the school that will help me in my future. I'm also thankful that I do not have to try to learn these things and...like on my own. To where's all most normal schools you would have big populations of students and only one teacher, and the teacher doesn't have the ability to come to you right away when you need it. At this school, it's different. Everybody's

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in small groups, teachers are able to cycle through students to help 'em what they need. I'm happy to say that I'm taking my GED course and I've passed two tests. I'm studying hard to prepare for the last two that I have recently scheduled. The thing I like most about Hui Malama is that we're not always in a classroom. We're, most of the times, outside which I feel that's what a lot of kids need because we're able to learn outdoors and get rid of a lot of energy that builds up inside class. I would also like to thank Hui Malama because without them I wouldn't be graduating this year. I would also like to thank you, Councilmembers, because without your continuous support of the school, I wouldn't be here. Mahalo.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Shawn. Our next testifier is Leilani Maui.

MS. MAUI: Good evening, Councilmembers. My name is Leilani Maui, and I'm a seventh grader at Hui Malama Learning Center. I started Hui Malama in August 2015 but I've been active with the school since 2014. During my time at Hui Malama I've learned a lot. I think I've learned so much better since I've been there because it's a small school. Each student gets more individual help and attention. I've seen a large change in my peers since the beginning of the year. Some of them were shy and bottled up, but now they know that they can make mistakes and still get the help they need. As for myself, in the beginning of the year, I could not do division math problems. I've been working on it since fourth grade, but my classes were always too fast for me. I wasn't able to get the help I needed in school until this year. We have small, one-to-four-student, math classes; and I can now get the chance I need to learn at my own pace. In February, two of my classmates and I participated in the Japan America Society of Hawaii's Japan Wizards Competition which was held on Oahu. We worked really hard to get there and had to study things about Japanese culture, food, history, etiquette, and language. I felt like we had to choose something really big since we were up against high school students in the private-school division, and two of us were actually inside middle school. When we arrived at the competition, I was nervous but excited. When we went to the competition room, it was awkward for me because it was so quiet, but it ended up being a fun experience and I'm thankful that the Japan America Society of Hawaii sponsored our trip. I think Hui Malama is a great contributor to our community. They not only help and teach us academics, but they also teach us life skills. For example, we have culinary. We learn cooking skills that we can apply to our everyday lives. Hui Malama also gives us responsibilities like vacuuming, sweeping, mopping, and dishes. I don't like to do it, but it really prepares us for our future for when we have jobs, because we learn how to work hard and get along with others. I feel like teaching us these things can prevent homelessness and poverty in the future which would be helpful to the community. Thank you, Councilmembers, for helping our school and your continuous support. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Leilani. Our next testifier is Tai Beck.

MR. BECK: Hello. My name is Tai Beck and I am 12 years old. I am from Haiku and I have been attending Hui Malama since the beginning of this school year. I came to Hui Malama because I didn't feel safe at my last school. There were a lot of fights there.

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Even though I didn't get into fights, it still disturbed me. I like being at Hui Malama because there's one-on-one learning. For example, our math class is more like a tutoring class. Kumu A.J., the math teacher, works with us in either one-on-one learning or in small groups of two to three people. It is easier for me to learn like this because I don't get distracted and I got a lot of attention when I need it. Another thing I like, actually love, about Hui Malama, is the food. Our food is always healthy and it tastes good. I especially like that there's a lot so when we can get more when we are still hungry. Some of my favorite meals at Hui Malama are the breakfast burritos, southwestern omelet, corn chowder, and chicken caesar salad. I also enjoy being able to make our food. I don't really like washing dishes, but everyone is required to help clean up after the meals. My favorite part of culinary class is serving. I like to plate the food and take it out to the other students. At Hui Malama, we also get to learn a lot of cultural things. I enjoyed learning how to kui kalo, pound poi, from Kumu Ka'i. I really like to sound it makes when you're doing it, and I really like getting to eat the pa'i'ai after. I also enjoy learning how to make lei from Kumu Sissy. Every Friday morning, we go to the Bailey House Museum and Kumu Sissy teaches us about hula and lei making. Thank you for giving us your support, I really appreciate it.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Tai. In my house, there was no choice but to do the dishes. Our next testifier is Kaimana Brittain.

MR. BRITTAIN: Hello. My name is Kaimana Brittain. I'm 13 years old and I'm from Haiku. I'm a middle-school student at Hui Malama. This is my first year at Hui Malama, and I'm there because I had a hard time at my last school. I used to get into trouble for my behavior. One of the things I like about Hui Malama is that there are not a lot of students. One of the problems I had at my last school is that I got distracted easily and wanted to talk to everyone. At Hui Malama, we are broken up into small groups for classes. In my group, there are only four students, so it is easy for me to get along with others and easier to concentrate. Another thing I like about Hui Malama is that we get to go to a lot of places to learn. My favorite place is Maka'aka Lo'i in Waihee. When we go there, Auntie Penny teaches us about how to take care of plants, especially kalo. And how to plant and prepare her planting. I fun to be able to learn and get muddy at the same time. Something else I like about Hui Malama is the...class, because I get to make my own video game and learn how to do coding. We learn using video tutorials and from our teachers from Oahu who teaches through our online video cameras. There's also Kumu David who is a programmer who volunteers and comes to our school every week to work with us. I really enjoy this class because it's fun. I'm learning something that I'm interested in doing later on for work. Thank you for supporting Hui Malama. It's because of this County's support and the support of the Maui community that we are able to go on excursions, see different projects, and have fun while learning.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Kaimana. And our next testifier is Peter Swanzy.

MR. SWANZY: Brought the whole gang tonight. Thanks, you guys.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Grab that thing over there.

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MR. SWANZY: Thank you for hosting this forum and being present to listen to the community. My name is Peter Swanzy. I'm here as a parent of a member of the Paia Youth and Cultural Center, but I'm also an employee. My daughter has grown up at the PYCC, and she benefits from the opportunities she has in the PYCC life-skills program. She's learning to cook, explore her artistic interests, give her service to her community, and build her experience in the world. She is fortunate to have parents who care about her future and her achievements. Many young people do not have the same support from their parents. Many young people are overlooked; and, therefore, aren't able to gain recognition unless, unfortunately and possibly, they break the law. I've worked with young people like this and young people like my daughter for the past ten years. I believe that secure, long-term funding for afterschool programs is essential despite our struggling economy. This funding creates programs that foster personal development and education beyond the classroom. I feel that positive afterschool programs are as important as school itself because of the greater ability to connect with young people. Youth at the PYCC are treated as individuals and are mentored in ways that fit their personality and their interests. There's no capacity for education and mentorship at this level in most public schools. And I, as an employee of a non-profit, believe that even parents without financial means should be able to involve their children in exceptional afterschool programs like the ones at the PYCC. Thank you for being committed not only to the PYCC but also to the Boys and Girls Club of Maui, the Hana Youth Center, and the Kihei Youth Center. I hope that your commitment to these essential pillars of our society will increase to reflect the inflated costs and the increased need. Also, one last thing I'd like to mention is that I hope that you will consider funding for a lifeguard tower at Paia Bay, because that would be such a wonderful benefit to our community as well. I believe there may also be a couple of other members of the Youth Center that are due to speak, so I brought them up with me now in case they would also like to share some words with you. Thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Peter.

MS. BELLINGER: Hi. My name is Farrah Bellinger. And our parents, they give us a roof over our heads and food in our mouth, but something that they can't always pay for is fun; and PYCC offers fun, such as...

MS. SWANZY: Such as the beach, StoneWave Skate Park, the Radio, art programs on Tuesdays, cooking, Radio, and...

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Are you Ruby Swanzy?

MS. SWANZY: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Okay. Good. Just so we keep the paperwork straight.

MS. SWANZY: Okay. Yeah.

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MS. BELLINGER: Thank you.

MS. SWANZY: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you. And next, we have Morgan Leeks.

MR. LEEKS: Hello. My name is Morgan Leeks, and I am a 15 year old that has been going to the Paia Youth and Cultural Center for almost seven years now. Yeah, it's a long time. I really love it there. It's practically a second home for me. I've learned more there than I have almost anywhere else. It's given me a lot of life skills, such as cooking—it's a passion for me—and videography, and there's also a radio station that I oftentimes participate in. It's a great, safe place for kids my age and younger. Just to give them a good foundation on how to support themselves if they are in a needy situation or any other time in their life. They can use these skills throughout their life, and it just really helps them. And it's a great place for fun. There's a beach access. You can do whatever you want to have fun. Thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Morgan.

MR. SWANZY: And I have two other members who showed up real quick just to thank you.

MR. GRECO: Hi. My name is Antonio Greco. I am a sophomore. And I just wanted to say that I've truly seen the positive effect that the PYCC has on the kids. And I've seen the relationships that they've made with not only the other kids but also the positive role models that they've had and it's just great. So I just wanted to say, thank you, guys, for letting me speak. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you. Thank you very much, folks. Next is Olivia Bellinger.

MS. BELLINGER: Hi. I'm Olivia Bellinger. I wasn't planning on speaking tonight, but when I heard what it was about regarding, I couldn't pass up the opportunity to say how great and how thankful I am for the Paia Youth and Cultural Center. My daughter's Farrah Bellinger and she was so excited to speak to you guys tonight. As a single parent working full time, I often don't have the time or the funds to do things for her. She just went ziplining two weeks ago and planted native trees up in Haleakala, which two things: one, I'm terrified of ziplining, and two, I'm probably not gonna get my hands on native trees and things like that, which she thought was amazing. So she has opportunities left and right. She took up skateboarding, another thing that I'm not very great at. And cooking, which she loves, and the radio station is huge for her, she just absolutely loves the radio. And I love hearing her on the station and the music that they play is wonderful. So I am completely and utterly thankful for the Paia Youth and Cultural Center and the people that work there go above and beyond with what they do and what they provide for these kids. It just blows my mind every time I go in there. And how great the kids are and how thankful they are for everything is really great. The

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one thing I do have to say is I don't let Farrah swim at Paia Bay without me because there is not a lifeguard tower, and the waters are a little bit sketchy. So that's one thing that her and I have an agreement on, she's not allowed to go into the water. So hearing that...it's actually would be something that put my mind at ease there. Thank you again for all your help and funding to help Farrah grow as a person, an individual. I see all the kids just thriving there and I am so thankful for that. So thank you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you for being here this evening. Next testifier is Jacelyn Kane.

MS. KANE: Aloha, Members of the County Council. I am here tonight to speak on behalf of the Boys and Girls Club here at Haiku. I'm a parent of two children that attend there. Oh...my name is Jacelyn Kane. Thank you. The Boys and Girls Club started off as a place that I needed to send my kids to after school, because my husband and I both work full-time. It has turned into a family unit for us at home and for my children. The counselors are now aunties and uncles, extended family to us. They offer our children a safe place to be at after school while the parents are working. The guidance and support that they give to not just my children but all the children there are out of this world. They encourage our children to do good in school, they help them with their schoolwork; they encourage them and teach them how to be positive additions to our society and our communities. They offer them afterschool programs not just at the club but in the community with cleanups on the side of the road, they go to farms, they plant plants, they help with restoration projects. They have been a great support for our family. They've wrote letters to help our son get into Kamehameha Schools this year. He catches the MEO Bus down to the Boys and Girls Club until he can get picked up by our family. So we ask for your continued support of the Haiku Boys and Girls Club so that our children can continue to have a safe place to go to and people to be in their lives to encourage them, to be positive additions to our society. So I thank you all for your time and your continued support. Aloha.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Jacelyn. Our next testifier is Ty Simpson-Kane.

MR. SIMPSON-KANE: You just press this button?

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Yeah. Press the button and it'll go down. There you go.

MR. SIMPSON-KANE: Okay. Aloha, ladies and gentlemen of the Maui County Council. Thank you for being here today. My name is Ty Simpson-Kane. I've been a member of the Haiku Boys and Girls Club for the last four years. They provide me a safe place to be after school, they encourage me to do my best in school and out of school. Please continue to support the Haiku Boys and Girls Club. Thank you for your time and continued support. Mahalo.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Ty. And our next is Kaika Ignacio...or no, I'm sorry, Lacio. I may have murdered that last name. We have...it's K-A-I-K-A...oh, there we go. Good evening.

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MR. LACIO: Good evening. My name is Kaika Lacio. I'm 12 years old. I'm a sixth grader at Kalama Intermediate. I have been in MEO Youth Service for a year, and it has been great. I like the MEO program because we do things that help the community like picking up cigarette butts at UHMC. We were...MEO Youth...have picked up over 20,000 cigarette butts, but...no wait...with and seven campus clean up with Tobacco Free Hawaii in efforts to make UH Maui a tobacco-free campus. This year, MEO presents in my sixth-grade class about underage drinking provision. I enjoy learning about Slick Tracy comments and also making posters about bad outcomes of alcohol. I want to thank you, the Budget Committee, for hearing me today and please continue funding the MEO Youth Service. It's a great program for youth like me. Mahalo and good night.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Kaika.

MS. SHIMABUKU: Good evening, my name is Jhorden Shimabuku. I'm 16 years old. I'm a sophomore at King Kekaulike High School. I've been in MEO Youth Services for four years. I'm proud to say that today I am a trained youth leader. My job is to help mentor the younger kids, talk about...and talk at public, awareness events about the dangers of drugs and alcohol. I feel that prevention is very important. Like cyber bullying and teen suicide. And the community needs to be educated on issues that affects us as teenagers. It makes me feel good sharing my prevention knowledge with my fellow classmates' friends and family. Some of the other activities we do at MEO Youth Services is we play bingo at Hale Makua with the elderly. I got to meet a nice, old man named Mike and we won three games of bingo. We also passed out candy canes and Valentine's cards that we made at MEO. I look forward to joining MEO Youth Services in the Charity Walk next month to help raise money for programs like ours. I want to thank the Budget Council for hearing my story today. Please continue to fund and support MEO Youth Services, they make a difference. Mahalo.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Jhorden. Our next testifier is Louise Corpuz.

MS. CORPUZ: Good evening.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Good evening.

MS. CORPUZ: My name is Louise Corpuz. And apology, because I belong up Pukalani but I got distracted on Oahu. I'm representing MEO, Hale Mahaolu, and the Maui County Office of Aging in respect to help fund for our elderly people and for transportation and our good health system. And also, I'm here to represent all my friends Upcountry where I say Kula, Makawao, and wherever Upcountry in respect that we are all aging and we are dying because that's the way the world goes. And what is so sad is that people who wants to sell their land and they're still on the list for water meters. And it's very frustrating because people are saying we're dying and we're not getting nothing done by our County. So I hope we can take some consideration. So I asked them, where are you on the list? We're about over 200 almost to 1,000. So I said, well, how long ago you had put your name on the list? For so many years ago. So they're wondering why

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it taking so much time...and also we're trying to help the Kwock Hing Society up in Kula to preserve our culture building. And it took over a year now that we had the permit going and it's so slow. We're wondering why is it taking over a year before we can get a roof repair on our culture, Kwock Hing Society building, because it's a historical site. So, therefore, I know you County Councils are doing a terrific job, but times we all have to remember that we have to have patience. And I hope that in years to come, before people are dying, that they could see their building permits go through and get their water meters soon and we could have continuation of health care and bus transportation for all the elderly people on Maui County. Thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Louise. Our next testifier is Marty McMahon.

MR. McMAHON: That's me.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: And he'll be followed by Alissa [*sic*]...I can't tell what the last name is. Good evening.

MR. McMAHON: Thank you, Council. Marty McMahon. I have been in charge of recycling for too many years, since 2003. It's been several years since I've addressed you all, and appreciate the opportunity this year to do so for a very specific reason. A little history: in 2010, the State passed an electronics recycling law; since electronics are declared hazardous waste by the EPA, you have to do something with them. This was a boon to us, because it made manufacturers pay for the service. They paid for it in two ways. About 91 percent of the cost of the program, which right now is about \$1.5 million a year, is paid by the manufacturers through the processor. We have a deal with the processor, or a contract with the processor. I do. This contract happens to go to July 1, 2018. The other 8 or 9 percent covers the collection portion, which is the boots on the ground, the people doing it in the community; that was paid for by the manufacturers through the fee manufacturers paid the state to do businesses in the state. So every year the manufacturers would send a check, the DOH would divide up the money and send it to the neighbor islands. Now, last June, the Attorney General read the law. Little behind, but I can understand that. The Attorney General said that the law said that the Department of Health could not distribute the funds. So the Department of Health has a quandary there because it has nearly three-quarters of a million dollars a year coming in and it has nothing to spend it on. We are working on that. We, being the collectors in the neighbor islands. We're working on that in two ways. First, we're working on that in terms of designating the Attorney General's ruling as a ruling that is second or third tier which enables the Governor to overrule the Attorney General without further ado. Barring that, we have to amend the law currently on the books to get the funding back up. Where are we now? Well, for Fiscal '17, I was back hat in hand unfortunately to the Council; and I have to give them credit, despite all the tribulations going on in the Solid Waste Department and the lack of anybody in the Recycling Section, they saw the need for actually handling a million and a half pounds of solid waste every year, and they have put us in the Budget. You will not find us as a line item, we are in a bucket; the bucket is in the Grants bucket. It's for \$249,000, it's in the...

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MS. WILLENBRINK: Two, forty-five.

MR. McMAHON: Two, forty-five? Thank you. I stand corrected. And we are part of that bucket...

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: No, that was the time.

COUNCILMEMBER CRIVELLO: You have 15 seconds.

MR. McMAHON: Oh. Well...

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: We'll give you the extra 15 minutes [sic].

MR. McMAHON: Thank you for your time. Please fund us. Any questions, you have contact information.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Marty. Okay. Then we have from Best Buddies, Alison Samilleda.

MS. SAMILLEDADA: That's Samilleda.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Your writing is worse than mine.

MS. SAMILLEDADA: I...I...yeah, I know.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Your name again?

MS. SAMILLEDADA: Sorry, I'm with Best Buddies.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: No, no, the name, your name.

MS. SAMILLEDADA: Alison Samilleda.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Samilleda.

MS. SAMILLEDADA: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you.

MS. SAMILLEDADA: So, yes. Aloha, everyone. My name is Alison Samilleda, and I am the Senior Program Manager with Best Buddies Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of Best Buddies this evening. Since becoming involved with the organization a year ago, I've had the opportunity to observe incredible transformation in the students

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we work with. I have watched students come out of their shells, take on leadership roles, and learn crucial leadership skills that they will be able to carry throughout their lives. Develop engaging activities at their schools and most importantly building one-to-one friendships with students with students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Our programs are provided in eight schools here on Maui including five high schools and three intermediate schools. For the 2015-2016 school year, we have approximately 300 members across the island and host activities at each school on a monthly basis. Best Buddies is a unique program that I am proud to be a part of. Watching the students grow and develop greater understanding of inclusion is absolutely incredible. The programs we provide in schools not only impacts our students but also their families, friends, and their communities. I urge you to support Best Buddies Hawaii so that more students and citizens of Maui can benefit from Best Buddies programs of inclusion. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Alison. Our next testifier is Stacy Casco.

MS. CASCO: Aloha and mahalo, Councilmembers, for this opportunity. My name is Stacy Casco, and I'm here to ask your support for the Maui Food Innovation Center. I have deep roots here on Maui and I've worked in the non-profit sector for over 25 years, and this is the first time I'm appearing before the Council and, yes, it is personal. I inherited responsibility and stewardship of a property in agroforest that has been in my family since the late 1800s. We produce over 25 varieties and 64,000 pounds of fruit per year without irrigation, pesticides, or fertilizer. And, of course, I want to protect this legacy for future generations; but, as a single parent, how do I start a food business that is profitable, that is accountable to my community, and that is competitive with large-scale producers? Where do I process, package, and distribute my product? And how can I help bring new markets to our underutilized fruit food that grows abundantly and sustainability in our climate and our soil? So these are some of the questions that I had. And I was fortunate to participate in the Maui Accelerator Program, and I gained access to resources and expertise that helped me address these questions and move forward. So the Maui Food Innovation Center presents a unique opportunity that I believe is critical for our time. The opportunity for meaningful collaboration between farmers, manufacturers, distributors, and industry professionals to work together to build the infrastructure we need to build a striving food system that enhances our local economy. My hope is that one day, small family farms like mine will have a central facility with a business-management structure that facilitates the processing, distribution, and marketing of locally produced food products. My hope is that one day, future generations will envision a promising and prosperous future in farming and agribusiness. And I hope that you'll support the Maui Food Innovation Center to help build a self-sufficient and stable food system here on Maui. Mahalo.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Stacy. Our next testifier is Rebecca Kehano.

MS. KEHANO: Good evening. My name is Rebecca Kehano. I'm here for MEO. I want to thank all of you for supporting and asking for your continued support in helping all the families, young and old, 'cause I'm a tutu and raising two children. And I have one in

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preschool and one in kindergarten. And it's so easy to have them there and they'd be safe and they're getting ready to be in kindergarten. And I made this up—I want to thank all the MEO, the staff, they're so wonderful with the children—and then, M, for many and all the families; E, that's for everything that they do; O is for over and over the island of Maui, Molokai, and Lanai. And I want to thank all of you for your continued support and for all the young families, 'cause these will be our future in our young children. Thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Rebecca. Our next testifier is Sierra Knight.

MS. KNIGHT: Aloha. My name is Sierra Knight, and I'm here to testify and ask your support for continuing the small business development and to support small farmers. I'm actually in the new cohort for the Accelerator Program for the Food Innovation Center. And this is like a dream come true for me, because I'm a person who wants to start my own business and I'm also part of the Farmers Union and so I also want to support sustainability on this island. And so my business model and my plan is to use locally sourced jackfruit and to create a business that would be able to support the use of something that is grown here and is now currently being imported in and is on the shelves and it's not actually from here. And so I really want to ask that you continue to support, with \$500,000, this amazing program that is going to take so many...the people that are in my cohort right now are these most amazing creative, innovative people who have ideas that are taking food from our island and they're going to take it all the way through to package and manufacturing and producing it into our local markets. And this is an exciting, important process that were in. And as well, I want to also testify about the fact that the Farmers Union is also in a role of taking a program and mentoring our farmers. And they had their first cohort last year which was very successful. So it's really interesting and I just want to...realize that we do have this time and the moment of this...in the County to really begin and to continue to produce this small, local produced sustainable businesses and to support our farmers in our community. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Sierra. Next testifier is Chris Speere.

MR. SPEERE: Good evening, Councilmembers. Thank you for creating this evening for our community. My name is Chris Speere and I serve as the Site Coordinator for the Maui Food Innovation Center. I spent and dedicated the last 28 years of my life to the culinary profession through UH Maui College's Culinary Arts Program. And I believe those efforts have helped to create a vibrant, chef community. In January, I was asked to change hats and start to develop a vibrant food manufacturing community. And we can do this and it's something that I think is a missing link to our support and continuation of agriculture. We have great chefs, we have wonderful farmlands, and great farm traditions; but what we do not have is a manufacturing industry. The way that we're going to reverse that, is that we're going to provide education and training to our local, food entrepreneurs. We're going to do that through a series of coaches and mentors. And we're not doing this alone. We do this through the resources of 18 individual coaches and mentors that work with 12 current food manufacturers. And it's a

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unbelievable process. These members and coaches that come in are really the basis of our community. These are non-profits or services that already exist. So I'm going to give you a listing of people that came in to help our manufacturers. We had Maui Economic Development come in and coach our participants in financial planning. We had the Office...Maui County Office of Economic Development come in and talk about business planning. We had Innovative Hawaii come in and coach in lean manufacturing. We had the Small Business Administration help our food manufacturers with researching, do their large extensive database. We had an executive from Nestle that just happens to be retired here on Maui, work with our food manufacturers. We have the Director of the Rutgers Food Innovation Center. So we're not doing this alone, but we can make a significant difference in our community through the production and development of value-added food products utilizing crop overages and culls to create marketable products. Why can't Maui have the best, raw energy bar?

MS. WILLENBRINK: Two, forty-five.

MR. SPEERE: Why can't we have the best ketchup? Why can't we have all the best locally produced products on our shelves. Thank you for your time.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much. Thanks, Chris. Our next testifier is Noelani Sugata.

MS. SUGATA: Good evening. Aloha, Chair Hokama and Committee Members. My name is Noelani Sugata, and I'm the Executive Director for the Paia Town Association. We are primarily funded by two grants from the Maui County Office of Economic Development. I would like to highlight some of our accomplishments over the last six months. First, the rubbish removal and maintenance program has been up and running since December 2015. Trash receptacles have been installed in heavily-used areas. The County parking lots and in front of the Paia Post Office, three more receptacles are being made here on Maui and will be installed in appropriate, public areas. Also, once a day, the trash is emptied and disposed by a long-time Paia resident before he goes to his full-time job. Ideally, it would be great if we had additional funding for trash removal in the evening and to purchase additional receptacles. A cleaner town is a win-win for all: merchants, residents, and visitors. Second, another way of keeping our town clean is through beautification projects. In February 2016, the community partnered with 808 Urban, a non-profit that paints murals and promotes art. The Paia Community mural is the first mural on Maui as part of the living legacy series. The wall at the lower Paia parking lot was once a dull and some parts were graffitied; however, it is now a beautiful piece of artwork that stretches from the back wall to the entrance of Paia. The mural is a true testament to the saying, many hands make light work. The Paia Town Association sponsored the painting supplies and are very happy with the outcome. Third, events like the mural have resulted in exposure on all social media platforms including local and national news. For example, the Paia merchants were featured on the front page of the *The Maui News* for Small Business Saturday. And recently we were featured in the *Chicago Tribune*. This type of positive exposure in the media is extremely

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valuable and promotes our merchants at no cost for advertising. Finally, the Paia Town Association has been working hard on lobbying for Maui County to allow for special improvement districts. Special improvement districts would be a self-funding mechanism for Paia. We have met with many of you and are working on some questions and concern we received in order to move the bill forward. Also, we are revisiting with Paia merchants and landowners to ensure the Council the PTA has the support of its constituents. In conclusion, the PTA has accomplished a lot during a short period of time with a volunteer board, a part-time executive director and a limited budget. Imagine what more we can do if we had additional funding. Paia is in need of more parking, some additional security –

MS. WILLENBRINK: Two, forty-five.

MS. SUGATA: --and permanent staff to manage a small town effectively. I humbly ask that the Committee...I humbly ask the Committee to consider our needs and include them in the upcoming Budget. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Noelani. Our next testifier is Vanessa Ghantous.

MS. GHANTOUS: Aloha, Councilmembers. Thank you for being here this evening and for giving me the chance to speak. My name is Vanessa Ghantous. I'm a Makawao resident. My children attend school in Haiku and Pukalani. We are a family who roller skates together for exercise and fun, and I'm also a member of the Maui Roller Girls. However, I'm here tonight as an individual and as a mom. I created a Facebook group last year, during the planning stages of the new skateboard park, called Roller skating Northshore/Upcountry Maui and had over 200 people join overnight while I was sleeping. So there's obviously a lot of interest in having an area for roller skating in the North Shore/Upcountry area. I am here with a number of other individuals to lend my voice to the idea of requesting additional funds for the improvements already planned at the Paia basketball courts in the Paia Youth and Cultural Center is my understanding that there are plans in place to resurface and repave that area. I know that parking lot needs it desperately. Directing additional funds for that project would allow the County to expand the existing recreational area beyond the current skateboard park at the PYCC to include a flat, covered area similar to the basketball courts that are located right out back here. This sort of multipurpose recreational space is sorely needed in the North Shore/Upcountry area. When I initially contacted the Parks and Rec Department about roller skating in the area, they encouraged me to attend this meeting or one of these meetings and make a formal request; so here I am. The rain Upcountry over the past month has been a reminder of how limited the options are for family activities on Maui during inclement weather. Having a paved, covered area would allow for more rainy day activities for our keiki and their parents. Having it located next to an established, recreational area with beach access and public parking would make it a very useful and user-friendly for the County. Keeping the design simple would make it easier for the space to be used in a number of applications from birthday parties to Zumba, from a stroller boot camp class for new moms, to a Tutu and Me type play group. The roller rink in Kihei is a popular spot for all ages and a fun location for birthday

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parties; however that rink seems to be operating at capacity or beyond, and many families drive from the North Shore and Upcountry only to discover that the skate rentals are sold out, there's no seating and it's really just too crowded to skate safely. Having a second skating facility located in Paia would ease some of the burden in Kihei, reduce traffic, free up parking at Kalama Park, and increase the family presence in Paia Town. Skate parks are wonderful facilities but rarely do you see an entire family skateboarding together. However, one visit to the Kihei rink on a weekend night in comparison –

MS. WILLENBRINK: Two, forty-five.

MS. GHANTOUS: --to the skate park, you will see that there are roller skaters of all ages, male and female, grandparents, and grandchildren enjoying the time together. Hope you'll consider my suggestion. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Vanessa. Our next testifier is Kat Bourgea.

MS. BOURGEA: Aloha. My name is Kat Bourgea. I'm a member of the Maui Roller Girls. I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight. I'm here in support of expanding the proposed improvement project for the Paia basketball courts in the Paia Youth and Cultural Center to include a flat, open surface that is suitable for skating, festivals, functions, or whatever. As a member of Maui Roller Girls, I've watched the team meet with the County Parks officials numerous times over the past four years requesting access to gymnasiums, community centers, or civic centers to use during a roller derby game. On Oahu, the team is allowed to skate at the Palama Settlement Gym. In Hilo, the roller derby team there has access to the civic center. On Maui, where Maui Roller Girls are the current state champions, and we're one of 11 teams selected worldwide last week to apprentice with the International Roller Derby Association, the Maui Roller Girls skate on a bit on a basketball courts behind the Boys and Girls Club in Central Maui. If it rains, we can't practice because it's unsafe to skate on wet surfaces. When a team flies in from another island or Mainland for a game, if it rains, the game is canceled and there are no alternatives for us. As the team that flew from California after spending tens of thousands of dollars on flights, hotels, cars, food, insurance, to bring 20 members here and we couldn't play. Three times the Maui Roller Girls have found a place on the island to skate for a game. Once in Kihei at the skate rink where they were allowed to play in the midday sun in full gear with skating visitors stopping midgame due to heat exhaustion. Twice we were allowed to use a private warehouse that filled to capacity and beyond. There was standing room only and the outside of the building was surrounded by people who wanted to watch us play. There were people...senior citizens in wheelchairs, there were babies in strollers, and everyone in between. It was a fantastic community event both times. Derby's a great spectator sport. We just need a place to play. The needs are simple: flat concrete pad with a roof, that's it, no walls. Could possibly be a skate shop, something modeled after the Kihei rink where children...the youth of the community could help and learn the business skills necessary, and we would be volunteering, also. It would be run by volunteers, there could be bleachers there or not, which would make it more user friendly for events. The

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Maui Roller Girls are firmly committed to supporting a project like this and look forward to lending our support and using the space on a regular basis. We have a statewide tournament in August this year and the team from New Mexico will be flying in in October to play with us if we can find a place to have our games. If a structure such as this one already existed, we would be able to plan for future events more easily --

MS. WILLENBRINK: Two, forty-five.

MS. BOURGEEA: --which would allow for visitor skaters and also contribute to tourism. Thank you for your time.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Kat. Next is Bridget Hinman. Bridget...oh, there you are. And she'll be followed by Sharon Freitas.

MS. HINMAN: Hello. Aloha. My name is Bridget Hinman, and I'm the Unit Director at the Boys Girls Club here in Haiku. Our clubhouse is about two doors down in this same facility. I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight; and, more importantly, thank you for your past and continued support of the Boys and Girls Club of Maui, in particular our Haiku clubhouse. We provide afterschool and summer programs to 375 Haiku area youth between the ages of 9 and 17 in a safe community environment and have outreached to over 800 additional youths through community events and school events. They're awesome kids. We provide more than just a hangout. The kids have fun, they learn, they make friends, do homework, develop social skills, express themselves creatively, and participate in sports and recreation. The Haiku club here is staffed by five youth development professionals who exemplify our values of fun, respect, character development, education, and ohana. They are role models and mentors to all of our members. We strive to help kids succeed in life by offering proven national programs, such as our Torch Club and Keystone Club, which are attended by 50-plus kids a year focusing on community service. Youth for Unity, which encourages diversity and addresses issues of prejudice and bigotry, 164 kids participated in that last year. We also work, most recently, with the Maui Mediation to provide our newest program, Club KUTAC, which is Kids United to Address Conflict; and the kids are loving that program and we maxed out our attendance on Monday with 20 kids. And we also are resource for afterschool help for over 250 kids with our Power Hour homework and Project Learn which features fun learning activities for 248 kids. Education and career development is also very important and we offer Career Launch, Club Tech, and Money Matters. Most recently, we added a cursive writing class for kids where they can progress to calligraphy. We call it fancy writing 101. And a lot of our kids, it seems...well, we have many kids in our community that are aspiring professional surfers so they're very excited to develop their autographs, it's kind of fun. We also teach health and life skills, such as SMART Girls and Passport to Manhood. Those programs focus on our kids' self-esteem. And then, of course, we have arts and recreation programs. The latest, beside our outdoor rec, the latest, hottest trend is chess. The kids can't get enough of it and we have to keep buying more and more chess boards, which is really cool to see kids who usually have challenging time sitting still are now completely

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focused on their chess tournament, and it's been a really cool new program that we included.

MS. WILLENBRINK: Two, forty-five.

MS. HINMAN: Oh, okay. So without...with...anyway. Well, thank you very, very much. I do appreciate your time and behind your continued support, in the County Budget –

MS. WILLENBRINK: Three.

MS. HINMAN: --there's a story of an organization who inspires kids. So thank you so much.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Bridget. The next testifier is Sharon Freitas, and she'll be followed by Lucienne deNaie.

MS. FREITAS: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aloha.

MS. FREITAS: Hi. I'm Sharon Freitas, President of the Tom Morrow Equestrian Center. I'm asking for your support for the necessary improvements to the community arena located at the Fourth Marine Park. Since the construction 15 years ago with the grant from the County Council, we have maintained the arena and kept it in excellent condition. At this time, we would like to make more improvements which we need your support to accomplish. Those improvements are footing, sand, and a trail course. With these improvements, the opportunities for more activities would increase. The footing would allow activities like competition barrel racing, roping, jumping. The trail course would give equestrians a place to train and practice with their horses for competitive horse shows. We have had horse shows held at this arena and rodeos. And, as Hawaii State Director of the National Barrel Horse Association, the footing would improve it so that we could hold our events there. We hold like six barrel races a year and sometimes even up to nine, just depending on the weather, if rainouts. At the end of the year, we are afforded the opportunity to compete at the world show with the National Barrel Horse Association, and it is divisions for youth, seniors, and open. And these people can receive scholarships and money. So if we could improve that footing, our events would be moved down there, and this would afford an opportunity for the youth as well. And also with these improvements, like with the trail course, people practicing, and with the...rodeo would be more of an event that could be held down there. More organizations would look forward to having their activities down there. So I would like to ask for your support for a grant for us to help improve the arena, and thank you very much time for your attention and your support.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Sharon. And following Lucienne will be Lehn Huff.

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MS. DeNAIE: Mahalo. We're a tag team here. But Leslie, she's gonna listen, but give moral support here. My name is Lucienne deNaie, I'm testifying on behalf of the Haiku Community Association. Leslie and I are both board members of that organization. And first we want to mahalo this Council so much for the funding to help fix up the playground at the Fourth Marine Park. It is almost done, we expect open in May and we know the keiki Upcountry and Haiku area are going to be very happy about that. And we're so proud of our community. We have a great community here, our school, our youth center, our recreational facilities. We're really happy that they're all here. And we have a lot of folks here who are supporting another big project in our community. And that would be up to you folks to put back in some funding in the Open Space Fund for the Hamakualoa land, and this is land...

AUDIENCE: . . . *(Applause)* . . .

MS. DeNAIE: Yeah, thank you, thank you. As you can see, this is very popular here. And we came last year to make the same request. You folks were wonderful, you put some money in the Budget. The Mayor said he didn't quite know what the money was for. So we're hoping this year that the amount matches the three lots that are at one end of the coastal open space parcel. And they're three contiguous lots, they're about 85 acres, and our news is there is now an organization newly formed with lineal decedents like Leslie, her family, other community organizations called Malama Hamakua Maui that is wanting to help. If the land is purchased, and we know these things take years, there will be an organization up and running with folks with the knowledge of the land, knowledge of the fishing, knowledge of the cultural sites, able to step in and help. And this organization is already actively doing fundraising and getting support from other community groups that really believe in this mission, that there needs to be a place for our keiki to camp, for folks to walk and ride their bikes and horseback ride, and just have a feeling of country here in Haiku as we develop. Thank you all. So, personally, we also want to support the farm hub that is proposed for the Haiku Fire Station site. That would be a wonderful addition to our community. And also just, you know, personally, I think everyone in this room, we support more water storage for Upcountry. I mean we've got to have something. If our climate's changing, I know there's some funding in the Budget but please leave that funding in the Budget. We need to take advantage of the water when it's here with us.

MS. WILLENBRINK: Two, forty-five.

MS. DeNAIE: Thank you so much. Just personally, I want to say, also, please support Malama Maui Nui. They help keep our island clean. So thank you all for listening.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Lucienne. And Lehn Huff will be followed by Richard Lucas.

MS. HUFF: Thank you very much. On behalf of all of us, I know that we appreciate the tireless hours that you spend on our behalf, and oftentimes giving up family time, a decent meal in the evening, and the evening entirely. So thank you so much for that. My name is

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Lehn Huff. I am speaking on behalf of the Malama Maui Nui organization you just heard about as well as the Maui School Garden Network. I will start with Malama Maui Nui. It's an organization that's been helping to divert our opala from the dump. For over 20 years, that includes the Keep America Beautiful program, Jan Dapitan was honored nationally this year for having founded our organization. Thank you so much for continuing to support that organization. We've reached out to our kupuna. We're now hoping to clean heiaus and we're helping our kupuna move some of their heavy objects so that they can be taken to metal recycling and so forth, and we're happy to do that. We have litter control and we have hazardous waste that we do as well. We work with thousands of volunteers. The hazardous waste program I think is important to us now in light of mosquito issues that are coming into our islands and not only the dengue but the zika. Because we need to have those hazardous waste cleaned up for that reason. We are very good at managing our funds, we are going into strategic planning right now and we will be getting a pro bono person to help us. It's a savings of \$9,000. Our work site over at HC&S is \$1 a year lease from DOE. They've started to take back room by room, we've lost our conference room and the termites will be taking the rest shortly. Moving quickly to the Maui School Garden Network, which was founded in 2008. And thanks to...this is the only Council in the state that has approved a school garden network, which by the way now includes every single school, K-12, on this island and Lanai. This is the only Council that has approved a line item, a line item. What that means is that the people who've stood up here and talked about agriculture and protecting our lands and making agriculture for our future and innovative education and kinesthetic learning, those people are represented in a line item. I thank you for that wisdom. And I thank you for the approval for Fiscal Year 2016, which I just received by phone a few days ago. I thank Elle Cochran for her tremendous support for both Malama Nui and for the School Garden Network, and I thank Don Guzman for his wisdom. We are now involved...these are just a few of our innovations we've made. Being very careful with the money that you've given us.

MS. WILLENBRINK: Two, forty-five.

MS. HUFF: Thank you. I'll go quickly. P-20 Education Curriculum, Food HUB and Maui Food Innovation Center, MISC, we're united with them right now, Maui Invasive Species, and finally Farm to School DOA Coordinator state level lives in Makawao.

MS. WILLENBRINK: Three.

MS. HUFF: Yes. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Lehn. And our next testifier, Richard, will be followed by Jamie Fitzpatrick.

MR. LUCAS: Aloha, Members of the County Council. I can't help but feel like we've had this conversation before. For ten years, our small army of alumni and volunteers have been working tirelessly to save the Old Maui High School campus to do what we can to preserve the buildings and make this a historic preservation site that we can all be

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proud of. And for that entire ten years, the County Council has supported our efforts and it helped us accomplish what we set out to do, which was to save the campus and eventually have it reused by an end user that can take advantage of what's there and continue the historic preservation process that we've started. And we are now on the verge of doing that. As Council's probably aware, through the remarkable efforts of Teena Rasmussen and the Office of Economic Development, we've identified a potential end user for the campus. And we are very hopeful that by this time next year, we will have transitioned into their operation. That we will be able to turn over the campus in good shape, ready for redevelopment, and they can take it from there. They can preserve what's there, maintain what is a very important, historical site to the island. Certainly a place that has a lot of attachment for the alumni who went there and their families. And so I'm here tonight to say, thank you for a decade of support of our project to ask you to stay with us for one more year as we accomplish this transition and bring about the renaissance of the Old Maui High School campus. I'm here on behalf of the alumni and all the volunteers that have worked at the campus over the years. Put in a lot of effort and a lot of love into this project to bring it to the point it's at now. And it's only with your help that we've been able to save this really remarkable place. I also wanted to apologize for the traffic that you all had to drive through coming here, coming through Paia. And I just wanted to remind those of you who don't live on this side of the island that that's a daily occurrence, several times a day, weekdays, weekends, holidays. And living in a rural area, we know that living in a rural place is not the same as living in the city, and we haven't come to expect the same level of services and conveniences that the people in the city have. But, as Lucienne said, we're very proud of our North Shore community and we really appreciate everything that you can do to help us kind of struggle with the pains of growth and development that is being experienced all over the island and certainly in our community as well. So thank you very much.

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

MR. LUCAS: And Jaime Fitzpatrick will be followed by Simon Russell.

MS. FITZPATRICK: Chair White, Councilmembers, thank you so much for being here this evening. My name is Jaime Fitzpatrick and I'm on the Board of Directors for the Maui Roller Girls. Aside from my involvement in roller derby, I'm an employee of a non-profit in my professional career. Being involved in non-profits, I understand the critical role that volunteers play in supporting these valuable programs in our community. Roller derby in general and Maui Roller Girls in particular is about more than just skating. Part of the Maui Roller Girls' mission is actually to support our community. Our members give back to organizations in our community with their time and with financial donations. Over our eight-year history, Maui Roller Girls have supported a variety of organizations that provide valuable services to our community. Just this year, we've helped eradicate invasive species with the West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership, we've helped staff fundraisers for Grow Some Good to help bring school gardens to our youth, and volunteered for and donated to the Boys & Girls Club. Having access to facilities to host skating events will help the circle of Maui Roller Girls grow, and in turn expand our reach into the community. The more established the Maui

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Roller Girls get, the wider of circle of skaters, volunteers, and fans will become enabling us to have a greater impact in giving back to our community. Unfortunately, facilities that are appropriate for hosting roller derby are limited in our community. Paia Youth and Cultural Center provides a great service to our community and has shown success in their programs. PYCC will have an opportunity to partner with the County with an improved and expanded park area including plans for a flat, covered, lighted space in this project would offer a multifunctional space on Maui's North Shore. This year, as you may not know, Maui also welcomed Junior Derby with the foundation of the Menehunes for girls ages seven to seventeen. So our request for added resources for skating location is not only on the behalf of our own league but also for this growing team that has just joined our community. The Maui Roller Girls thank you for your support of this family friendly sport and support of our skaters who look forward to continuing our community involvement. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER GUZMAN: Chair?

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: And following Simon will be Kahala Azuma Maui.

MR. RUSSELL: Aloha, Chair Hokama, Vice-Chair White, Members of the Council. Thank you for coming to Haiku. My name is Simon Russell. I'm the President of the local chapter of the Farmers Union here. We have about 320 members on this part of the island, which goes from I believe Huelo all the way to Makena. So we're representing quite a few farmers. And now that Lucienne has let the cat out of the bag, we are looking for a place to situate a food hub. We're looking at a number of locations not just the proposed fire station. I would also invite you to come here on April the 26th to this building, 6:00 p.m. We'll be going over in-depth what I'm about to talk to you about, which is the Farmers Union's whole systems plan for agriculture on Maui. We have a five-point plan that we've developed over the past ten years with our various farmers and experts ranging from Phyllis Robinson who has a PhD in curriculum development; Vincent Mina who hosted 13 years of Body and Soul Conferences on Maui; Gerry Ross who's a PhD, geologist, organic farmer Upcountry. So all these individuals have contributed to this five-point plan. It's very detailed. It dovetails with the Malama Aina conversation about the future of agriculture on Maui that Maui Tomorrow really graciously put forward recently, they released that to the public. So, in a nutshell, our five-point plan focuses primarily, number one is, workforce development to harness the institutional information we have available today. Like it was a tragedy when our friend Alex Bode passed last year, and so we focused on elder farmers who really know what they're doing and getting their information to the younger generation so we don't lose it forever like we did with Uncle Alex. Then our number two priority is getting farmers on the land. We were talking with the Planning Commission this year about clustering housing as well getting farmers living on their leases which is currently illegal. And certainly it's tricky. It's going to take a lot of monitoring and enforcement, we understand that and we'd like to have non-profits overseeing that process. Number three, that we consider the most important is nutrient cycling. We'd like to see a regional nutrient cycling

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systems, also called composting. I was testifying before the Planning Commission yesterday about this item, and it's currently illegal to compost other green waste on your ag land and then sell it, which we think that it should be legal. There's some tricky health stuff that needs to be talked about, but we can manage that with special permits and all that.

MS. WILLENBRINK: Two, forty-five.

MR. RUSSELL: And then food hubs are ultra important. And then, lastly, protecting our brand from counterfeiting. So, again, April 26 we'll be talking about all those things in detail in this building. You're all invited, thank you so much. Aloha.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you. Kahala will be followed by John Hoxie. Kahala Azuma Maui? Going once, going twice. John Hoxie? And if...I don't know if we have that much cord.

MR. HOXIE: I don't know. Good evening, Chairman Hokama and Members of the County Council. My name is John Hoxie, and I'm a resident of Haiku, and I'm speaking for myself. I'd like to make some general comments on the following areas that are related to the proposed County Budget. Number one, what is the plan to supply water meters to those waiting on the Upcountry meter list; this should be a priority for the County. No water, pipes too small, lack of financial resources, whatever. What is the overall plan to get this going? I would urge you to...number two, I would urge you to continue supporting cultural and arts education programs. These are important in developing well-rounded citizens both children and adults. Number three, continue to support programs to eradicate coqui frogs. In my opinion, they're about out of control. And although we are spending County funds to control them, I'm concerned there is no overall strategy or oversight in getting this problem solved. I am outside my home almost every night either catching them or spraying them. One of the big issues that we have neighbor...is that we have neighbors who will not allow spraying for this invasive pest. We can't fool around. This is a serious problem. And before we know it, this problem is going to spread throughout Maui. These pests need to be eradicated. Number four, we have the largest agricultural operation in Hawaii closing this year. And we need to support legislation that supports agriculture. It's not an issue of what to plant. It's zoning, water, regulations, lawsuits. We need to do all we can to make farming a part of the scene. Thank you for your attention.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, John. Our next testifier is Trinette Furtado, followed by Becky Erickson.

MS. FURTADO: Good evening, Councilmembers.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Good evening.

MS. FURTADO: Mahalo for being here and for listening to all of our concerns. My name is Trinette Furtado. I live here in the moku of Hamakualoa and I'm here tonight

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representing myself. I'm representing my keiki. Sitting here with you and listening to the keiki and the kupuna that have come before me, it is very evident that the need for Maui County is to take care of our young and our old. I mean if we're looking at programs that are supporting them, we need to be supporting them and not cutting budgets to them. And so I ask that you scrutinize carefully the budget requests of those department that might currently be under investigation for pCard scandals and abuses. Considering the known misuse of funds that has recently been brought to light, because of these issues and issues that I've noticed in the Budget for increasing in the Mayor's Office seven administrative assistant positions and six executive assistant positions an increase in that; yet, we see decreases in budget allowances to programs that are service oriented. I would like to ask that you also consider Women Helping Women given that fact and the status of the statistics of women in Hawaii that we've also heard on the news reports lately and Maui, we're seeing that there's an increase in many families that are unsheltered and we need more support systems for mothers, for single mothers especially those that have more than one child and are just trying to work to make ends meet. And lastly, I would like you to consider the money in the Budget for Open Space funds to purchase Hamakualoa. We are running out of critical spaces and places that we can take our keiki to practice our cultural, you know, traditions to tell them about the wahi pana in this area, to show them these areas without worrying about trespassing signs or it's somebody's private property, and I think it would be very forward looking of the Council to continue to look at spaces that we can dedicate to open spaces like Save Honolua. I mean that's a very successful organization, and I think what's been happening there, we can do here, too, on this side of the island. And so I ask you to consider that, and thank you for hearing me.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Trinette. And Becky Erickson will be followed by Michael Howe.

MS. ERICKSON: Aloha. Thanks for coming to Haiku. My name is Becky Erickson, and I've been a resident of Haiku for almost 30 years. In the past six years, I've been living up on Haiku Hill, which is just less than a half a mile over here. The edge of Haiku and the edge of Maliko Gulch, and I never heard the coqui frogs until last year. And last year they started, last summer they got bad. And since then I've been out there with the neighbors trying to control them. And working in the Maui Invasive Species and I'm here to request continued funding for them. If their funding doesn't continue through next year, they will...if there's a...it looks like there might be a period of not enough funding. So now that they've just begun to hire enough staff to control the frogs. If there's a lapse in the funding, they're going to have to let go some of the staff and we're going to have a lapse again in the control of the frogs. There was a lot of control a number of years ago and now it lapsed and they're getting back into it. So, anyway, I just would like to see...I'm requesting that we get some more funding for the invasive species in order to control the frogs. And I'd like to ask your permission. I have a 15-second recording.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: If you have 15 seconds left.

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MS. ERICKSON: Okay. Sorry. I took this last night. I just walked outside, right outside my door before I went to bed and I made this recording. And hopefully...oh, I think I turned my sound off. . . .*(coqui frog noises being played)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Oh, yeah.

MS. ERICKSON: Well, I had my sound turned down...so anyway, I don't think people realize until you actually hear it, how bad it really is. I'm used to it. It doesn't bother me. But very soon, it will...they will move across Maui, especially now that the cane is no longer going to be burned along Maliko Gulch. Right now, the burning stops the frogs from moving towards Kahului; and, as soon as that stops, nothing's going to be stopping them from moving towards town. So I hope you'll be able to support the Invasive Species. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Becky. Michael Howe will be followed by Billy Jalbert.

MR. HOWE: Aloha. My name is Michael Howe. I must say, as a disclosure, I am a proud member of Maui County Department of Fire and Public Safety. With that being said, I'm not representing them here today and have not been directed to talk. I will say, thank you for your previous support of our department, and considered future budget allocations for our department. It is appreciated, I guess. I leave it at that. I have a bias towards the department.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: We would expect you to.

MR. HOWE: Yeah. As a citizen of Maui and a resident of Haiku, I have a couple issues that I would like to address. I would like to group afterschool programs together. That'd be the Maui Boys & Girls Club and the Haiku...not the Haiku, the Paia Youth Center. I don't have kids that participate in that, but I see those as investments for our future. And if we invest in those programs it will keep youth out of trouble; therefore, lower the needed budgets for other departments or programs, such as fixing vandalism or tying up Police or sending out fire units to put out youth arson. I see that as an investment not necessarily anything else. Also, I would like to pledge my support for Maui Invasive Species. I have not worked with but I have been a proud recipient of their services on my property that I rent. It being free allows me to do my part and allow them to come service that area 'cause I do not own that area, it's hard for me to invest my own money into that area so I will not see a return in the future. I think if we continue to support them, they're very professional and have done a great job in my area, but I don't think they're staffed enough to eliminate the issues that they're presented with. If we can throw a lot of money at them early, they can eradicate these pests so that we don't have a bigger problem in the future which will actually end up being a continuous thing we that we dump money into. With that being said, I understand that there is not enough money for all these programs. There never is. And I appreciate your time and your consideration. Aloha.

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VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Michael. And Billy will be followed by Lisa Darcy.

MR. JALBERT: Aloha, County Council. Thank you. It's been a long night already, and there's more to go. My name is Billy Jalbert, and I am here on behalf of the Paia Youth & Cultural Center or PYCC. As you well know it, it's nice to see you all again. And thank you for your continued support over the years. It's been pretty phenomenal. I am a Paia resident, a Paia business owner, and a PYCC parent. So to say, I have a vested interest in what I'm saying here, is an understatement. We've been in existence for almost 24 years, and I have been a Board Member for the last 14 years. And I can tell you that our positive impact on the community of Paia and the North Shore of Maui continues to grow. Unfortunately, so do our funding needs. I'm here to, again, thank you for your support but also to ask you for more and for increased funding. And there's four areas in particular that I'm up here and want to talk to you about. First and foremost, the beach at Paia Bay gets more and more crowded every year and it is dangerous, and we do desperately need a lifeguard station there. And that will help the entire community not just the kids down at the Youth Center. Second, the underage drinking and drug-use problem with our youth is an epidemic; there is no question about it. And our Malama Pono program which works hard to prevent underage drinking is very, very important. You have funded it in the past. I hope you will continue to fund it and increase the funding. Number three, our skate park at the youth center, it's a wonderful asset and it's also a asset with a fair amount of deferred maintenance. We do need some investment in that, and we are asking you for funds there. And that is a wonderful asset to the greater community, but also to the youth. And it serves as a feeder program because younger kids actually skate at the park and then they end up joining the Youth Center. And then the last piece is just the general budget. We could use a little bit of increase in that general budget. I can tell you that our staff and our Executive Director are some of the most dedicated public servants on Maui, and I know that they all continue to struggle to pay their bills. And so anything you can do there is going to be an investment in the benefits of our youth. As you consider my funding request along with all of these incredible requests that you're hearing tonight, I want you to consider one thing that...a couple of numbers that are really shocking. Number one, our country is spending \$21 billion a year -

MS. WILLENBRINK: Two, forty-five.

MR. JALBERT: --on youth incarceration. And in Hawaii, we spend \$200,000 per youth that we incarcerate. By increasing our budget just a little bit at PYCC, you're going to be investing and building your community and preventing -

MS. WILLENBRINK: Three.

MR. JALBERT: --those future dollars that you have to spend. Thank you very much for your time.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Billy. And Lisa will be followed by Daniel Grantham.

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MS. DARCY: Good evening, Council.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Good evening.

MS. DARCY: And hi, everybody. I don't like having my back to people as you all know, but it's really nice to see you in Haiku. Thanks for coming out. I am here testifying on behalf of myself. And I had the pleasure along with you all to listen to the testimony from Hui Malama and their students. I've been volunteering with them recently, and I have to say I've met each one of those students. It is an amazing investment in all of our money, that program. And I actually put that number one on my list here. So please support them, it's amazing. Also, as Lucienne spoke earlier, as a Haiku community member board, I would like to fully support in protecting the Hamakua coast on Maui in the North Shore for historical, cultural, educational, recreational, and open space values. I know I'm preaching to the choir how beautiful it is there and to protect that, would be something for generations to be appreciative of. Please consider that. Also, as Simon Russell testified earlier in support of the five-point plan for farming and sustainability on Maui and to build agriculture, I've been a Maui County Farmer Union member for many years now and I go simply because I believe in it and that I've seen what they're doing for our community. And I think my life has changed significantly for the better and healthier being part of that group, and I look forward to that really spreading to all across Maui. And just to let you know, although I was nominated to the Hawaii Public Housing Board through the Governor and the Senate this week, I'm actually not going to testify on housing. So but I am available, and will look forward to maybe some ability to give some input on that later on. So thank you so much for coming out, I really appreciate it.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Lisa. And Daniel will be followed by Chanelle Kapuni.

MR. GRANTHAM: Good evening. Thanks for coming out and thanks for coming at a time when we could all come see you. And this is a great meeting, you know, you hear all the wonderful things that are going on instead of people complaining, and I hope you're enjoying yourselves, 'cause you're making it possible. So I want to put in a...I'm speaking as a Board Member of the Sierra Club, and I especially want to put in a point for Maui Invasive Species. They're doing really good work, they're working really hard; they could use more resources. I've been on Puna side when the coquis are going, and they really, really overdo it. But there's a worst...there's worst things than that. There's fire ants, there's stuff we don't even know about yet. So they are our guardians at the gate, and we really need to support them. I also want to put in a good word for Malama Maui Nui, which has done an excellent job for so many years. And finally I want to point out that the Sierra Club, Maui Group, is very enthusiastically in favor of the Hamakua coast being...Open Space funds being devoted to purchasing that. And we hope that you can repeat your message that you did last year. Maybe the Mayor didn't think you were serious, you know, maybe you have to put a little more money in, I don't know. But persistence furthers. And I have never seen a cause where so many people came out and said, that's wonderful, we really need to do that. All kinds of people, you know.

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And what can I do, how can I help, you know, where can we go with this? Whether it's, you know, there's programs planned to teach young people all kinds of things from farming to cultural practices. It gives an opportunity to protect cultural sites that are out there. You've heard from Na Moku about their interest in the land and the places in there. There are family connections to the...historically to this land. It could protect coastal land, the sea from...protect the watershed. And for many people, it would provide a safe space to hike, to play, and to enjoy nature. You know, I look forward to the day maybe when I can catch the bus up there and get off and go eat lunch out there and just...

MS. WILLENBRINK: Two, forty-five.

MR. GRANTHAM: Anyway. Please keep up the good work and thank you for what you do. And please support the purchase of Hamakua. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Daniel. And Chanelle Kapuni will be next, followed by Laurel Loesberg.

MS. KAPUNI: Aloha. My name is Chanelle Kapuni, and this is my daughter Ella. We're here to support Kahi Kamalii, MEO Head Start program. My daughter's been going for the past three months under a scholarship/tuition provided by funding and that has really been such a blessing for us. I've been able to find full-time work, which gives me the opportunity to provide for her. And I'm a single mom so, yes, I just want to thank you guys for allowing that and we're so very thankful. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Chanelle. And Laurel will be followed by David Fry.

MS. LOESBERG: Hi. Excuse my voice. The coqui frog gods are working for them this week because I've had laryngitis. I wanted to come to other meetings of yours. But, anyway, I want to thank you all for your support—my name is Laurel Loesberg—for your support of Maui Invasive Species. I'm referring mostly to the fight against coqui frogs. I live on Maliko Gulch. They're bad. I'm not a drama queen, but it's awful. I'm sure you guys know it. I hear in Hilo there's one every foot. And they're so loud, and they just keep growing and spreading and growing and spreading. And when Maui Invasive Species can do their thing, it works. When I do my thing, I clear my property, I spray, it works. My biggest issue right now that I'm trying to get to get to the bottom of is recalcitrant homeowners who don't allow spraying, like my next-door neighbor, doesn't allow spraying. And I'm going to refer to Act 85, Authority for State and County departments to enter private property for the purpose of control or eradication of invasive species. There's zero enforcement of this with coqui frogs right now in my neighborhood, zero. And I understand that the Department of Ag, the State Department of Ag, has been cut to bare bones, they don't do anything. They're the ones supposedly with the authority. Maui Invasive Species has none. So what I'm hoping is the County can fund someone with some authority for enforcement of this issue because, you know, my next-door neighbors have thousands of frogs on their property. I'm fighting every night to kill

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them. They get on my friend's van who drives over to Ulumalu and, boom, there's eggs over on Ulumalu. This is the way it's spreading and we need to act quicker on this. It's just been going on too long. The longer we wait the harder it's going to be. And, you know, I just don't think we want that Maui to become Hilo. I don't know how familiar you all are with it. If you don't...if you're not around coquis, it's not a problem. But trust me, it'll be a problem. So thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much. We have significantly increased the funding. And part of the challenge –

MS. LOESBERG: I know, and I thank you so much for that.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: --is they didn't ramp up as anywhere near as quickly we thought they were going to be able to.

MS. LOESBERG: Right.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: And I would also suggest calling your State representative or –

MS. LOESBERG: Done that, yes.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: --senator. Because, you know, quite frankly, we just came back from Honolulu asking for more of the Transient Accommodations Tax, the revenues generated by all of our hotels and condos and timeshares. And in the last eight years, our portion of the TAT has grown by \$2.2 million while the State's portion has grown by \$198 million. So they've taken the lion's share of the increase. And so you need to feel comfortable calling and saying –

MS. LOESBERG: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: --if you're not going to do these things, you need to release some of that TAT back to the counties. Because we should be having –

MS. LOESBERG: Okay. I'll work on...I'm working on that with them.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: --about...you know, I probably should have said this earlier in the evening, but we have...the Mayor's put \$13½ million into this budget in anticipation of getting an increase. That means if the increase doesn't come in, a lot of the things we've been talking about tonight that everyone is very excited about may have to come out of the Budget because, quite frankly, we just came back from talking to the House and the Senate. The House is supportive and the Senate, in just a few words said, not likely to happen. So this is a fight that we've been going through for 25 years. And as my wife so pleasantly told me, it feels like you're a gerbil on a wheel, the view never changes. And...

MS. LOESBERG: I know. I know you guys fight really hard for this.

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VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Yeah so, anyway, if you'd like to do something...

MS. LOESBERG: I know you want it just as bad as I do. And that I'm just reminding people –

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Yeah. No I appreciate your coming tonight.

MS. LOESBERG: --don't know that it's such a problem that is a problem.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Yeah.

MS. LOESBERG: Thank you so much, everyone.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: But I would just like all of you to think about sending a note to your representatives –

MS. LOESBERG: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: --and senators and people that don't represent you...

MS. LOESBERG: Well, there is someone in the Department of Ag on Maui that could...but there's only...they're down to like a half of position from what I've learned. They're the ones that should be doing this –

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Right.

MS. LOESBERG: --enforcing. But, yeah, thank you so much.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you. Sorry for the editorial comments there, but...David Fry will be followed by William Knowlton.

MR. FRY: Aloha. I'm David Fry. My wife and I own and operate a small business in Haiku. As small business owners, I just wanted to express to you that I'd appreciate your continued support amongst other organizations and programs in this County is for the Maui Economic Development Board and some of the good work they've done. Now, one of the programs they do is Startup Weekend, which I've had the opportunity to participate in twice now. It's an amazing program that helps to foster entrepreneurship. I think it's very important in that it helps folks get a business from just a concept in their own head to get it off the ground in a single weekend so that they've at least got a start on where they want to go with their new business. This is job creation at its most basic. Maui Economic Development Board also does a lot to help support and foster businesses as they go to grow. And there are a number of different programs they do including some seminars that I've participated in, I think those are very helpful. As a resident of Haiku, I wanted to express, first, I'd really appreciate your support for the Hamakualoa as so many other folks here have talked about. That open space's land purchase means so much to this community. For the Parks Department, I wanted to

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thank you very much for your support of Giggle Hill. That park is just so important to this community, and we're all very happy to see that it's gotten very close that we're about to open it. As far as other Parks Department initiatives, these community centers, I think, provide a huge value to the communities. I can't tell you how many times I've been to meetings at these, it's at least once or twice a month. Events like this, events like the Democratic Party Caucus where we pulled a thousand people through this facility in one day. Whenever we get a big crowd here, it becomes obvious that there is some upkeep issues that have not been attended to. There are some plumbing and septic issues that really need some support here. I also wanted to suggest that as far as this being a hub for the community, it would be really nice it provided free Wi-Fi so that folks that are sitting here tonight in the audience could be Tweeting out their observations about this without using their data plans. For a lot of us that meet here regularly, free Wi-Fi would just really make our lives a lot easier. Finally, I wanted to address the issue with driving through Paia. It's gotten really bad. I think if you folks were able to really get a handle on how many people are living in East Maui, squirreled away in the little pukas on ag lands all over the place, I think we have a much bigger population than perhaps our Planning Department estimates. And that part of the reason that this is an issue is because whether it's Airbnb or residents or folks accommodating their friends who may between houses, we've got a lot of people.

MS. WILLENBRINK: Two, forty-five.

MR. FRY: We've got a lot of cars coming through. We could really use that bypass sooner rather than later. Thank you so much.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you.

MR. KNOWLTON: Aloha and God bless you. My name is Bill Knowlton. I'm a retired school teacher. I was born and raised here on the islands. I did go to Maui Community College for a couple years and I became . . . *(clears throat)*. . . excuse me, fascinated in Hawaiian history when I took an Hawaiian Ethnobotany class. I'm here to talk about the Malama Hamakua coastline. I'd like to ask you a question, how deep do people's roots go here in Hamakua? The best estimate that I've seen so far by Patrick Van [sic] Kirch, Professor of Anthropology at Berkeley who has done a lot of work on Maui, he estimates from the physical evidence that people settled the Hamakua coastline between 300 and 600 A.D. I did come up with a book on China, which stated that the Emperor died at sea in 300 B.C. looking for the islands of life east of China. So somewhere between 300 B.C. and 600 A.D. people started settling the Hamakua coastline here on Maui. There's a book called Native Planters of Old, which I'd like to read a little quote from. It's specifically talking about Hamakua. It says, the number of very narrow ahupua`a thus utilized along the whole of the Hamakua coast indicates that there must've been a very considerable population. The low coast is indented by a number of small bays offering good opportunity for fishing. The ala loa, or long road, that went completely around Maui passed through Hamakua close to the shore crossing streams where the gulches open to the sea. So there was a substantial population here. Some of the kupuna that I talked to called this land the `aina momona, that fat land, because there's so much

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water here, there's so much gulches, they grew lots and lots of taro here for the substantial population and they were able to go fishing in the bays along this coastline. I have a friend who was born and raised here in Haiku who drew a map for me, and every point and every gulch on this coast –

MS. WILLENBRINK: Two, forty-five.

MR. KNOWLTON: --had a named fishing spot. So this place really needs protection. We are...my neighbors are telling me I can't go to the ocean. Trying to cross through a private subdivision, an ag subdivision and –

MS. WILLENBRINK: Three.

MR. KNOWLTON: --they have a permit to provide ocean access and they're telling me I can't go on the ala loa that was here from 1500. Malama Hamakua. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, William. The next testifier is Elisa—and I can't quite tell what your last name is—Plauche?

MS. PLAUCHE: Plauche.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Plauche.

MS. PLAUCHE: My name is Elisa Plauche, and I'm another Haiku resident that can't sleep at night thanks to coqui frogs. I just want to emphasize how bad they can be. It's a disaster with making a...for a potential for making sleep...nights for everyone and not just in Haiku but they're coming your way. You're going to end up in the same boat at some point. I'll give you an example of how they can spread. My housemate accidentally took the trash. He was one of...he took a coqui frog and accidentally let it go. We had to call MISC to take care of that and go check out and make sure it didn't spread. Recycle, that was another way that coqui frogs can spread. Our vehicles, they spread. So this is something that can ruin tourism as we know it. It can impede agricultural ag sports. Big Island ignored the warning for too long and now it's too late for them to ever eradicate the frogs. Many Big Island residents must close their windows and doors at night in hopes that their voices can be heard over a phone call. One frog is enough to keep you awake at night, and an acre can hold 80,000 frogs. One frog will keep you from watching TV. I now sleep with silicon putty earplugs, 'cause that's the only way I can sleep. I no longer get help from MISC because I'm no longer on the front line. I'm on Maliko Gulch, they've spread way passed me on my neighbor's goat pastures, so they're happy with grass. And these are people that are not going to mow their grass, they're goats rely on the grass so this is...it's the idea that if you eradicate through the trees or the weeds or whatever, I'm telling you, they're happy with grasses just this high. So it's a problem if we don't take care of it immediately. So now coquis have spread over to the Giggle Hill Park that everybody is talking about, and that's where MISC is trying to keep them on the other side of Kokomo Road, but they've failed to do that with the lack of funding, lack of staff. I tried spraying myself. A thousand gallons later, I realized

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I couldn't do it. It was a waste of my time. There was...it literally just pours in from all sides and I gave up and resorted to the earplugs. I think it's not too late for MISC to eradicate them.

MS. WILLENBRINK: Two, forty-five.

MS. PLAUCHE: Two years ago they gave a quote of 2 million being able to go into Maliko Gulch and set up their sprayers to eradicate them, but that opportunity was missed, and now obviously –

MS. WILLENBRINK: Three.

MS. PLAUCHE: --it's going to cost more. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Elisa. The next testifier is Nikhilananda. He'll be followed by Sarah Gray.

MR. NIKHILANANDA: Thank you Members of the Maui County Council for being here and Kim in the Council Services who do a lot of the work. Thank you for being here. I want to also point out that the bathroom happens to be closed. And one of my issues that I brought up for years is that when bathrooms are closed at night, where are the homeless and the houseless people supposed to go? I just went out there and it's locked. That's just unacceptable. So whoever's running this meeting. I've been coming for 20 years, 20-plus years. I have my laundry list as I always do each year. I want to tell the people, and I don't like to talk with my back to you, but 1 percent of the capital budget, capital programs, goes to Haiku/Paia. One percent, that's what this Mayor and possibly the Council thinks about this area. We have many, many issues and you've heard most of them tonight. I want to incorporate my last 20 years of testimony and the more brilliant testimony of a lot of people back here that were specific about different issues. So I'm going to go through a number of them again and I don't have the time to go into detail because it's not just one issue but it's many. One thing I do want to point out, a few people talked about the traffic and if you're aware of the state. We were supposed to break ground in 2015 for the Paia bypass. It's now 2022. So we need some help with that. It's only getting worse. So the injection well lawsuit, I heard that tomorrow you might be talking about that. Please start supporting, making corrections rather than defending it. It's unacceptable of what we've been doing for years with the injection wells. The East Maui water, the Commission on Water Resource Management, you're on the wrong side. Let's start supporting putting water back into the streams instead of fighting it, Maui County. The support the affordable farming land trust, the Hawaii Farmers Union United, you heard Simon talk about that. So, again, support their initiatives on regenerative farming. Purchase and preserve the Hamakua coastal lands; that is a no-brainer for people of us that live out here. A material reclamation facility. I've been talking about this for 25 years. There was a letter to the editor recently talking about the good stuff that they find in dumpsters. Go out to the dumpsters right over here and see the stuff that's in them. It doesn't work, and I've been broken record about having curbside recycling. Let's get it together. It's done all over this country. And

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please, and I think this Council actually doesn't support it, the ill-thought-out Anaergia waste-to-energy program of our Mayor, don't let it happen. And I was really glad to hear about the Hui Malama people early on tonight. I was a tutor there for years. Okay. So some of the other issues that I've been coming for years to talk about of course. Let's revisit the property taxes and let's, again, change not the rates but the way...the cost of a home you can charge more, 25 or 50 cents per dollar.

MS. WILLENBRINK: Two, forty-five.

MR. NIKHILANANDA: Thank you, Kim, I love you. Thank you. Additional funding and expansion of the currently one-person County department of agriculture, funding for affordable housing czar. The Maui Bus, let's get a Upcountry –

MS. WILLENBRINK: Three.

MR. NIKHILANANDA: --shuttle. And I'm wondering if I...after, if I stay here, if I can have another minute or two.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Unfortunately we can't do that, because we gave everybody else three minutes, so...

MR. NIKHILANANDA: Right. So, again, this is what we get. We get three minutes and it's not enough time to talk about all the issues that we've got. Thank you very much for schlepping out here.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Nikhilananda. And Sarah Gray will be followed by Darcy Henderson.

MS. GRAY: Hi. My name is Sarah Gray. I'm representing the Maui Roller Girls, but I feel like I'm more here on behalf of social recreation, which probably sounds so ridiculous compared to all of these important things that have been brought up these evening, especially summarized just now. But my experience with roller derby, which is such a niche little market is that it has improved my life so much it's made me a better person for working with an organization of people that are cooperating, collaborating, and competing together. So, for me, it's physical, it's social, and it allows me to return to my home life and my work life a little better, in a better mind space. So there are a lot of different things in the community that people do to improve how they feel. When you feel better you do better, and that is a ripple effect, right. So this piece that we're proposing that we would like to use as a roller derby track, the great thing about our sport is that it is very adaptable. A flat space is all we need, just so long as it's wide enough and so long as it doesn't rain out. A flat space like that is something that can be used by so many different organizations. And I manage a coop studio Upcountry that is rented out by the hour for a variety of group. I use it for yoga and martial arts, keiki hula, different events, one-offs, and workshops and such. And I think that this area that we're talking about next to the youth center is a great rollover for them when they're at max capacity. Paia town doesn't have a lot of covered options or any covered

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options for community gatherings. So all of those things that I listed that we do up at the studio where people have to pay to do this to host them would be able to be facilitated there in the public space open to the community. And when people are taking care of themselves and their health and getting a little bit of pleasure and recreation time, they're a better service to everybody everywhere. So I hope that you'll consider it. Thanks.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Sarah. And Darcy will be followed by Alex Haller.

MS. HENDERSON: Good evening, Chair and Council. Thank you for being here. I know it's getting late. Just quickly, I'm also here to support the Hamakua coastline.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Your name?

MS. HENDERSON: Oh, I'm Darcy Henderson. I work hard for your community Monday through Friday. I work for non-profits, substance abuse, I work with the homeless. And my recreation is so important to me. And this coastline, ten years I've been here as a community member in Haiku, so proud of this community; but part of all of this is what makes us our community. And if you could look forward into the future that recreation how valuable that is to people. Providing healthy recreational activities helps keep your community healthy, keeps people with healthy activities instead of causing problems. More and more people that utilize this land becomes stewards of the land. It's gonna regenerate the health to this area, and I feel like represent a lot of people. One of my activities is horse riding, and more and more throughout the years we see more and more fences and we're losing our recreational space and part of the beauty of Maui is the country and we need our horses and our animals and we need our big playgrounds. So that's just very valuable to me, and I believe a lot of people I stand here to represent a lot of people that are utilizing the space. I see, you know, fathers teaching their sons how to motorcycle ride out there. There's trails, it's already set up. And there's starting to be huge confusion about whether it's private or public and what areas you can go and when you can't. And I've seen dangerous situation where people have bought privately and they don't want other people accessing that area through their properties and whatnot and it needs to get organized also for...whether it's going to be all bought up for the community or if we're maintaining just a greenway. But there's already big confusions as to who gets to be along that coastline and walk those trails and get to Peahi and watch Jaws and see all the special things that are out there. So thank you for listening, thank you for being here.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Darcy. And Alex will be followed by Susie Peck.

MR. HALLER: Aloha, Chair, Vice-Chair, County Council. Thank you for coming out to Haiku. Like many people in this room I'm proud to be born and raised in Haiku, so I grew up in this area and it always needs to be up kept, starting in this room. I know a lot of people that have been involved with community events have a really hard time locking that door. It takes about ten minutes for that lock to really lock over, so that's an area of concern that needs to be fixed. Also, this kitchen behind you, there's a lot of people

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that would like that to be a certified kitchen, especially with food, sanitation, you know, rules and regulations being increased to have a certified kitchen in our town would be beneficial to our community. And six months ago I talked to Parks Director Kaala Buenconsejo and he assured me that these portapotties at our...right next to us at our park would eventually be gone and we would get more permanent...the kind of long-term portapotties rather than the short-term ones, is the way he described it, and that was six months ago. So it'd be nice if we could get some nice bathrooms for a lot of the soccer stars and parents who are always in this area. And also absolutely support the purchase of the Hamakualoa lands, the Peahi to Kuiaha parcel, especially Lot 1. It would be nice if you could purchase all the lots, but most especially Lot 1's really special. That's a...an item that if it's lost, it would be a huge tragedy to our community, because all of my childhood memories involve going down there when the swells are huge and the best surfers in the world would be surfing down there. And to have the possibility of gates getting put up and restricted that road access would...it would definitely change all the childhood memories from the keiki from this area. So we gotta keep those roads open so we can always have the access to viewing down there. The Hana Highway isn't too bad, but all the roads that run mauka to makai from pretty much Kokomo to Kapakalua horrible conditions. These roads are in some of the worst on the island, extremely dangerous, especially for cyclists. Starting with Baldwin Avenue and Kokomo. There's two bike shops at the bottom of those. They do bike runs and there's no bike lanes from the top of the crater all the way down to the ocean. They do bike runs with companies without any bike lanes, that's ridiculous. Those two roads, if 99 percent of the bicyclists are going downhill, we'll at least have to have one -

MS. WILLENBRINK: Two, forty-five.

MR. HALLER: --one down lane bike lane. And...let's see. Oh, the Boys and Girls Club, I worked there for over a year, thank you for supporting that, it's a huge benefit to our community, so thank you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Alex. And Susie will be followed by Jennifer Livingston.

MS. PECK: Hi. I'm Susie Peck, and I'm also a Haiku resident. I teach at the school there. So the garden is actually pretty nice. I see the kids come into the class like munching on kale and stuff, it's pretty fun. Anyway, I'm here tonight in support of the Maui Food Innovation program. I'm a recent graduate, and I don't know if anybody knows what a great little thing this is. In just a short period of time, I took an idea into what could be a viable business. The support we got is like unbelievable. My daughter's in a college on the east coast, and she's studying business. And what I was learning with what she's learning, was kind of...I was kind of like, whoa, it's really impressive. We got support with finance, business planning, packaging, marketing, all kinds of community volunteers coming in, they just really inspire us. And the other issue is, you know, my daughter, I'd love for her to come back and work here on Maui, but we need programs like this to have jobs that can give, you know, our kids employment because it's really a great thing. This program's really supporting the food industry, keeping our food here

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on Maui, the farmers, the chefs, there's bakers, there's all kinds of people in the program. So thank you so much for supporting it.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much, Susie. And Jennifer will be followed by Leinaala Vedder.

MS. LIVINGSTON: Hello and good evening. It's nice and late. Thank you all for being here. I think we should do it more often, I really do. I've learned more in the past...I don't know, since I've been here, than I really have in the past probably six months, quite literally, about what's going on and what people care about in the community. So I would encourage you to come back next fall. In fact I'm thinking we might have some invitations going out to come back for a community listening. Okay. Having said that...

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Your name?

MS. LIVINGSTON: Jennifer Livingston.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Thank you.

MS. LIVINGSTON: Bypass, need I say more? Okay. I'm going to put on my work hat now and I'm going to go to work where I work at the hospital as a nurse case manager. I'm going to get in my car and it's going to take me almost an hour to get there if I hit traffic at 8:00, which means I leave super early, which means my baby doesn't get to say hi in the morning, so that's kind of sad. Same when I'm coming home. I don't know what else to say about that, but we got to get it fixed. Keeping my nurse case manager hat on, I'm going to walk into the hospital and I'm going to see a couple of twenty-year-old kids with severe heart defects because they're taking meth. Okay. That's a bad decision, we all know that. Did I make bad decisions when I was twenty something? Absolutely. It's a small island. Can we please do something about that? I haven't heard anybody say anything about that, but it's niggling me. So if you hear anybody saying, I know what to do about meth, please help them. Hamakualoa, the t-shirt, we can make it happen. This is an epic coastline. There's nothing else like it in the entire world. Nothing else like it in the entire world, and this is the only opportunity you all are going to have to make sure it remains open to the public. So I think you get the message. The Maui Farmers Union United is a group of amazingly smart people with amazingly smart plans and pretty much anything they bring to you, listen really closely. Affordable housing, so if farmers are going to stay here, if people like me are going to stay here, we need to be able to afford to live here. If the land is so expensive we can't do that. If people who have grown up here, if their kids are going to stay here they have to be able to afford land here. How are we going to do that? Na Hale O Maui is a wonderful model. Na Hale O Maui is a wonderful model. John Anderson started it. It's been around. He's left. His replacement is awesome as well. You will hear from me in the future on how we can use that model for ag land and how we continue to spread it to get more people. If we divorce the property cost from the housing cost and we trust the land it remains—I'm almost there, you don't even need to say it—West Maui Greenway, Maui Bicycling

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League, support that project, it's really awesome. And then they're going to come and help us out here, too. Okay. Mahalo.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Jennifer. And Leinaala will be followed by Ali Young.

MS. VEDDER: Aloha ahiahi, Councilmembers. My name is Leinaala Kuloloio Vedder. I am a resident here on Maui. I live in Hamakualoa in Pauwela Village. And I guess I'm here to touch upon four points. My first point is to support the Boys and Girls Club. I have an oldest son who is a participant there, and to please continue that program that they have at Boys and Girls Club. The second thing is to continue to support the Maui Junior Golfers. We were kind of shocked with the raise increase in the fees at Waiehu Golf Course, but, you know, it's better than nothing. And so thank you and please continue to support that. With the closing of the sugar industry and A&B...my second hat that I wear is I'm a teacher for Kula Kaiapuni at Paia School. And so the concerns of our environment and the safety for our children has always been a concern. My next thing is hopefully that you folks can support our schools if there's anything that restricts for teacher positions. I know it's a DOE thing, but our school is growing. Being that I'm a Hawaiian immersion teacher, our program is growing and we're 80 percent of the school. And so if we are looking at expanding our school, and we were hoping to team up with a developer at the Waikapu project, but that has gone through political things. So we'd like to...I'd like to ask you to be allies for our school as far as for the Hawaiian immersion program. And the last thing, because I am a resident here and my family is...we're landlords on our own property and I'm a beneficiary, it is very difficult for me to ask you to please purchase the properties. Knowing our history, knowing the history of our lands and what has happened, and it is very difficult for me to tell you to ask...or to ask you to purchase it from someone that I'm not even sure if they have the proper title for that. But with your investigations and your ike and your smarts, I'm hoping that that would happen. I'd like to see this area in open space. I'd like to see it preserved for the future generations. I know as far as for my family who lives in Pauwela Village right across the street, we may not come out and attend these kind of meetings, but we are trying on our own to continue the trails, to continue...it's not a practice, to continue our own tradition and our resources.

MS. WILLENBRINK: Two, forty-five.

MS. VEDDER: And so I'd like to put that into your consideration and think of us when you are considering this open land property here in Hamakua. Mahalo.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Leinaala. And the last person to have signed up is Ali Young.

MS. YOUNG: Okay. Aloha. My name is Ali Young. And the practicing of the tradition, I really liked what she said. The Hamakualoa should be kept open. It's just a wonderful place. And I just want to talk about the 20 years I spent with my dearly beloved Alex Bode. We cleaned heiaus there, we harvested and picked and transplanted lipoa seaweed from K'Bay. He taught me how to pick the lipoa and plant it in other places that didn't have it. We picked trash off the beach there. He loved that coastline. I really watched him...I

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really love the love he had for that coastline. We planted taro, we cleaned taro patches, we planted trees. I watched him tirelessly work that coastline in all these little areas. And I really fell in love with it. And it's just a wonderful coastline to keep open for everybody, everybody. It should be free for everybody to come and see and keep those practices and be able to practice those practices that we have in our culture. And there's just tons of other things that I did on that coastline with him. And I really, really miss his presence not being here. But keep it open. It's a great place. It's irreplaceable.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Ali.

MS. YOUNG: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: That brings us to the end of our testifiers. Does anyone like to come testify that has not yet done so?

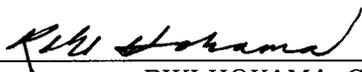
. . .END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.

VICE-CHAIR WHITE: Okay. Seeing none, I'd like to thank all of you for coming tonight. And drive home safely. Aloha. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

ADJOURN: 8:17 p.m.

APPROVED:



RIKI HOKAMA, Chair
Budget and Finance Committee

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Transcribed by: Raynette Yap