

**ENVIRONMENTAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND CULTURAL  
PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**  
Council of the County of Maui

**MINUTES**

**July 23, 2019**

**Council Chamber**

**CONVENE:** 1:32 p.m.

**PRESENT:** VOTING MEMBERS:  
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Chair  
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Vice-Chair  
Councilmember Kelly T. King  
Councilmember Alice L. Lee  
Councilmember Tamara Paltin  
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

**EXCUSED:** VOTING MEMBERS:  
Councilmember Michael J. Molina

**STAFF:** Kasie Apo Takayama, Legislative Analyst  
Nicole Siegel, Committee Secretary

Zhantell Lindo, Council Aide, Molokai Council Office (via telephone conference bridge)  
Denise Fernandez, Council Aide, Lanai Council Office (via telephone conference bridge)  
Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, Council Aide, Hana Council Office (via telephone conference bridge)

Don Atay, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci  
Gina Flammer, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci

**ADMIN.:** Richelle Thomson, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel  
Kay Fukumoto, Economic Development Director, Office of the Mayor

**OTHERS:** Adam Radford, Manager, Maui Invasive Species Committee  
Tyler Kimura, Partner, Spire Hawaii LLP

Others (6)

**PRESS:** Akaku: Maui Community Television, Inc.

---

CHAIR SINENCI: . . . *(gavel)* . . . Aloha kakou. Welcome to the Environmental, Agricultural, and Cultural Preservation Committee. Today is Tuesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019, and it is 1:30 in the p.m. I'm Shane Sinenci, your Committee Chair. Before we begin, may I please

**ENVIRONMENTAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**July 23, 2019**

---

ask that we silence all cell phones and noise-making devices? Mahalo. We'll go on to introductions. We have our Committee Vice-Chair, Ms. Tasha Kama. Aloha.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Aloha, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thanks for being here. And we also have Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura. Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Aloha, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha. Member Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha `auinala, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha `auinala ia `oe. Member Alice Lee just stepped in. Welcome.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Mr. Chair, I have, again, a Russian expression, and it's dobryy den', and that's good afternoon in Russian.

CHAIR SINENCI: Dobryy den'. Good afternoon.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, so I can have a conversation with Mr. Trump. . . .*(chuckle)*. . .

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Member Lee. . . .*(chuckle)*. . . And, finally, we have Chair King. Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Aloha. Good afternoon.

CHAIR SINENCI: Good afternoon. Here with us on the floor, we have, from the Department of Corporation Counsel, Ms. Richelle Thomson. Aloha. In the audience today, we have, from the Office of Economic Development, Director Kay Fukumoto. Aloha. For our representatives today...oh, just as a reminder, Member Molina, Mike Molina, is excused for the day. Thank you. Our representatives today for our meeting, we have Mr. Tyler Kimura from Spire Hawaii LLP. We also have Mr. Adam Radford, the Manager of the Maui Invasive Species Committee. For our Staff, we have Ms. Kasie Apo Takayama and Ms. Nicole Siegel. Welcome, everybody. In our Hana District Office, we have Ms. Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros; our Lanai District Office, Denise...Ms. Denise Fernandez; and our Molokai District Office, Ms. Zhantell Lindo. Welcome, everybody. Today, we have one item on our EACP agenda, EACP-30, the Audit of the Maui Invasive Species Committee. We will...if there are no objections, we'll go on to testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Members, for individuals testifying in the Chamber, please sign up at the desk just outside the Chamber door. If testifying from one of the remote testimony sites, please sign up with District Office Staff. Testimony will be limited to

**ENVIRONMENTAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**July 23, 2019**

---

the items on the agenda today. Pursuant to the Rules of the Council, each testifier will be allowed to testify for up to three minutes per item. There is only one item on today's agenda. When testifying, please state your name and the name of any organization that you may be representing, and pursuant to the Rules of the Council, if you are a paid lobbyist, please inform the Committee. We have established a connection to the Council District Offices. Ms. Apo Takayama, can you please call the first testifier?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, we don't have any testifiers signed up in the Council Chamber.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Thank you. Can we go to the Hana Office? Ms. Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, do you have any testifiers there?

MS. OLIVEIRA-MEDEIROS: Aloha, Chair. This is Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros from the Hana Office. There is no one here to testify.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo. And Ms. Denise Fernandez at the Lanai Office, do you have any testifiers there?

MS. FERNANDEZ: Aloha, Chair. This is Denise Fernandez at the Lanai Office, and there are no testifiers.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo. And, from our Molokai Office, Ms. Zhantell Lindo?

MS. LINDO: Aloha, Chair. This is Zhan at the Molokai District Office. There are no testifiers.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo. So, if there are no objections, Members, I'd like to close public testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay.

**EACP-30 AUDIT OF THE MAUI INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE (GC 19-3)**

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. So, moving on to our only agenda today, the Audit of the Maui Invasive Species Committee. On December 12, 2018, by Resolution No. 18-433, the Council authorized the then-Council Chair to commission an audit to examine the use, management, and expenditures of public funds relating to environmental protection and coqui frog eradication efforts by MISC. In FY 2017 and 2018, MISC received four grants: two general grants for environmental protection for 895,000, and two specific grants for coqui frog eradication, totaling \$1,050,000. Additional funding has been granted during our most recent budget deliberations, however, this audit covers the grant period only from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2018. The Resolution authorizing the audit states that the purpose of the audit was to provide clarity on the effectiveness of the grants in overall environmental protection, coqui frog eradication efforts. The item was referred to the

**ENVIRONMENTAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**July 23, 2019**

---

EACP Committee on July 5<sup>th</sup> in the full Council of 2019. So for today, Members, I plan to take...to have Mr. Kimura give a presentation to explain the objectives, the scope, findings, recommendations of the audit, and then we can hear from Mr. Adam Radford and Ms. Fukumoto. So, as noted on today's agenda, Mr. Kimura is a Partner with Spire Hawaii LLP, and the author of the audit. If there are no objections, your Chair would like to designate Mr. Kimura as a resource person, pursuant to Rule 18(A) of the Rules of the Council.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Okay. Should we...Mr. Kimura, would you like to join us? ...Thanks for being here. Members, hard copies of their presentations are being passed out right now. We also have some questions, general questions, from Mr. Molina. You may want to review some of his questions. ...Okay. Mr. Kimura, you can begin whenever you're ready.

MR. KIMURA: Aloha, and good afternoon, Chair, and EACP Committee Members. My name is Tyler Kimura, Partner at Spire Hawaii LLP. We are a local CPA and consulting firm based out of Honolulu, Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to present the results of our performance audit of the Maui Invasive Species Committee to you today. I would also like to thank the Office of Council Services, the Office of Economic Development, and MISC personnel for their cooperation and assistance throughout our engagement. I have a brief presentation outlining our procedures, findings, and recommendations, and I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have at any time. Thank you, Chair, for the background on the origin of the audit. We were contracted by the County Council to conduct a fiscal and performance audit of MISC. MISC is a project of the UH Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit that works to prevent control or eliminate threatening, invasive plant and animal species in Maui County. This fiscal and performance audit was intended to help provide clarity on the effectiveness relating to the grants, and help provide comprehensive knowledge of the progress and protecting our environment. Our work was conducted pursuant to the AICPA's statement of standards for consulting services. The primary audit objective was to perform a general evaluation of the grants relating to the use, management, and expenditure of public funds. The first objective was to review the objectives, goals, and measurements to fulfill the scope of the grants, determine whether the scope of each grant has been fulfilled, and the funds provided to MISC have been appropriately expended. We were also asked to review the quarterly and final reports related to each grant to determine whether the grants provided to MISC have been utilized accordingly, and indicate whether the number of coqui frog colonies have increased, decreased, or remained the same. We were also asked to review and analyze manpower, staffing, and utilization, including actual hours of field work. In order to address the items within our scope, we reviewed and analyzed a number of documents, including the grant agreements, MISC's quarterly and annual reports, samples of invoices for payroll and out-of-pocket expenses, support for total acres infested with coqui frogs, activity logs and lists of crew members and their timesheets for priority work areas within Maliko Gulch. We took a sample of timesheets for grants 4594 and 4632, and we also analyzed a summary and breakdown of all MISC personnel

**ENVIRONMENTAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**July 23, 2019**

---

time for 2018. We conducted interviews of the MISC Manager, the UHPCSU Special Projects and Development Manager, and the MISC Program Specialist. Now I'll move on to the primary findings within our report. So, one of the objectives of this audit was to determine whether coqui frog populations have increased, decreased, or remained the same. MISC, at the time of our report issuance, estimated that 1,185 acres in and around Maliko Gulch were infested with coqui. MISC also reported, in its December 2018 quarterly report for coqui Grant 4594, that it had eradicated 19 coqui frog colonies on Maui, as listed here, and this goes back to 2004. We noted that it's inherently difficult to count coqui for two reasons. One, the coqui frog's habitat. So, where they live, primarily within Maliko Gulch, is very hard to get to. It's dense, hard to penetrate vegetation, and in general, a very remote and hard to access area. Complete eradication can take up to 10 years, depending on infestation levels, site characteristics, and access. As shown in the prior chart, most of those sites took about 10 years to fully eradicate. Another difficulty in measuring whether or not coquis have increased, decreased, or stayed the same, is the actual act of counting coqui is also very difficult. When we asked whether coqui populations have increased, decreased, or stayed the same, MISC stated to us, quote, the short, but nuanced answer to your question is yes, coqui populations have increased, decreased, and stayed the same since 2017, depending on the level of infestation at any particular site and resources available. This answer highlights the difficulty in not only counting coqui frogs, but also the need to evaluate individual sites in order to determine progress. Some of the current challenges with how coqui frogs are counted...I'm sorry, let me back up real quick. Oops, I'm sorry. ...Apologies. So, one of the current ways that MISC is counting coqui frogs now, is they estimate the number of coqui frogs before and after a treatment in a particular area. So between January 2017 and March 2019, MISC compiled data on 826 visits where treatment activities were conducted, and they estimated the number of coqui frogs decreased from an average of about 18 frogs before the treatment, to two frogs after each treatment.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Chair? Quick question.

CHAIR SINENCI: We have a question from Chair King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Just...thank you, Chair. So, just a quick question, how big an area are you...are they looking at when they say it went from 18 frogs before to two frogs after treatment?

MR. KIMURA: I think that's a better question for MISC personnel to answer, but it is any particular area where they can spray on a particular...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I mean, are we talking about acres, or are we talking about feet?

MR. KIMURA: I would imagine it's within feet, but--

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

MR. KIMURA: --I think MISC...

**ENVIRONMENTAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**July 23, 2019**

---

COUNCILMEMBER KING: You didn't ask that question? Okay.

MR. KIMURA: Yeah. I don't have that information right now.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Continue.

MR. KIMURA: So, some of the current challenges is that the system fails to adequately capture a decrease from thousands of frogs to hundreds of coqui because their measurement levels only goes up to over 63. So, whether it's a thousand or hundreds of coqui frogs, they would both be classified as over 63 frogs in an area. Eradication efforts are dictated by level of funding received. As such, MISC can only address parts of the Maliko Gulch infestation in a given year. MISC did not provide a definitive answer as to whether 100 percent eradication was achievable. In a 2019 presentation, MISC stated that it would cost between 4.6 million to over \$15 million to eradicate coqui from Maliko Gulch. And, finally, communicating the overall progress is difficult. MISC currently is not required to provide actual or estimated figures of coqui frogs, number of colonies or acres infested, in its report to the OED. The results reported by MISC do not clearly communicate overall magnitude of the coqui frog problem in Maui. And this leads us to Finding No. 2. So, Finding No. 2 on our report states that the performance measures under the coqui grants do not allow for an assessment of whether MISC is succeeding or failing in containing or eradicating coqui frogs in Maui County. This slide shows the two primary goals of the coqui grants. First, is to maintain control operation in Maliko Gulch, and the second is to increase community involvement in detection and control of coqui frogs. The objectives of maintaining control and operations in Maliko Gulch is to reduce infestation levels and stop the current spread, with the eventual goal of eradication. The objective of increasing community involvement is to get landlords' assistance in habitat removal and coqui control. The performance measures are number of acres treated, staff hours focused on Maliko project, and gallons of citric acid applied; number of landowners assisting with control; number of hours contributed to habitat removal or control operations; pounds of citric acid distributed to residents; and number of outreach activities. A performance measure is generally defined as a quantifiable indicator used to assess how well an organization or business is achieving its desired objectives. We understand that the performance measures in the coqui grants were established jointly by MISC and OED prior to grant execution. MISC has reported its performance measures in accordance with the grants, but the performance measures themselves do not measure what effect, if any, MISC's efforts are having on the coqui frog population. As such, it's difficult to translate the numbers reported to containment or eradication. So measures such as acres sprayed, field hours worked, or gallons of citric acid may sound substantial, but the missing part of it is the context. So what does that actually mean when you try to measure containment or eradication? The measure of acres sprayed can also be misleading. If the same acre is sprayed multiple times, it is counted multiple times in the performance measure that's reported to OED. This table summarizes the performance measures that were reported by MISC

**ENVIRONMENTAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**July 23, 2019**

---

to OED since Fiscal Year 2015. As you can see, there are thousands of staff hours that have been focused on the Maliko project. There are also hundreds of thousands of gallons of citric acid that have been applied in the area, but the question remains, okay, so what does this mean for the actual population of coqui frogs in the area? So when you look at those statistics, and you go back to the goals and objectives of the coqui grants, there are questions that we're trying to answer here. One, has MISC maintained control operations in the Maliko Gulch? Has MISC reduced infestation levels and stopped the current spread, with the eventual goal of eradication? Has MISC increased community involvement in detection and control of coqui frogs? And have landowners assisted in habitat removal and coqui control? So, it appears that, based on these performance measures, that the answers to questions one, three, and four, are yes, but the current performance measures do not provide an answer to question number two, which is, has MISC reduced infestation levels and stopped the current spread? So, public concerns about the spread of coqui frogs cannot be answered through the performance measures in the coqui grants. Our first recommendation related to this finding is that MISC and the OED should develop better performance goals and reporting that measure whether MISC's efforts are working. So, vague, overly-broad, or unrelated metrics pose the risk of adverse reactions that, one, no progress is being made, or two, no one knows if progress is being made. It does appear that MISC has the data that could be used for quantifiable performance measures. As we showed in Finding No. 1, MISC is able to quantify how many populations of coqui they have eradicated. And two, they also have logs of when they go out and treat a particular area. They have metrics of how many frogs were there prior to and after treatment. So these types of quantifiable, tangible, and relevant measures provide more context and better answer to the question of whether MISC has reduced infestation levels and stopped the current spread. MISC and the OED should also discuss whether a goal of 100 percent eradication is achievable, and, if so, agree on a timeline for affected areas to become 100 percent coqui-free. So, providing such easy to understand big pictures, measurements, will assist the County in understanding the magnitude of coqui frog infestation and the impact of MISC's efforts. And finally, OED should implement measures to continually and effectively monitor MISC to ensure that grant goals and objectives are achieved. So, for example, asking the questions of whether populations are, in fact, being contained, or what is the progress towards eventual eradication? Finally, to address the audit objective of analyzing MISC's manpower, staffing, and utilization, and the actual number of field work hours, we analyzed timesheets and a summary of MISC's staff time in 2018. First thing we did, was we took a look at MISC's internal TimeLog, which is their internal timekeeping of what the staff are doing on a daily basis, and we compared those to the RCUH time and leave certification forms, which is how the staff actually get paid. They need to submit these timesheets to RCUH to get paid, and they have to list whether or not they were on leave, sick, or whatnot. We tested one month, and we noticed seven variances between their internal TimeLog and the RCUH timesheets. Overall, there's an underreporting of 19 hours of field work and three hours of leave, which was less than 1 percent of hours reported for August 2018. We performed this test to ensure that we could reasonably rely on the TimeLog when we were looking at MISC's total hours worked and the leave time that they took in 2018. ...So this table shows a summary of the number of hours worked for MISC and the Molokai

**ENVIRONMENTAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**July 23, 2019**

---

Subcommittee of MISC during calendar year 2018. Again, this is based on MISC's internal TimeLog. Programmatic hours include field work, which includes all ground and aerial survey and control work, including work on plants, vertebrates, invertebrates, and early detection, as well as time spent managing logistical aspects of field operations by the Field Coordinators and Operations Manager. Data GIS is data entry planning and analysis, and outreach and education, that's all activities related to developing and maintaining support for programmatic objectives, including efforts to affect positive behavioral change by the public in relation to invasive species. Operational support includes budget development and tracking, grant and report writing, partnership development, project oversight, recruitment and training. And leave includes vacation, holidays, sick leave, administrative leave, and jury duty, and other examples. So as you can see in the table, approximately 72, 73 percent of MISC's time in 2018 was spent on programmatic activities, and 19.5 percent was on leave. As MISC employees are employed by RCUH and therefore subject to similar holiday, vacation, and sick leave policies as State and counties, excluding any carryover, 56 days or 448 hours of combined leave may be taken per year. This table shows a breakdown of the 40 personnel within 2018, and how it breaks down to the amount of leave that they took within that year. Ultimately, we did not analyze the leave taken by the employees and we're not expressing an opinion on the appropriateness of such leave. The County should be aware that the number of field work hours available under the grants may be limited by the amount of leave afforded to MISC personnel as RCUH employees. The County should be mindful, however, that using a governmental entity such as MISC for these efforts likely also leverages certain efficiencies, resources, and connection with other government and research entities that a third-party private or not-for-profit organization may not have. Related to this finding, we recommend that OED and MISC should consider the number of programmatic hours available when setting performance measures for the grants. The OED should understand what is possible to accomplish within available programmatic hours so manageable expectations are set for the County's invasive species eradication efforts. MISC should also continue to improve its time tracking efforts in its TimeLog database, and we understand that MISC has already taken steps to create clearer definitions for consistent reporting, ensuring that all part-time staff and MoMISC hours are entered into the TimeLog correctly and accurately. That concludes my presentation. I'd be happy to take questions now or after.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Mr. Kimura. Members, did you wanna ask Mr. Kimura some questions now, or would you wanna wait for the next presentation? You're gonna wait? Okay. One question from Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The leave category, that's all like...it's approved leave?

MR. KIMURA: Correct. Our understanding, it's approved leave.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh. Okay.

MR. KIMURA: Yeah.



**ENVIRONMENTAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**July 23, 2019**

---

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. If there are no other questions, we'll have Mr. Radford come down and share his presentation. Mr. Kimura, you can hang out 'til afterwards for questions? Okay. Thank you.

MS. SIEGEL: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay, Mr. Radford. You can begin when you're ready.

MR. RADFORD: Thank you, Chair, for the opportunity to present today and, Members, for your time and attention to this matter. And I just want to thank Spire and the staff there for their professionalism and feedback. It was, I think, part of the intent of the audit, actually, from the last Council and then Chair White, was to help MISC improve. And, actually, we did learn some things where we could be better along the way, and we've made those course corrections, and also, you know, highlighting the opportunity to continue to work with our funders to define the metrics we're using in a meaningful way. And so, we just wanted to say thank you to you and your team, and also to the Council, again, for your attention to this matter. And also, as always, we welcome transparency and the opportunity to, you know, explain what we're doing and justify our actions in a complex environment. Like, I mean on this slide, I just always like to highlight that MISC is not just Maui Invasive Species Committee, but the Molokai Maui Invasive Species Committee as well. We also have our baseyard and staff in Hana, so we are a big, complex organization dealing with things that no one in the world has ever tried to do. And, so, you know, we're learning along the way, and so we appreciate the feedback to help us as we go along. So, with that, I will move on. So this is...my presentation's actually very short. This is just an outline for the presentation, but just...some of the key considerations that I guess I felt came out of the audit, and things to discuss, are just determining the efficacy of effort, aligning deliverables with OED, course corrections along the way, and what, kind of some suggestions are for going forward. So, one of the key questions is that the efficacy of efforts to control coqui frogs, and I think you've all actually seen this map in the past. But what I like to highlight on this map is the green dots. Those are places that had lots of frogs, and those frogs are gone. To me, that is being effective. Of course, there's a big red blob. That's Maliko Gulch, and we are holding the line there. But one thing I like to point out as well is that coqui frogs showed up to both Big Island and Hawaii at about the same time. We all know what it's like on the Big Island. Most people on Maui, to be honest, probably don't even know that we have coqui frogs here. So to me, again, that's a metric of success, and that has been through the effort of the Maui Invasive Species Committee, the Molokai Maui Invasive Species Committee, who just caught a coqui frog several months ago, and residents, who more and more are becoming empowered to assist us with our efforts. For example, last night a resident in the Kehalani area caught what he believes to be the last of three frogs there and he...I just spoke with him, actually, prior to this meeting, and was saying I would never have been able to do that without the training and resources that were provided by MISC. Again, just another measure of success, that I'll get into this a little bit later, but...that we're hoping to better capture in our

**ENVIRONMENTAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**July 23, 2019**

---

reporting to OED and to the Council. And the other thing, I think, that is really important, is understanding what it's like to try to measure progress. So, Chair King, you asked a question about, like, how big is the scale of the areas that we're...where we're trying to use the index that was described, and it varies. These are agricultural lots in Haiku, so they're generally, like, one to two acres, and our mandate for staff is to try to gauge pre- and post-impact, or pre- and post-condition, on the property they're working. So it's usually, like, about an acre or so, but that gets really hard, and I just wanted to play this –and you've all heard it before, if it'll actually work-- . . .*(plays audio of coqui frogs)*. . . So, like, how many frogs is that? Probably sixty-some, or so? So, like that's where we're limited. When you have one, it's pretty easy to say there's one to five, that's why we chose the index we use, but it can be a challenge. And part of why I played that, also, is that you might be working on one property, but around you, those surrounding properties, might have...sound like that. So it is really challenging. I'll talk about some ways we're considering addressing that, but just wanted to raise that point. And this was brought up already, about just gauging efficacy, and I already mentioned, you know, some of this, but aside from 19 sites on Maui that no longer have coqui frogs, we have 10 left. Very few have many frogs, or any, on them. There's also been hundreds of random single frogs caught everywhere that people live on Maui. And I think this is actually a pretty powerful graph. And what we didn't explain well, perhaps, in the proceedings of the audit is that this is from our top priority areas, so we've had to prioritize based on available resources. And so in areas where we are working hard--we're, I think, being quite successful--what is the challenge is that we've never had adequate resources to fully implement a strategic plan across the board. So, unfortunately, frogs continue to be prevalent in certain areas because we're just not able to get there, but where we prioritize, the places we want to go or the places where we feel, based on a wide range of factors...like if we lose it there, we're going to lose Haiku, and ultimately, Maui. In terms of, like, options for gauging efficacy when talking about coqui frogs, so we actually work closely with the Fish and Wildlife Service some years ago to do that in the goal. And their ultimate conclusion was that the efforts we were...the approach we were taking was effective, and they actually state in this finding that it just requires repetition in a systematic repeat visit, which is dependent upon available resources. So, anyway, outlined in this report is several different ways you can gauge the level of infestation that we could implement again, but I guess I wanted to highlight that to date, MISC, our mandate really has been to be a field-oriented organization, not so much of a research organization. So, like, we do the best we can to gauge progress, but ultimately our goal is green dots on the map. So this is another way of gauging effectiveness, that we have actually already submitted two proposals to fund this, and it's actually being used for native seabird monitoring throughout the State, and it's an acoustic monitoring system that...and this is an example of the core of the Maliko infestation and the dots with circles, represent an acoustic monitor in the area that they would cover, and so this is something we're looking at as like another sort of third-party way of assessing progress over time. And the other really cool part about this, I think, this technology, is that if we had suspect locations, like the one frog in Kehalani that the resident picked off last night, we can actually deploy these monitors. And we have an app on our crew phones, and it'll real-time ping you if it detects a coqui frog, and they're absolutely confident that they would be able to work

**ENVIRONMENTAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**July 23, 2019**

---

with us to ensure that they're detecting coqui frogs and not crickets. So this is something we're already pursuing funding for, and hopefully, if that funding is secured, something we'll present to you on in the future. So, in terms of aligning deliverables, we've, as Tyler brought up, we've already met with OED staff and had several discussions, e-mails, back-and-forth, and been really working to align those deliverables to a more meaningful manner, and that's in our FY '20 proposal now. And, so just some examples are listed there; I won't read them all, but I think one of the biggest ones is... 'cause again, I actually like the idea also of kind of the third-party assessment, so it's not just MISC or me saying, like, yeah, we're being successful or we're not. And one of the big ones here I like is, is polling the communities on a regular basis and saying, like, are we being effective or not? And if so, why or why not? But anyway, I think that could be something of value. So anyway, my point here is that we've already been in conversation with OED to address one of the key findings. And course corrections along the way. As I mentioned, you know, it was a learning opportunity for us, and as soon as we kind of realized that relatively manini discrepancy between the TimeLog and RCUH timesheets, we corrected our TimeLog. So that...the TimeLog was actually never intended to be the, like, go-to accounting of people's time. It was more designed to be an internal reference, but we've corrected that, and aligned the two so that, again, if someone wanted to look, it would match up. But I think you mentioned that it was, like, 1 percent of time was off. That's pretty small. And I guess I took away from the audit, too, a reassurance that, like, our fiscal and administrative practices are sound. It made me go through several checks and balances, both internally, and then with the University. Many things go through three rounds of different people: reviewing, purchases, and other actions taken by the Committee. So to me, that was actually very reassuring. And so next steps. I think that one of the things that would be helpful is for you all to try to get out with us in the field, and come see what it's like and what the crew's doing, and where we're holding the line, where we're getting rid of frogs, say, at smaller infested areas. Understanding, of course, that you're all very busy people, my other proposal is to just be given the opportunity to come present on a somewhat regular basis to update you on progress, and also, I guess I had a question. I'll end with that in a second, but it's to you, of like, what would you like to see from us that would help with your understanding of the current situation? And, like, are we being successful or not? I guess, and we don't need to answer that today, but it's just...I welcome feedback on that of, like, what could...what information could we relay? 'Cause Tyler brought this up, like, we have lots of data. We are a very data-driven organization, and we can present information in lots of different ways, and analyze it in lots of different ways. And the metrics that were outlined in the grants described were the metrics that were agreed upon with the former OED Administration. But we can provide lots of information. It's just sort of, like, what people think would be the most valuable. I just, while I have your ear, I want to just point out a couple quick...this is more a broader pitch. And, so just remembering that the Maui Invasive Species Committee and Molokai Maui Invasive Species Committee, we work on a wide range of things in a given year. Like, both programs work on about an average of 30 different species a year. We've been highly successful at the control and eradication of different invasive species over the years. The point is that a lot of these projects take years. I mean, they're huge projects, and sometimes, your, you know, a plant, for example, may have a seed longevity of five years,

**ENVIRONMENTAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**July 23, 2019**

---

ten years, or longer, and you have to keep going back to make sure that plant is not growing anymore. So this just highlights some of our successes. I really like to mention the one about the eradication of veiled chameleons. So that's the first time in the world that any program has ever removed a reptile from the wild, ever. That's pretty amazing to me. And I just want to talk about, like, if funding shifted, or was reduced, and also take the opportunity to say thank you for your incredible support this year and over the years of invasive species management. But these are just some of the things you lose, and Tyler brought this up, but, like, the amount of funding...that's when it...when we talk about estimates for, like, what's it going to take to eradicate? It's a challenge for us to come up with those numbers sometimes, 'cause we don't know what they next year's number is. And the amount of funding directly affects the pace and scale of eradication efforts. And so that's hard, and also, even in the proposals, you know, often we'll submit a proposal and we'll put in our ideal goals, and kind of what we want the outcomes to be, but then it's often not the amount of funding we thought, or whatever. So it's just a moving target, and I'm sure you can all relate to that. And from your nonprofit backgrounds. Anyway, this is, to me, like, what's it's all about, honestly, is a pest-free, especially. . .*(inaudible)*. . .pest-free Maui for our next generation, and also empowering them to learn about our natural environment, and providing local work opportunities for our keiki. And I'll just say mahalo, and also highlight, as Tyler did, that we're projects with the University of Hawaii Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit. So, thank you again, Chair, for the opportunity, and all of your time.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Radford, for being here, and I forgot to designate Adam as a resource person pursuant to Rule 18(A), thank you. We had a question from Chair King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Thank you, Chair. So actually, just kind of going back to your...the acoustic monitoring that you were proposing, and you said you were seeking funding. So, are you seeking additional funding for that outside of the funding that the County has designated for coqui frogs?

MR. RADFORD: We actually put the bulk of the request into our proposal to the Hawaii Invasive Species Council, which is how our...essentially how our State funding is allocated. That's a competitive grants process as well, as the OED process.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So, if you get the money for the acoustic monitoring, that will be in addition to what the County has provided...through our budget, what the County has provided?

MR. RADFORD: Well, this year, because you increased the allocation for coqui, we just put it into there. It's not asking for more, necessarily. It's just...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. So, it's coming out of the current budget?

MR. RADFORD: Correct.

**ENVIRONMENTAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**July 23, 2019**

---

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. I just wanted to double-check, 'cause you said you were seeking additional funding for that.

MR. RADFORD: That additional funding would be through the State, not through the County. Sorry, thank you for the clarification.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. So you are asking...so this would be above what the County is providing? If you get this funding?

MR. RADFORD: Just on the State side of things. So, sorry, to be clear, the addition is in our State request, not the County request.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: That's what I'm saying. So, if you get the funding you're seeking for the acoustic monitoring, that's in addition to what the County has provided?

MR. RADFORD: Yes. Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. That's what I'm trying to clarify.

MR. RADFORD: Yes, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. And then one of your slides, under course correction, I don't know that you addressed that third bullet point that says, improved measures of effectiveness. So have you changed some method, methodologies?

MR. RADFORD: Not so much the methods yet. I mean, as with the acoustic monitoring, we're pursuing other options. But, I guess what I meant by that bullet was more adding...we added quite a few metrics into our FY '20 proposal for the County that we thought would more fully capture the progress of the project.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. What...so what's different? What new measures did you add in there?

MR. RADFORD: As I mentioned, like, gauging community...their perception of impact--

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

MR. RADFORD: --and things like that, that I think I have the slide with a few listed.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. So you're talking about the things in the previous slide?

MR. RADFORD: That's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: And then the last question I had was on the question of eradication, 'cause, you know, I've talked to you several times about it, Adam, and asked if it's possible and if we could get a plan, and I'm hearing from the auditor that it may not be

**ENVIRONMENTAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**July 23, 2019**

---

possible. So, is it possible and is it possible to get? Because I think we have to look at larger funding, but I want to see a plan first, and I've been talking about this for a better part of a year and I haven't seen an actual plan. Like, if we had 4.5 million, or if we had 15 million, here's how we would approach it over the course of five years or ten year, or however long it's going to take. So, is there...are you working on a plan like that, so you can justify it? 'Cause I don't think we're just gonna, you know, provide funding without seeing an actual plan, and at least some targets for what would happen every year on the pathway to eradication.

MR. RADFORD: We're always working on revising our plan, and I think I did provide at one point, the strategic summary, to your office, but I'm happy to share that again. But...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Well, I've seen the maps, but I haven't actually seen a whole plan for, you know, a five-year plan or a ten-year plan or whatever it is for how much money it would take each year, what are the steps you're gonna take each year to get the reduction, what the target reduction is, and then at the end, you know, how you're gonna get to the end goal, eradication. I haven't seen that.

MR. RADFORD: I can provide that to the Council.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Because I mean, I've asked for that a few times, so I just...I would really like to see that, because I'm a firm believer that...in prevention, and I think if we don't prevent...I've seen what's happening on the Big Island, and I think if we don't put money into it and prevent it now, and if there is a chance to eradicate, then eradicate now so we don't have the big economic losses that we're seeing on the Big Island. And the situation they're in, which is beyond the point of return. They're not even spending any more money on it because there's no way to get rid of the coqui frogs over there now. It's done. They're going to have to live with them for the rest of their lives. I don't want that to happen to Maui, but I also don't want to put five to ten million into this just on a yearly basis without seeing some kind of a plan that looks plausible.

MR. RADFORD: Sure. We'd be happy to provide that to the Council

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. That would be really good, if you could do that, and maybe make a follow-up presentation on, you know...and, you know, whether that involves more people, funding for more employees or whatever it is. You know, I just, I would like to see that...and the fact that you're telling me that there can be a plan makes me feel like okay, there is hope for eradication; that you feel like there is a pathway for it, to eradication, and we could probably get rid of this problem. And then the other recommendations are, what are we going to do along the way to keep this from the...coqui frogs and other invasive species from continually coming in. I mean, do we have to put a ban on bringing in, you know, vegetation from the Big Island, or these certain vegetations, or what do we have to do? What...how, how are they continually, or are they continually coming in, and how would we keep that from happening? I mean, Molokai has done a really good job of keeping invasive species out, because they don't let a lot of stuff come across their, you know, shoreline. And I remember there

**ENVIRONMENTAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**July 23, 2019**

---

was a big to-do when they found one apple snail over there a few years ago, and then they figured out it came from a corm on Maui, so it wasn't spreading. But how do we get to that point where we can track those things before they become a problem, you know...where they're coming from, figure out where they're coming from?

MR. RADFORD: That's a great question. Thank you for that, Chair. So, the State has actually developed a comprehensive biosecurity plan that is now in its third year of implementation, I believe, but I think that looking to that and seeing maybe how the Council could help support actions that are outlined in that plan would be the most effective way to help solve the problem you're talking about. 'Cause I agree, I mean, the issue is that things keep showing up, and, on average, we're tasked with a new major pest species every two years. So, yeah. It's a recurring problem, and I think that kind of piggybacking on ongoing efforts at the State level would probably be the most effective way to have--

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

MR. RADFORD: --change occur.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah. That would be great to see what their recommendations are, Chair, and maybe have a presentation on that, how we could help with that. I'm...you know, my concern is obviously all invasive species, but it's just looking at these warnings we get every so often about certain ferns that come in and have the fire ants on them, or we had--it's in your report, in South Maui--the coqui frogs at one of the nurseries in South Maui. We found out early enough, I think, to get them out of there, but, you know, we're not...South Maui is not necessarily known as an area of coqui frogs or a lot of other invasive species, so we're not aware, you know. Different communities, certain communities, Haiku, certainly, is aware. Other communities are not. We don't have that much awareness, and people don't know what to do when they...and sometimes people don't even know what they're hearing when they hear it. So maybe it needs to be more widespread, the education, but certainly we need to know what steps the Council can take. I was really surprised to see...you had a lot of presentations on the watershed, the different watershed projects last year, at the end of the year, in the Water Committee, and everybody kept talking about the Himalayan ginger being so invasive, and yet you go down to any of the stores at all of the airports, and they're selling Himalayan ginger in little packets to tourists. So, you know, there's a lot of disconnects like that, too, and if there's something we can do to stop those on Maui, I'd be happy to look at that. So, thank you, and thank you for your presentation. Thank you to Spire for your presentation, your work. We have to get a handle on this, sooner rather than later. Thank you.

MR. RADFORD: Yeah. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. We have Member Lee, and then Member Kama, and then Member Sugimura.

**ENVIRONMENTAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**July 23, 2019**

---

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Hi, Adam. Thank you for your presentation. So, in the last year, how much did you receive from the County and how much did you receive in total grants?

MR. RADFORD: It's a good question. So, the County grants were...it was...let me do the math real quick, if you just...

CHAIR SINENCI: Ms. Fukumoto, would you have those figures...for last year? You had a question?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: ...750,000, right?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: On the back page.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: On the back page of the audit. . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MR. RADFORD: I don't...yeah, I don't think that's the total for last year. I think the total for last year for County was 1.855 million, and I think the State was 870,000, and then we got a few other smaller grants, like Hawaii Tourism Authority and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. That was about 120,000 or so. So, simply, the County was, like, 1.8, and other grants were about a million, so the total budget was, like, 2.8.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well, yeah. Well, almost 3 million. Anyway, it appears, Adam, that you've been getting more and more grants, but the results are not...well, it's hard to ascertain what the results are, actually, you know. And, from when you...from, let's say the previous year to last year, how many more staff people have you, you know, had? How much have you increased your staff?

MR. RADFORD: We increased about 12 FTE between last year...between...within the time frame you're describing.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, you added 12. So now you have a total of how many?

MR. RADFORD: It's about 40 FTE, total.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: 40 FTE. So, personnel costs alone would probably...swallows up most of the grants?

MR. RADFORD: That's correct, except for with the coqui-specific, it's typically about one-to-one, in terms of personnel costs versus costs for citric.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, wouldn't you think that if you were dealing with hundreds of thousands of these little critters, that you would need a lot more than 40 people?



**ENVIRONMENTAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**July 23, 2019**

---

MR. RADFORD: Yes, if we're awarded the grants we've applied for this year, we're looking at effectively doubling the field crew size.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

MR. RADFORD: That's what the funding would support. And also, I just want to point out that MISC started in 1999, and we had a Manager, we had a, basically, an Administrator, we had a data person, and we had, you know, a couple other, like, administrative-type positions. Anyway, that's never changed, even though, over many years, the program has continued to grow, and our current plan is actually to...we think we can manage even more field staff with that pretty limited amount of administrative...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I guess my point is, Adam, that maybe you shouldn't attack this in such tiny steps, you know. It's like, you really have to take a quantum leap and because you are sort of a quasi-State entity, working with the UH and so forth, that you...I would wonder if you couldn't access some of the larger resources available to the State. National Guard, or anybody...the Marines, the Navy, the Army. But, you know...

MR. RADFORD: I would love it. Yeah, I would love it.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, I know, but have you asked?

MR. RADFORD: We did, and they said no.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And why not?

MR. RADFORD: They didn't...weren't interested in working with us on that.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well, maybe that's where we need to band together, and make a stronger request, because--

MR. RADFORD: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: --you know, you can't attack this kind of a problem with F troop; you need a platoon, or not platoon, a division, you know. You need huge numbers. So, I'm wondering why, you know, you're just sort of limping along, because the people that have testified during the budget process really believe that there's way more to be done. I mean, they're helping with their community groups, which I feel is really commendable, but they can help with maintenance, but somebody has to help with eradication. So, I'm thinking that...and I know you're going to have to start thinking bigger, and getting way more people involved, and maybe you shouldn't be in the field, maybe you should spend more time organizing the masses, you know, to attack the problem because it's so overwhelming and as mentioned earlier, you know, it's growing to a point where it's starting to get a little scary. So, we need to be pretty bold in our, you know, strategies, and I'm thinking that however the County can help you, not only in terms of money, because... And speaking of that, on one of the pages that the auditor provided us, I

**ENVIRONMENTAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**July 23, 2019**

---

don't know what page number, but it's Finding No. 2, under recommendations, there's a mention here. It can't possibly be this. It says here, 19 populations have been eradicated, and that MISC considers populations to be discreet areas where five or more calling coqui are heard. Five is considered a population?

MR. RADFORD: Yes. That's been the standard we've used for years.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, 19 populations of five or so? I mean...

MR. RADFORD: No. Typically, in simple terms, if it's a population, there's a lot of frogs. It's generally, there's like one or two, or there's a lot. And also, keep in mind that the juveniles and the females don't call. They don't make noise. So, I think the ratio is essentially, like, three...for every one frog you're hearing, there's, like, 15 frogs present. Often, with animals, they tend to strike out on their own. So, like, if you find one coqui frog--

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

MR. RADFORD: --it's often just one. But if you find five calling frogs, there's probably--

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MR. RADFORD: --females and juveniles present.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. I want to wrap my questions up, because I know everybody else has questions. So, don't they have natural enemies? I don't know, chickens, whatever.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Snakes. . . .*(chuckle)*. . .

MR. RADFORD: Sure. They do.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: What are they?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Snakes.

MR. RADFORD: Chickens, snakes, other frogs, themselves. They're cannibalistic; they'll eat each other. But none have proven to have a significant impact in terms of population.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And secondly, you can't sterilize these guys?

MR. RADFORD: We've talked to lots of researchers about that, and they have not wanted to pursue that 'cause generally, the whole gene sterilization thing, they don't want to go there with amphibians 'cause other places, most of the world, actually, amphibians are threatened, endangered species. So their concern is that if they did something in

**ENVIRONMENTAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**July 23, 2019**

---

Hawaii, that it would accidentally move somewhere else, and decimate those populations. So...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well, I think that's kind of a ridiculous thought, you know? I mean, if they want to repopulate, go to the Big Island. We want to eradicate ours, you know? We're not trying to preserve some of them. So, anyway, I think these other kinds of approaches need to be considered, because you can't go one by one, or kill 20 or 30 at a time when there's 10,000 of them, yeah? So, that is my hope, that other people, besides you, who come together with some different strategies that are much bolder and broader than we've been using in the past. Okay. Thank you. I yield my time. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Member Lee, for upping the ante. Member Kama?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, Adam, the last time you came to us, and you said you were going to come with a plan. So, we don't have a plan today. I'm kind of upset about that, because I thought that today we're going to come with a plan, the plan that you said you were going to have months ago, to be able to eradicate. And that's when I said, well, why don't we just burn 'em out? I mean, to me, that just made sense, right? You want to get rid of it? That's an eradication method. It may not be popular, but, I mean, you gotta do something radical. But, how do you measure eradication?

MR. RADFORD: Zero frogs. That's....

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Right. So how do you go about eradicating? What is your plan to get rid of...I gotta know more than what's written in this report from the auditor, and what I see here on your PowerPoint, because it doesn't tell me how. But it does tell me you want more money to do, but tell me what you want more money to do? With what? I mean, are you going to get a thousand volunteers up there at some point in time? I mean, you gotta say more than I need more money to do this, because I don't know what you've been doing in the past. I know you had \$2.8 million to do it, but it doesn't seem like we got a whole lot for what we paid for. I kind of, like, don't have a whole lot of confidence in this. So you gotta kinda like add stuff to make me feel more comfortable about this. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Member Sugimura, you had...

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah. You know, so I was here last year, and kind of went through a journey with you. In fact, with me at the Upcountry farmer's market, you've come and done community outreach twice, and passed out your kits, and talked to people that stopped by that had questions. Upcountry farmer's market is a good place for the people who, you know, shop there and who may have concerns about coqui frogs. So I wanted to ask you about your community outreach, because that was something that was being developed, and I think that maybe what Member Kama is talking about is, you know, what was that plan? And today, I didn't realize that, you know, we were going to talk about that, but you can. I would love for you to share that with the

**ENVIRONMENTAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**July 23, 2019**

---

Members, and I do know that during this current budget, we were hearing cries for \$4 million, you know, that would help. I'm not too sure if you got there with State funding, so if you could comment about that; your total State funding during this 2020 Fiscal Year. And I think the State gave you some money through the Hawaii Invasive Species [sic] or whatever that is, and as well as, I think Mayor upped his...upped the coqui frog eradication. So if you could comment about that increase. And, Chair, I would love to hear from OED, 'cause I think that part of this is what OED is currently doing, but before, if I could, ask those questions and then maybe ask OED to comment...your community outreach and, you know, different things that you're doing.

MR. RADFORD: Yes. Thank you for the question. So, kinda to answer both questions about planning and things. So, ideally, to eradicate a coqui frog, you want to get back to the place they are on about a six to eight week revisit schedule to break the reproductive cycle of the frog. That's kind of where we've--all those green dots--that's how we were successful. Unfortunately, in the Maliko area, we've had to pick, essentially, six places that we can get on that schedule to try to achieve success, push them back, and then we'll pick more spots. So that is part of the plan, is to either have the adequate resources to address every, what we call, management unit, or work systematically through a certain subset of those, and then ultimately get all of them done. Another huge component of the plan is actually habitat maintenance and removal, so essentially, a crew just to do that, and then the other aspect that you brought up is the community engagement program, which we're really excited about. It's utilizing community-based social marketing as an approach to empower communities and inspire them to, as a unified front, try to address coqui frogs. And since the Upcountry farmer's market, we actually now have four active communities that are being incredibly successful, and the goal is for every residential area in and around Maliko to actually have a community-based program, because again, if the residents are out, like either doing maintenance and/or helping get the few frogs in their yard, that frees up our crew to get into the places like the gulches, the main gulch itself that have hundreds, if not thousands, of frogs, and most people don't want to go there. And so what we felt, was that the four million was, like, kind of a manageable amount, but also an amount that would get us to move the line back towards Maliko Gulch. Like, to be honest, in and around Maliko Gulch, I think I've mentioned this in the past, but it's been, essentially, a containment project, because we just haven't had the resources to push the line back. But we think with additional staff, they can actually get back to these areas on that six to eight week revisit frequency. We can start to move the line back. The other thing is that we did get allocated, in the State's biennium budget, \$750,000 per year for coqui barrier work, which we...I don't think MISC is going to take on. We'll help facilitate, but we're looking at actually contracting that out, and we've been working with our local Department of Land and Natural Resources office to kind of figure out how that's going to work, 'cause that's CIP funding. But what we're envisioning is using the barriers, which we know are effective deterrents, is just like they do with animal removal in the watersheds, you know, you make a line, and then you push back, and you make another line, and you keep leapfrogging back towards the gulch. So that's the goal with that. And, yeah...I mean, that's the gist of it. It's basically having enough people to be able to get back to these sites on that regular cycle, and then the habitat removal, community engagement,

**ENVIRONMENTAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**July 23, 2019**

---

where we have one community engagement liaison now. We have proposed bringing on two more individuals just to help facilitate that. And I will say, I mean, we have residents in and out of our baseyard all day long during the week, getting equipment, citric acid, getting training, and then we also have a liaison or a staff member out with those communities, certainly Monday through Friday night, almost every week now at this point. So, it's become a major part of our program, and I personally think that community engagement part and, I believe, Member Sugimura, that you feel the same. Like, I don't think we will be successful with the coqui eradication effort in Maliko if we don't have everybody on board. 'Cause it's just, as Member Lee brought up, I mean, it's a big problem that requires out-of-the-box thinking and major resources, and I would love it if the National Guard wanted to participate. We actually talked to the National Pest Control Center about them coming out and doing their training with the C-130 aircraft in Maliko, and, unfortunately, they didn't take us up on that, but we're always open to ideas, and certainly looking to, you know, do better and do more. So, and I'm happy to provide the plan. I think...I may not have, and I apologize, I probably didn't share it with everybody, but I believe I have shared our strategic plan in the past, but I'll be sure to get it to all the Members...

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, maybe you can send it to all of us.

MR. RADFORD: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Or send it to Committee Chair.

MR. RADFORD: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah. Thank you. And, I wonder if we could ask OED what, you know, their comments are.

CHAIR SINENCI: We'll go to Ms. Director after one more--

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay.

CHAIR SINENCI: --and then we'll go to the Director. Thank you. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. So, kind of like Chair King, my perspective comes also from the Big Island. I grew up there and, you know, one time I was home visiting my family, and we did find little fire ants, and I called the Big Island Invasive Species Council [*sic*], and I kind of expected a rapid response, like how there is on Maui. And there was nothing. They told me, like, I could go to the store and try this product and maybe put some peanut butter out on a stick. And in my experience on Maui, working at Honokahua Bay, there has been success stories. There was little fire ants on the boardwalk at Oneloa, and they came out and there was a rumor of little fire ants at one of the emu pits. I regularly see the Maui Invasive Species van cruising around, and I know of how bad it could be, coming from Hawaii Island, and how bad it's not here on Maui, and I think that, you know, we should be very grateful that we have passionate

**ENVIRONMENTAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**July 23, 2019**

---

people like this, and instead of putting it all on their shoulders to `auamo, it's all of our problems. And instead of telling them, who are you partnering with? Us, as the leaders, need to, you know, look into what it is. We all came back from the conference in Vegas, and I didn't have to go through the same process of ag inspection coming into Hawaii that I had to go leaving. I saw many people not fill out their ag declaration forms, although they said it was the law and, you know, the direction that I personally prefer us going into is the way that it is going now, where the community has to take on more responsibility. And it's not in the way that Big Island Invasive Species Council [sic] does it where they just tell you over the phone; well, you can try this. You know, it's meeting with the neighbors, and I think that strategy goes far beyond invasive species. Once the networks are created, it can also apply to natural disasters, it can apply to pretty much any community issue. And so I do appreciate the audit, and I don't feel like it's uncovered anything horribly wrong. Like all audits or reviews, it's pointed to areas that we can improve, and I think so it served its purpose. And I'm supportive of Maui Invasive Species Committee because I know that if we don't continue to kakou them, there is nobody waiting in the sidewings that is as passionate and is experienced as them. And I don't want the leadership of the organization to feel that that's a blank check, you know, but I think, you know, during the election time, we heard loud and clear how coquis are a big issue. To me, it's not as big as an issue of, you know, the little fire ant. To me, that's a much bigger issue or, you know, the apple snail, because our food na kalo. But, if it's the people's issue, it's my issue, and I just would like to see more outreach with the landscaping community, the agricultural community, the hospitality industry, and all these people that will be severely negatively impacted if Maui Invasive Species Committee isn't around. So, all I got is just, you know, holomua.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Chair?

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Chair? Before we move on, can I just ask one more question?

CHAIR SINENCI: Sure, before we go on to the Director?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yes. I think there was a big piece that was left out, because I was always under the impression that you used a lot of volunteers, and that wasn't really mentioned in the report from the auditor, or from your report. So, maybe can you just kind of give us a brief overview of what your volunteer program is, and how many people, or how many man hours you utilize every year? Volunteers? Do you keep track of that?

MR. RADFORD: That's a good question. So, volunteers, we...so we track time. I don't know the number off the top of my head, I guess, but I would estimate it to be probably a few hundred hours or so a year. Because we don't really have like a volunteer coordinator, so it's a little more opportunistic. Probably our biggest volunteer group is school groups. Like, we do, like, Seabury winterim will do a week with our Hana crew, with usually

**ENVIRONMENTAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**July 23, 2019**

---

about 10 to 15 kids. So, it's a lot of the school groups, and then we do have some community members that are regular volunteers that'll come help us with, you know, a variety of tasks. But I think probably the biggest use of...it's not volunteers, but it's actually interns. So we typically host five to six different interns a year from different programs. And why I raise that actually is not just their assistance and the low cost of having interns, but also, often those interns turn into regular full-time employees when they're done with their internship. So, it also provides an economic opportunity for those individuals. But the thing we don't capture well, because it's really hard to do if you're not engaged with the individuals kind of constantly, is we're not able to capture well all of the different residents, the individuals that are out, like controlling coqui frogs on their own time. 'Cause we're not there all the time. So that's one that we've struggled to capture, but, I mean, it's, as I mentioned, there are community groups active, essentially, every weekday of every week. So I mean, it's a pretty significant effort, but again, that's one that we've kind of struggled to capture.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: It might be valuable for you, going forward, to hire a volunteer coordinator, and capture the number of hours and the success, successes that the volunteer groups might have, because you have people who might want to come out for a week, or a couple of weeks a year, but don't want a full-time job doing this. And if you are looking at several hundred hours per year, and maybe you can increase that with this, you know, building a plan to increase that, I think it'd be well worth your time to have somebody to coordinate all those hours, cause those are hours you're not paying for, and you're getting production out of, hopefully. But I would just, I would just...that's one of the things to me that's the most valuable about our nonprofits on the island, is they do an incredible amount of work with volunteer hours, and there's hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours that go into our nonprofits. It gets stuff done that the County would spend millions on. So, I think you can expand, you know, your operations and your success rate that way too...and, you know, without proportionally expanding the dollars. But again, I will reiterate that if I...if we were able to see a plan and it marched toward that end goal of eradication, you know, I'm not adverse to putting some big money in...cause I think we need to do that, but I don't want to do that blindly. So, thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Members, we also invited OED Director, Kay Fukumoto, here, and we wanted to just ask her to comment on the audit, and maybe some of the audit's recommendations as far as grant performance measures.

MS. FUKUMOTO: Thank you for having me. I just wanted to comment that having taken office on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, I did go back and look at these grants because, obviously, it's such a huge budgeted item as a grant in our Department. And I have to say that I was very impressed by the level of effort that Adam and his crew were putting in, in terms of...I understand Maliko is a hot spot, right? But there were other colonies that they eradicated, and we're looking at, you know, areas in Kapalua, Makena, you know, Waihee. I mean, those could have just gone and, you know, increased in population had we not done something, so...and I have been on the Big Island, so I totally understand. And, you know, part of, I think, perhaps the problem may be that I don't

**ENVIRONMENTAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**July 23, 2019**

---

live next to Haiku or Maliko, but if we all did, we would really know the toll that it would take, you know. And this is a large problem. Regarding addressing the audit items, I was very appreciative of Adam taking a more proactive approach in trying to determine the colony sizes, and actually going out to look at how we could measure, right. The difficulty of saying how many coquis did we kill is, you know, challenging. But he did find the acoustic measurement instrument. You know, he came and we spoke about it. We talked about, well, with this level of funding and buying the instrument, you know, where could we target? And he was then gonna use OED funding for half of it, and then to utilize State funding, you know, for the other half, so that we can use this measurement device to tell us, you know, whether we're progressing. So I've appreciated him moving forward with measurement, because I think that's the primary issue, with respect to whether we're getting ahead of the game. So I think, you know, I think we have moved the needle, and this measurement tool will allow us to quantifiably know whether we are actually doing it. So, thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Director. Any questions, comments for the Director? Seeing none, I did want to go ahead and ask the Staff if we could have a follow-up letter to formally request a five- to ten-year plan--

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Yes, Chair. I'll draft that.

CHAIR SINENCI: --from Mr. Radford. I think this was a great discussion. We wanted to thank Mr. Kimura for being that third party from the outside, and coming in and, you know, giving us the input from the audit. It's always great to see all of us, legislators, administrators, boots on the ground...auditors, when we all can come together and talk about these issues that are very pertinent in our community. So, I appreciate everyone's comments and input in this meeting. I did want to tell Adam, please sign me up for one of your tours so that I can go kill some coqui frogs. . . .(chuckle). . . You've heard some of the Members...operation combat coqui...

COUNCILMEMBERS: . . .(chuckle). . .

CHAIR SINENCI: ...yeah? I want my hat. We can try and get some, you know, some help with that. You've also heard about an eradication plan from Chair King, maybe, possibly, by budget...the next budget session so that, you know, we can kind of look at that the next time budget comes around. And also, we're, you know, as the Environmental Chair, you know, we're planning on putting up some codes of conduct up here, and we wanted to highlight our unique Hawaiian environment, with lots of, you know, indigenous plants. So we wanted to always malama or honua malama our environment. So, I appreciate all of you guys' efforts today. And we had one more comment?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Before you wrap up, 'cause sounds like you're doing a great wrap up, but I was just curious, you know, there's another health hazard, and I wonder if MISC gets involved with that, which is the rat lung worm. I mean, to me, that's super invasive, a health hazard. Do you ever get involved with that, and what is the MISC position, in terms of helping Department of Health?



**ENVIRONMENTAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**July 23, 2019**

---

MR. RADFORD: So we've worked closely with Department of Health on that, and our role to date has been to help with outreach and education. Unfortunately, the most common carrier of rat lungworm disease, the semi slug, is widely established in Hawaii, and has been for, I think, a couple hundred years. But...so, like, eradication of the carrier or the host, like, say, rats, is not feasible for us to tackle, so we've helped in an outreach and education capacity, and worked, like I said, closely with Department of Health and other...we've been involved in kind of an interagency response team to help with that. But I agree, it's a huge threat.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: It's huge. Yeah. So when Chair Sinenci goes on his...what are you calling it, combat--

CHAIR SINENCI: Tour.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: --the coqui tour, I'll go 'cause I was...I had signed up and then it rained with the family that I was going out with. So, sign me up again. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Any other takers?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I think we should all go.

CHAIR SINENCI: Chair King? Okay. We might have to...yeah, we might have to write a report.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: . . .*(chuckle)*. . . We'll go separately.

CHAIR SINENCI: But, Members, before we adjourn, my intention is to defer the item--

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: No objection.

CHAIR SINENCI: --if there are no objections, so that we can continue to have this conversation and help in whatever possible way that we can.

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS** (Excused: MJM).

**ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.**

CHAIR SINENCI: With that, Members, no objections, this concludes today's Environmental, Agricultural, and Cultural Preservation Committee meeting. Thank you very much, everyone, Members, and Department representatives. This July 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the EACP Committee is adjourned. It's 2:56 [*sic*]. . . . (*gavel*) . . .

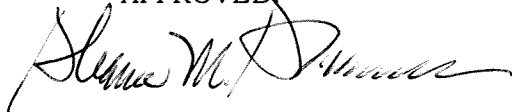
**ENVIRONMENTAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**July 23, 2019**

---

**ADJOURN: 2:57 p.m.**

APPROVED:



---

SHANE M. SINENCI, Chair  
Environmental, Agricultural, and Cultural  
Preservation Committee

eacp:min:190723:nas

Transcribed by: Nicole Siegel