

HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

March 20, 2020

Council Chamber, 8th Floor

RECONVENE: 9:07 a.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Riki Hokama, Chair
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Tasha Kama
Councilmember Tamara Paltin

EXCUSED: Councilmember Kelly Takaya King
Councilmember Michael J. Molina
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

STAFF: Lesley Milner, Legislative Analyst
Rayna Yap, Committee Secretary
(*Seated in the Gallery*)
Kate Griffiths, Executive Assistant to Councilmember
Kelly Takaya King

ADMIN.: Ed Kushi, First Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the
Corporation Counsel

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

CHAIR HOKAMA: . . .(*gavel*). . . We shall return to order. This is the recessed meeting of the Council's Committee on Healthy Families and Communities of March 17. Today is March 20th, it's 9:07 currently, in the Council Chambers. Again, Members, we took up couple of discussions. The basic and primary was the Coronavirus update that we utilize Rule 7(B) of the Council to get a status from various departments: Fire, Police, Department of Management, and also comments from the Mayor's Office.

ITEM HFC-46: OPERATIONAL AND BUDGETARY REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION (MISC)

CHAIR HOKAMA: This morning, Members, couple of things. As I mentioned, as it regards to HFC-46 and for our community regarding the Parks and Recreation operations and budget review, I would say your Chair will be working with the Director shortly on their operational component as well as their CIP component, and we'll be working more on a, I would say, anticipatory mode. Nothing's official till the Mayor submits his budget proposal to the Council. One thing good with this crisis, it should in no way

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hamper the Charter's framing and timing of schedule of how this budget is to move forward and how this budget is to be enacted on time for this County, okay. There's no reason, with this crisis, we cannot do the Budget in an orderly and timely manner. So we will do our work. Before we defer item 46, I'll also ask that if you do have questions, forward it to the Chair. We can have it . . . correspondence to the Department for appropriate communications that you'll receive. I know we are going to utilize telecommunications as a tool to conduct the business of the Committee and those that wish to participate in that manner; it's welcome, too. I'm going to be discussing with Chair Lee, but my intent is for me and my Committee staff to be in here, even if none of you are here. And for me, it's couple things. One, I don't want any miscommunication and misplacement of Committee documents, what is here, what is not in this building. We will be on TV; I think that is the least that we can do for some level of transparency to the community of what we are doing on their behalf in this difficult times. Third, I think it is critical that the community, in an appropriate manner, continues to see their leaders. We are part of the messaging from government to our community; so we need to be visible, we need to be heard, in appropriate context to the parameters of safe health. So that's how I plan to approach it. And we'll be working again, you know, it's going to take some adjustments on telecommunication, how to maintain order, how to allow discussion without hindering it, and how to be fair to all Members that is on this new mode of communication. So that's how I plan to operate with this Committee. Any questions, Members? Again, you will make choices for the Committees you chair. You all are Chairs of your Committees. I have chosen to do it this way, 'cause I know what the staff goes through trying to just keep track of documents. So to help this Committee staff, I've chosen that we're going to work from here. And Rayna will keep record. If you folks choose to take out things from here, that is fine. We'll support you and help get it done, but you are responsible for what you take from here. Staff, anything you folks wish to share with the Members about materials or . . . again, yeah, we were asking our Committee Attorney to be on call and observe the meeting so they understand when a legal question comes up, what was the intent, the context, to respond to your needs properly.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I had a question.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes, Ms. Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So you're just talking about next Tuesday's meeting?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 'Cause then after that we're the whole month in Budget.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes. But I'll be working with the Director, 'cause I think this Budget, again, with the level of experience of staffs, I think each standing Committee can assist the Budget Committee greatly by doing a little bit more in forwarding some smart recommendations from the subject matter Committee Chairs to Budget Chair Rawlins-Fernandez, because it's tough to do budget when you not sitting together.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: People need to know where we cutting, where we adding, you know; and it's going to be interesting if we not all working from the same worksheets. So I look at all of you to help provide guidance in your subject area. So . . . Ms. Paltin, you get one big one, Planning, you know. So, yeah, we'll be looking to your recommendations – Housing. Ms. Sugimura got tons of it. So, yeah, we look forward to her recommendations, too. Yes, Ms. Sugimura?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, so thank you very much. So during my Committee meetings with all the different departments, I think you provided a guideline of questions that Chester Carson, who's my analyst, is putting together like a . . . we're trying to put together like a report that we can submit to Budget that basically has information that was provided to us. And your questions were pretty consistent for all the different departments that came before the WIT Committee. So we're going to use your format for how many employees and how many, you know, how many vacancies, what are the CIPs and . . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: We're doing it for . . . same for this Committee . . .

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, so good. I think that'll help us in terms of being . . . having a broader . . . or maybe unified, similar information and more from all the different departments, so thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Anything, Ms. Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: No. I was just thinking the same. I tend to agree, because what happens is we all get the same information at the same time, so we'll end up on the same page. 'Cause I think sometimes we don't always get information 'cause we all came in at different times and places and we come from different spaces and there are things we know, there are some things we don't know, and there are things that we're learning every day. So I think having that format actually helps us to move forward in a more expeditious manner; so thank you, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah. The one thing I wanted to share and it would be my intent for this Committee, yeah, with the telecommunication option for Committee Members, my feeling is, similar to the current State statute, unless you excused from the beginning of the meeting, I assuming, making an assumption, everyone wants to participate as far as the voting Members are concerned. And if you're not here, you lose connectivity, it will be my position that the meeting will be an immediate recess or I will consider adjournment. I will not allow a meeting to continue with only partial Members participating. I don't like it. So if you wanted to participate and for whatever reason you are knocked off by the WiFi, your Internet went down . . . and that's one of my concerns – with high demand on the system, can the Internet and WiFi system handle the capacity and demand that will be placed on it. I don't know. We know what happened during the last big emergency, was overloaded the system.

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So that's how I plan to . . . and, again, I understand, the Governor has waived many things from statute; and potentially, we can legally continue even if we losing Members from connectivity and participation, but that is not how my style of governing works. So that's how I plan to proceed under telecommunications, yeah, fairness to all Members. Okay, with that, I'm going to defer, Members, with no objection, HFC-46. We didn't do that at the --

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS (Excused: KK, MM, KRF)

ACTION: DEFER PENDING FURTHER DISCUSSION.

ITEM HFC-13(9): CORONAVIRUS UPDATE (RULE 7(B))

CHAIR HOKAMA: --the . . . okay, thank you. I'm going to make one announcement. This is, again, as a venue of information for our community, this is regarding the Women of Excellence Awards for 2020. And, again, due to the Coronavirus and the status of health and safety for this county, the Committee on the Status of Women, which was scheduling this event for Tuesday, March 24, next week, has been postponed. And so we ask that those that are interested to pay attention, I'm sure that eventually, we will have this rescheduled for an appropriate event from the committee. So we'll help . . . the community informed, okay. So, once again, it's postponed, March 24th has been postponed for the Women's . . . Status of Women of Excellence Awards 2020, okay. Hopefully we'll get the livestock festival complex agreement forwarded. As a heads up, just to give you . . . it'll be something how we've approached the County Fair. Multiple years, allow sufficient time for the set up and break down, allow the Ag Fest people and vendors and participants sufficient lead time for planning, especially as it relates to livestock and produce and plants. So we'll be working with the Department and assisting the 4-H project. We've already deferred that.

CHAIR HOKAMA: And the last one, again, we'll continue, when appropriate, to be a venue of keeping updates to the community regarding the Coronavirus, or COVID-19. We have received requests of questions that we'll be forwarding from Ms. Paltin. So for Ms. Sugimura and Ms. Kama, if you do have, please forward it and then we'll send this to those that are being requested for responses. So if you have, forward it. Okay. We're going to adjourn shortly, so . . . yes, Ms. Sugimura, any last thing?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Before you adjourn, so going back to HFC-19, which is regarding the Ag Fest --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: --and 4-H Livestock Fair, War Memorial Complex, so since we're in this Coronavirus, appropriate subject matter, as it has a . . . overshadows this event,

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do you know if it's going to happen? It's supposed to be . . . I think it was May 30th or May something, yeah.

CHAIR HOKAMA: The coordinators are looking at the schedule, looking at the dates. Again, they haven't yet officially postponed it, but they are looking at alternatives to take in account the community concerns.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: So I'm just, well, I'm just wondering . . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: I mean everything is pretty much up in the air, yeah --

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right.

CHAIR HOKAMA: --past one month.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. I mean let's hope that this stops, the Coronavirus stops, it doesn't keep on multiplying, but wouldn't we need to take up this item so that if --

CHAIR HOKAMA: We will.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: --if they do decide to . . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: We will.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: We will?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh next week, okay.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, yeah.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

CHAIR HOKAMA: We'll have the Department and a representative. We'll take it up. Might not be the next meeting, but we'll take it up in a timely manner where it will impact the ability of the organizers to make the event successful. Again, depend upon even the availability of the site --

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

CHAIR HOKAMA: --is in question at this time.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

CHAIR HOKAMA: It's a County facility, so. And, again, until Governor, the Mayor, make appropriate directions, we'll make the assumption, all County facilities are closed.

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VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right. 'Cause as right now, this facility that they're planning to use is closed, based upon the announcements that we heard 7:40 this morning or whatever the Mayor made his emergency ruling.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah. We are awaiting whether or not the Governor, who has the authority, as all other governors of our states, may consider California actions, may consider what New York is currently considering. The Speaker of the House, Mr. Saiki, has requested that the Governor shut down the state for 15 days. So, again, it's within the Governor's authority and now we need to just wait and see what he decides. But he has at his disposal the National Guard. A decision needs to be made about the schools and our children. And again, it is my opinion only, but I hope the Governor makes a decision one way or another so we know how to proceed. But I really would like our kids out of the schools. And I know it's a hardship, but I look at the schools as the backup secondary line of support for quarantine space, eventually. We might be able to fit four or six people per classroom. They have a custodial staff, they have a cafeteria for meal preparation, they have showers, they have bathroom facilities. If need be, the school needs to be viewed as a secondary support system for the hospital. Where do we . . . we don't have that many choices. And so I know that's part of all that factors are part of their analysis, due diligence. But we need decisions so we can make appropriate preparations.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I see your thought process. Okay. Thank you, as far as the gym.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, thank you. Anything else, Ms. Paltin, before we adjourn this meeting at this time?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No. Nothing at this time, thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. And thank you for being here. Ms. Kama, anything else for . . . or as it regards to your area, any announcements?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Not at this time, Chair, thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you very much, Members. Again, we'll continue to do our role for the community to provide accurate, timely, information as best as we can. So, yes, Ms. Sugimura?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: So I watched your last meeting, which I thought was a very good meeting in giving . . . I was at home. I was in self-quarantine. But I just want to thank you for bringing this forward because lot of community members have questions. And I just wonder, once more definitive decisions are made for the County

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employees or what's happening with the County parks and lot of facilities are, you know, even our core services, if decisions are made, I hope you will be able to reconvene and speak to many of the employees that watch Akaku or many of the residents that watch Akaku, because I think it provided an opportunity for the community to see how we're all kind of working together. So I want to thank you, but I hope that as things unfold because a lot more details are going to happen soon with the spread of this Coronavirus that I hope you will still, you know, keep on being the spokesperson that we need, I think.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Well, we'll continue to help because the Governor—and I'm sure the White House—is going to add additional addendums to the Proclamation of Emergency Order. So that's our job, make the people aware. All I can tell you , it is in place, okay. There's no price gouging or any type of price . . . or type of hoarding that will be allowed. It's already part of the proclamations on what government will enforce during this difficult times. So for those out there, City and County of Honolulu as I explained, under emergency, the Police can and will arrest and prosecute if you are in any way hindering compliance with the emergency proclamation, okay; that is Enforcement's job. And if need be, we'll bring the National Guard in to assist us with regional requirements, set up, and disbursement of appropriate material whether it be food, water, extra beds, generators, whatnot. Again, I would ask all of the Members to please check your district. I'm kind of torn. I know what some of the . . . we need to do here for our community, our County; and yet, I feel I need to be home. And be with my neighbors, that we in this together. They need to see us. You know, I would say, please be seen in your district. I'm trying to get home because I think it's important that they see us, and that we're in this together. Okay. So staff, thank you very much. You are a critical component of us getting the work done, so I appreciate it. And again, Members, take care and we'll see you. I think Ms. Rawlins has a ten o'clock and Council at 1:30. This meeting is . . . I need to defer anything else?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: No, we're going to adjourn this meeting.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: You're going to adjourn.

MS. MILNER: Are you going to defer the Coronavirus item?

CHAIR HOKAMA: No . . . yeah, we'll defer Coronavirus, Members, so I can bring it back. Okay. With no objection, we'll defer that.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS (Excused: KK, MM, KRF)

ACTION: DEFER PENDING FURTHER DISCUSSION.

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CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you very much, Members. This meeting is adjourned.
...*(gavel)*...

ADJOURN: 9:28 a.m.

APPROVED:



RIKI HOKAMA, Chair
Healthy Families and Communities
Committee

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Transcribed by: Raynette Yap