

COUNCIL CHAIR'S MEETING

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

April 3, 2020

Online Only via BlueJeans

CONVENE: 1:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Council Chair
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Council Vice-Chair, and Chair,
Economic Development and Budget Committee
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Presiding Officer Pro Tempore, and Chair,
Affordable Housing Committee
Councilmember Riki Hokama, Chair, Healthy Families and Communities
Committee
Councilmember Kelly Takaya King, Chair, Climate Action and Resilience
Committee (Out 4:16 p.m.)
Councilmember Michael J. Molina, Chair, Government, Ethics, and
Transparency Committee
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Chair, Planning and Sustainable Land Use
Committee (In 1:37 p.m.)
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Chair, Environmental, Agricultural, and
Cultural Preservation Committee
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair, Multimodal Transportation
Committee

STAFF: Traci N. T. Fujita, Director, Office of Council Services
Tammy M. Frias, Supervising Committee Secretary

OTHERS: Michael Rembis, CEO and Hospital Administrator, Maui Health System (Item 1)

CHAIR LEE: . . .(*gavel*). . . All right, hello, everybody. We have a full agenda because we deferred it from the previous meeting.

1. **CORONAVIRUS UPDATE** (Chair Lee)

CHAIR LEE: And we have starting off on the first item, Coronavirus Update. We have with us Michael Rembis. He's the CEO and Hospital Administrator, Maui Health System. And then he's going to give us an update on the virus and provide us any information that's pertinent to this, and if you have any questions after he gives us his update, please be ready, okay? So, Mike, are you there?

MR. REMBIS: I am, thank you very much. . .and--

CHAIR LEE: Welcome.

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MR. REMBIS: --it's a pleasure to be able to talk to all of you today. The Coronavirus is here, it's real. We have about 27 cases on Maui right now. Those cases don't stay as cases forever. Of those 27, you should know 11 of them have already been cleared and no longer have the virus.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, nice.

MR. REMBIS: Lots of times when you hear the number of cases on an island not being updated to tell you how many have actually cleared. That is good news. In the hospital we did get our first positive case admitted this week. We now have two positive COVID-19 cases in the hospital. We are well-prepared for COVID-19. We have a separate unit that they're being cared for. They're in isolation. We have appropriate PPE so our staff is protected, the patient is protected and we're caring for these patients as we will care for any patient with infectious disease. Unlike any other disease, COVID-19 is not that different. If you have a TB patient or any other patient with infectious disease we take the same isolation and precautions. Our staff is well-trained to take care of these patients and so is the medical staff. We are all hoping as a community that we do not have huge numbers of COVID-19 patients. All of our predictions from the federal government, the state and what we've seen from Kaiser Permanente who's been helping us project that the surge, if it's going to be a surge on Maui is likely to come in the next three or four weeks. So we have prepared for that. We have PPE, we've spent whatever it takes to be prepared. We've ordered additional hospital beds, additional ventilators, additional equipment throughout the hospital to handle any potential surge. We have looked at what we can do within our hospital to expand capabilities. We are licensed for 219 beds. Working with the State and the Federal government which has loosened a lot of the laws we can expand those beds very quickly and we think we can take care of about 300 patients inside of our four walls in the hospital. We're also working now, closely with the Mayor and the County to see what we need to do if we need to go beyond the hospital four walls. We think we can personally expand capabilities into some of the outlying buildings right next to the hospital. We have an outpatient clinic building at Maui Lani and Kaiser has buildings there, and they're willing to let us expand into that if needed. So we will have a surge plan finalized by next week that identifies how many patients we could personally take care of within the hospital and outside the hospital before our resources are completely limited and that would mainly be limited by our ability to have staff to care for patients. Not only are we identifying all the staff we have, Kaiser Permanente is letting us use their staff if we have to expand services and we will be sending out in social media a request for volunteers in the community. We think there's a lot of medical people in the community that have retired that could help us and we're hoping some of the people that maybe are not working in the hotel industry, if needed, could help us in non-medical opportunities as well. And so, we have two or three weeks to prepare for the potential surge. And you should have confidence to know that we are going to be prepared. We will have a plan. We will share it with the County next week. I just met with the Mayor, he set up a task force with Kimo and we are trying to identify what our surge plan will be. When we come to the point when we no longer can care for patients within the confines that we control we'll work with the

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County and the State to see what else is needed in this community to care for patients. We feel confident that our staff is very ready. We have some amazing nurses and physicians that are willing to put in extra hours and do whatever is necessary to care for the patients. I've seen a number of scenarios, a number of websites that show mild, moderate and severe surges. We're preparing for the mild and trying to prepare beyond that as far as we can. No one knows what [sic] the surge will come to Maui. I think we've done a great job on Maui County limiting tourists, limiting other people from visiting our islands and social distancing and we're hoping and praying that the surge will be moderate or much less mild for this island. But, nobody knows exactly what to prepare so we're preparing for the worst and truly hoping for the very best. And I'd be happy to answer any questions any of you have.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, we're going right to left. Member Tasha Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, I just have this one question regarding the availability of bed space. So, you have 219-bed capacity, but you could expand it to 300?

MR. REMBIS: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So, are some of those beds being occupied by others in the hospital already?

MR. REMBIS: No, we have a number of areas in the hospital that have not been used for licensed beds cause the rooms are smaller than in normally would be used, they're now being used for offices and other services. We're gonna reposition those older rooms, bring them back into service. We also have some private rooms that are fairly large. We're gonna probably double-up patients in those private rooms because they can easily accommodate two patients and make them semi-private rooms. And we have a couple of areas like some of our recovery room and procedure areas that may not provide the same privacy cause there's cubicle curtains separating the patients but they easily could, you could have a bed there and take care of inpatients in those areas as well. We also have some large waiting rooms that since we no longer allow visitors in the hospital we could convert those into nice areas for six or eight patient beds and provide privacy with cubicle curtains between those beds. When we get beyond 250 patients some of those beds of those 300 beds will not be a typical patient's room but we have areas that we can provide safe and appropriate care.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So, this is above and beyond what the hospital already is maintaining?

MR. REMBIS: Absolutely. By the way, it's interesting talk about the quiet before the storm. You need to know that our hospital is very quiet now. Our census is down. Our emergency room visits are down. I think that most people that are sick are trying to take care of them self at home with the advice of their physicians and eliminating the tourists and all the visitors had a significant impact on our emergency room. So our capabilities are very strong right now. Our emergency room is seeing probably

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40 percent less patients they normally would see this time of year and the hospital's probably 30 percent less patients than they would normally see this time of the year right now.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So, would you separate your regular, normal patients with other illnesses from those with COVID-19?

MR. REMBIS: Absolutely. There'll be some nursing units that will not have any COVID-19 patients. We need to make sure that we can take care of all of our patients not just COVID-19. We're gonna have patients still breaking arms and legs. We're gonna have strokes, heart attacks. Those areas will be designated non-COVID. We will make sure that those patients are segregated, and we continue provide care for all the patients of Maui County.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Yuki. . .Ms. Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you, Mr. Rembis, for being here. And I appreciate all the work that you're doing and you're like front-line, a valuable resource for the community so thank you in advance. I was just wondering how you are doing on the. . .what's been in the news a lot has been the, you know, the PP and E [sic], and I wonder if like what we hear in the news that there's such a shortage and if you need help with that or do you think you have enough as this bill. . .?

MR. REMBIS: Well, right now we have adequate PPE. We have masks and gowns and everything we need. When the surge hits, no one knows how large that surge will be. So we always need more PPE. I am working with every vendor in Kaiser Permanente to order as much PPE as possible. If the County has resources we will need it. I'd rather have it here and not use it than ever be in a position that our staff or patients are not protected. So I can tell you we have enough for the next two or three weeks without question but if the surge does hit, nobody can predict how large it will be and we need more PPE for that. So, I am doing everything I can in my power to obtain more PPE. This is one of those cases where cost is not in question. We need it for our community. I just talked to Kimo and the Mayor and if they have other sources we welcome it and need it.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, I think that MEDB was doing something with our tech companies to help you and the community on that, so--

MR. REMBIS: Thank you, Yuki.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: --that's good that you're all moving forward and I see that now CDC or you're allowing, or the hospital allowing staff to use their own personal mask ask they work in the hospital.

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MR. REMBIS: Yeah, the mask issue is probably the most controversial we've dealt with. We were not allowing it at first, we have allowed for the last week or so, any employee can wear their own mask. We were trying to get enough supply that we can offer. . .there's a low-grade mask that patients can -- that employees can use or visitors can use. If we have enough in supply we'll supply everybody a mask. Right now we don't have enough so everybody is encouraged to wear their own mask if they want to. The CDC just came out with some guidelines that encourage everyone to wear a mask, but all the evidence shows there's little protection if you don't have the COVID-19 virus. But if someone does have the virus and we don't know who does, it provides protection for us if they're wearing it. And that's the route, it's very difficult. Many people have the COVID-19 and don't have any symptoms and none of us know who those are. It could be any one of us. But we're encouraging everybody to wear a mask in the hospital setting no matter what their role is if they have a personal mask.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you very much for everything you're doing.

MR. REMBIS: Well, thank you for you guys what you're doing too.

CHAIR LEE: Tamara. Your turn.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Thank you, Mr. Rembis, for allowing the workers to wear their own PPE. I think a lot of them feel a sense of relief for doing that. I had a couple questions. The first one is why are we preparing for the mild case and not the extreme case. I would imagine if you prepare for the extreme case you can always dial it back but it's harder to ramp up if you're prepare for a mild case to hit our County and then you have to ramp up quickly. Is it not easier to just pull back than to ramp up quickly?

MR. REMBIS: To be honest with you, we've seen three scenarios and the severe case we're not capable of even coming close to being prepared for it. So we know we can prepare for the mild case and we are prepared right now for that. What we are now working on next week is how far towards the moderate case can we go. We will have that done. We will show that with the Mayor next week. We're gonna be very honest. Here's how much we can do as a healthcare system on this island. Anything beyond that we're gonna need help from the federal government or the state cause we know that there's no way this island can be prepared for the worst possible case. So we're gonna, first job is to make sure we can hit the mild and we are well-prepared for any mild case of a surge right now. And now we're working how far can we spread our resources and our staff to get towards the moderate case and we'll have that nailed down next week, share that with the Mayor and hopefully all of you. And then our goal is how can we as a community get other resources should they be needed to go beyond what we can do.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: To follow-up on that question. . .you know, for me, our family we get two grandkids due in the next three weeks to be born. If there is a moderate case what is the situation at the hospital for dealing with births and whatnot in a moderate case scenario?

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MR. REMBIS: Well first of all, we've made -- again, we have to continue to take care of our community and there's a lot of patients that will not have COVID-19 and they have medical needs. Our OB unit, at this time, we do not plan for it to be affected whatsoever. There'll be no COVID-19 patients there. They will be isolated, they should be operations as normal. We have limited all OB visitors to one visit per patient. With that exception the OB service should not impacted whatsoever.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Even in a moderate or severe projection.

MR. REMBIS: In a mild and . . . in a mild situation it will not be affected. And it would be affected if we got close to severe but we don't have a plan for that right now, but, I don't anticipate that happening for at least a month. But, we'll have a plan if that should happen. But in the foreseeable future, OB should not be affected. If this community is hit by a severe surge, everything changes. And we'll have plans for that but we're not anticipating that at this time.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And that's based upon the data projections that you're receiving with the amount of positives that we have currently?

MR. REMBIS: Yes. But, I can tell you those projections change every day, sometimes every week. But, yes, right now that's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, thank you, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, Riki?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Thank you, Mr. Rembis. So, we've heard for Maui. The system is responsible for Kula and Lanai. I want to hear what the plan is for Lanai.

MR. REMBIS: Well, our plan for Lanai is pretty much the same. We are looking at ways we can expand that little facility. Fortunately, there are no positive cases on Lanai and let's try to keep it that way. But we have a small surge plan that we will have done next week where we can expand some capabilities and we do have other physicians from Maui Memorial that we could send there if they need additional help as well as staff. So, fortunately, for all of us it's a smaller population and we, I believe it's easier to manage a surge there. And given the fact that there is no COVID-positive-19 [sic], I have less worry about us having the inability to handle it than I do here. But, believe me, in all of our surge plans Lanai is part of our equation as well as Kula and we are trying though, if there is a positive COVID-19 patient, probably the best thing to do is to move that patient to Maui Memorial. If someone, we're not admitting people that are sick with COVID-19 unless they have serious symptoms. Every physician will tell you if you have COVID-19, you're not feeling well, you should be managed at home with your doctor overseeing your care. Patients that are gonna be admitted in the hospital with COVID-19 are serious symptoms. They're having trouble breathing; they have high fevers. Those patients shouldn't be on Lanai. They might be there until we

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can arrange transportation, but they should be airlifted over to Maui Memorial. We can provide the best care for them, same thing in Kula.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Okay, and so, my community has asked me is knowing our limitations on facilities, if we have let's say someone who feels they have symptoms, isn't it better that we confine them at their own home? And--

MR. REMBIS: Absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: --minimize additional impact to the Lanai Hospital itself?

MR. REMBIS: Riki, you're absolutely right. That's where they should be at their own home, getting advice from their doctor. They should not come to the hospital unless their symptoms are severe and then we'll manage air transfer.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Okay, and currently on Lanai you feel have sufficient bed capacity, I'll put it that way, to take care of again, we may be the last island with no COVID-19 okay, and my community is very sensitive right now with state construction projects with mainland and off-island employees coming every day to Lanai to work on State projects. So for me, we may need people like you to say that we need to temporarily stop all these activities because my community is getting very nervous knowing the limitations of any government services provided to Lanai. So, we'll look to your support in that area.

MR. REMBIS: I would totally support stopping those workers from coming over there unless the project is absolutely essential to the community.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: No, it can wait. It's just resurfacing the runway. Thank you, Mike.

MR. REMBIS: You're welcome.

CHAIR LEE: Keani.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Okay. Aloha, Mr. . . .

CHAIR LEE: Rembis.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for being here. Tell me his name again.

CHAIR LEE: Rembis.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Rembis, thank you. Aloha, Mr. Rembis.

MR. REMBIS: You can call me Mike, that's fine.

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VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, so. . .I don't know if you would be able to share but I never got the exact amount of capacity for Lanai. Do you have that information on you?

MR. REMBIS: For the Lanai Hospital I believe we're licensed for nine long-term care or skilled nursing beds and three acute care beds. And we also have an emergency room with three bays. Again, if anybody really is sick enough to be hospitalized they'll be brought over here to Maui Memorial.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo. So you said that there are 36 total cases. . .is that 9 new cases and 11 have recovered?

MR. REMBIS: No, there's 27 cases in Maui County. There's 11 that's recovered out of that and we have 2 inpatients at Maui Memorial.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. So, the 27, I think, is from yesterday at noon, yeah?

MR. REMBIS: Correct.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm looking at the Department of Health website now and it, I guess there's 9 new positive cases for a total of 36 now. As of noon time.

MR. REMBIS: I have not seen that.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. So, there's one required hospitalization. Is that the Molokai case?

MR. REMBIS: That might be Molokai but that patient is not on Maui, that patient was flown to Oahu.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes, I know. But, so, but it wouldn't count for Oahu it would count for Maui County?

MR. REMBIS: Correct.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So well, is there one case that's hospitalized at the Maui hospital?

MR. REMBIS: I'm not aware of any that we have confirmed as positive COVID-19 that's been hospitalized today. We have two positive cases right now in the hospital.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, so then I guess thereby process of elimination then that hospitalization case must be Molokai's. Okay, so, I wanted -- so you said that you are planning for a moderate surge and that you would send it to the County. Will you also send it to our Chair, the Council Chair?

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MR. REMBIS: Sure. We are preparing for. . .we are ensuring that we can handle a mild and we are preparing for is to get as close to the moderate as possible. When it's completed we will share it with the Mayor and the Chair.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. And--

MR. REMBIS: And I'm also willing to periodically do this at any time for the Council, at any time. Just answer questions and provide information.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Thank you, I appreciate that. Information is definitely helpful in you know, preventing panic. So, do you have the numbers for what mild, moderate, and severe looks like.

MR. REMBIS: There's a number of different organizations that have produced those numbers. I'll be happy to work with the State and give you what I think is the best estimate for those. I don't want to give you any one until we all concur on which is the best estimate. But let me work with Lieutenant Governor and find out which scenarios the State's using as a guide.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay and so that would be for Maui Island, Maui County or would you have it for Maui, Molokai and Lanai?

MR. REMBIS: The ones I've seen is there's a statewide one and there's one for each County. So there should be one for the County of Maui and I'll get that one from the Lieutenant Governor.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, if it's possible would you be able to separate the islands?

MR. REMBIS: I don't know if that's possible, I will ask. I haven't seen it that way yet.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, great, thank you so much. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, Kelly?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Mahalo. Mahalo, Mr. Rembis, for sharing this information with us and I know it changes hour by hour as Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez just demonstrated we got new numbers already. But, you know, I've got some, they're really good questions, proceedings. I wanted to focus on testing. Do we have numbers for how many people have been tested in Maui County so that we can kind of get an idea, you know, if there's been a thousand tests and we have 36 that's pretty good. If there's been 300 tests and we have 36 that's well over, that's 10 percent. We don't really have this number of positives in context of how many people were actually testing.

MR. REMBIS: Well, I don't have all the data but I have some data to share with you. The State of Hawaii did some screening over at the War Memorial parking lot. In the last week they've screened approximately 164 patients, only one was positive.

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, but did all those tests come back? Because, you know, I've heard, I've seen articles about people waiting up to 10 days for their tests to come back.

MR. REMBIS: Of the 164, those have come back. They have probably tested additional patients since then and I don't have the results on that yet.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh okay, so out of 164 that came back only 1 had it?

MR. REMBIS: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, that's great, but they're only testing people with symptoms, correct?

MR. REMBIS: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, so that's--

MR. REMBIS: There's just not enough tests available in the Country as well as Hawaii and Maui to test anyone who is not symptomatic.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Right, I get that. That's a lot of people symptomatic that don't have it so that's, you know, a good sign that we. . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MR. REMBIS: And by the way. . .and we are doing everything we can to fight for more testing kits for Maui.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, so, are you doing any testing at the hospital because I just, I wanted to share with you that I have a concern about caregivers, you know, that don't have symptoms being tested because they have to care for the people that are positive, and I had a friend who recently came back from the mainland who was doing cancer treatments. She was concerned about her two adult children who were gonna take of her, she wanted them to get tested before she came back because she's extremely vulnerable and if she gets it she's dead. So--

MR. REMBIS: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER KING: --when I called the County they said that no, nobody's going to be tested without symptoms. I said what about these caregivers? And they said your best bet is to call the hospital and like pay for testing. Is that accurate?

MR. REMBIS: No, it's not accurate.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: This is coming from Department of Health; this was somebody I talked to at Department of Health.

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MR. REMBIS: Not accurate at all, we don't have enough testing capabilities. We've asked for it; we cannot achieve it. We do not test all of our employees. We have enough tests that if someone comes into our emergency room with severe symptoms and we think we have to admit 'em, we will test them. And we need to preserve the few test kits we have to test those patients that are very sick so we know whether we're dealing with the Coronavirus or not. And . . .but we do not have enough test kits to test any of our workers at this time or our physicians. We wish we could, but, my understanding there's not one hospital in the Country that has the ability to test all of their employees at this time.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, and so if we're not testing caregivers are they at, you know, how much greater risk is somebody at getting it if they're taking care of somebody who has it and all they're using is the mask?

MR. REMBIS: All of our caregivers are taking that risk, that's what they do for a living. Most of our caregivers or anyone--

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No, I'm talking about family caregivers because--

MR. REMBIS: Well--

COUNCILMEMBER KING: --you know, you want people to stay home but then your wife, your kids, and everybody around you is at risk.

MR. REMBIS: There's nothing we can do other than they should wear a mask. A mask will help them if they have the virus, shield them from sharing it with others. But that's the only thing we have as a society right now to help us.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. And then my last question is what do you consider a high fever as far as symptoms? You said that if they have a high fever, if they're coughing, if they have respiratory issues like breathing issues, but what is considered a high fever enough that you would test?

MR. REMBIS: This is something they need to discuss with their physician. Everybody is a little bit different and the symptoms are different. A fever itself doesn't mean you have COVID-19. A cough by itself doesn't mean you have COVID-19. I highly encourage if anyone is not feeling well, pick up the phone, go to an urgent care center, talk to a doctor and make sure they review your symptoms and they will decide whether it's serious enough that you need to see more advanced help or not. Most cases--

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay so--

MR. REMBIS: --you can go home and take care of yourself.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay so there's no standard for, you know, the symptoms are like 103-degree fever or, you know. . .*(inaudible)*. . .

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MR. REMBIS: We all wish there was but there's no hard and fast standard at this time for the Country.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, all right, yeah, thank you. That was. . .that's my questions for right now. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Shane?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I think you missed--

CHAIR LEE: I'm sorry, I think you missed Mike. I missed Mike Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Madame Chair, that's okay. You can recognize my colleague, Mr. Sinenci and I can follow.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, thank you. Shane?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Mike. Thank you, Mr. Rembis. As you know, the Mayor just released a statement on the first confirmed COVID case in Hana. And, so, here in Hana we've still got essential businesses going on like the stores, the post office, bank and the gas stations. So, what are some of the things that remote communities like ourselves, additional precautions that we can take despite having all of these essential businesses still in operation?

MR. REMBIS: The only thing I can suggest is what we're doing here in Maui. Social distancing is so important. A lot of our businesses now are putting tapes on the floor at the grocery stores to make sure people are staying six feet apart at the checkout. I believe some grocery stores are putting plexiglass to protect the cashier from the patients when, if they're coughing, having difficulty. Washing your hands, washing your hands is the most important thing. Those basic things are so important and I think in a lot of small businesses I've seen around they're not adhering as strictly as some of the larger businesses. So to the degree they can literally tape things on the floor. Some of our businesses are only allowing so many people into the stores at a time so that social distancing is maintained. I would highly encourage on Molokai or Hana or Lanai those same things be done there. You have a better chance of controlling a smaller population if you do that.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Mr. Rembis. We also have the Hana Community Health Center. We don't have any beds it's just a clinic here. So. . .and it's privately run, so most of any cases, serious cases will probably end up in Central Maui at the main hospital.

MR. REMBIS: And that's where they should be, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Mr. Molina.

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COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you, Madame Chair, and good afternoon, Mr. Rembis. Thank you for the update. You mentioned the need for more tests. Where are you trying to get those tests from, strictly the federal government or are you seeking more of those tests from private vendors, and roughly how many? I know the short answer would be as many as we could get, but, in preparing for this moderate surge what do you think is a sufficient number.

MR. REMBIS: As many as we can get. We are trying to get tests from the federal government, Lieutenant Governor is trying to get 'em as well. We are working with all the private labs as well, there's two private labs that service Hawaii and they're having the same difficulty. I'd have to say as many as you can get. We're asking for a thousand, we may get a hundred. So, we constantly are asking for as many as we think we need. We're getting a small fraction of that. There's national shortages on in the reagents for the swabs. We are fighting constantly to get our fair share. And I can tell you that we have gotten more than what we thought we were going to get but always 10 or 20 percent of our request.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you. And Madame Chair, if I may ask one more follow-up. With regards to preparing for something that may be worse than a moderate case scenario, could you update us on any discussions with the military as far as the National Guard setting up field hospitals in the event we need it. And even the possibility of some navy ships out of Pearl Harbor to be used as temporary hospitals. Somewhat along the lines of what they're having in L.A. and New York, those tremendously large navy ships although I don't think we need something of that size here in Hawaii. Has that ever been discussed as a possibility for not only Oahu but Maui and the other islands as well?

MR. REMBIS: I don't think so. I know I hadn't thought about that. I have to honest with you, your Mayor's done a great job on the County level. We're a little disappointed at the coordination at the State level. The Army Corps of Engineers as you know was out here a couple weeks ago. We just talked to the Mayor's office. We're dying to see their report. Nobody has it yet. We hear that the Mayor will get it next week. When we get the Army Corps of Engineers report we'd like to look at it with the County. See if it makes sense and then we can identify what other resources beyond what they've identified does this County need. The coordination with the State could be better. We have identified someone on my Staff that's working with the Lieutenant Governor to try to improve that. But I think we will look at all opportunities if we look towards as severe to make sure that we are as prepared as humanly possible.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Great, thank you very much and I appreciate all of your efforts. Thank you, Madame Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Mike, this is Alice, Alice Lee. Okay, of all the people that have come down with the virus and have gone to the hospital, would you say that they're primarily the elderly or middle-aged, or. . .can you describe the average patient?

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MR. REMBIS: I really can't, I mean, we're not. . .I hate to say this but we're not keeping track of patients by age. We're keeping track of patients by the severe illness they have. I can tell you that most of the patients that are severely impacted by the COVID-19 are the elderly but it's not exclusive to the elderly.

CHAIR LEE: Have you had any homeless people come in?

MR. REMBIS: We have homeless people we treat all the time but we haven't had any homeless that I'm aware of with COVID-19, no.

CHAIR LEE: And then, finally, how are we doing with ventilators?

MR. REMBIS: I have as many ventilators that I can order, ordered. We have probably about 30 ventilators in the hospital. We've ordered another 10 that will be here in May. I'm ordering another 20 from another vendor. Anytime I can find any vendor that will sell me a ventilator I will buy it. Money is not an object here, it's taking care of the community. They're in short supply throughout the world and we're looking at any ventilator we can buy. There's a local company here that's producing a very, very basic, rudimentary ventilator-type machine. The Mayor's made a commitment to buy all they can produce and so have we. I'm working closely with the Mayor's office. We will use any ventilator they can produce. It's not the ideal ventilator but it will work in a critical situation while we look for as many ventilators as we can find. Again, we know we have enough ventilators for a mild situation right now. My goal is how much more can I build up our supply not only of ventilators but all equipment so I can deal with any extreme situation.

CHAIR LEE: You have 30 now, you're ordering 20 and another 20, so that's 70.

MR. REMBIS: And we're looking at this everyday if we can find more we'll be ordering them this week and next week.

CHAIR LEE: How long does a person have to be on a ventilator?

MR. REMBIS: Depends on the patient's condition. Patients could be on it for a couple days or a very long period of time. Just depends on the patient's condition there's no rule of thumb.

CHAIR LEE: Tasha, do you have any more questions? Can't hear you.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: No questions here. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Yuki? Yuki?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: No questions. Thank you, Mike, for being here.

CHAIR LEE: Tamara?

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MR. REMBIS: Thank you and I'd appreciate the opportunity to talk to you periodically. So many rumors are out there and false information. I'm happy to talk to you and answer any questions whenever you see the need. So, do not hesitate to reach out to Lisa or myself and we'll be happy to coordinate this anytime.

CHAIR LEE: Tamara, do you have any more questions?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, just one, Chair. Following up on your question how many ventilators that you have are in use at this moment?

MR. REMBIS: I think four or five right now.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, additional capacity is 25 to 26?

MR. REMBIS: Yes and that can change at any time.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, thank you. Thank you so much for your efforts. Let us know if there's any way that we can assist.

MR. REMBIS: Thank you very much. I appreciate your support for our community, too, thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Riki?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: I'm good, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Keani?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No more questions, Chair, mahalo.

CHAIR LEE: Kelly?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Just a quick question so maybe, I don't know if this is a rumor but maybe you could dispel it if it is. I've heard that the COVID can't survive very long on cardboard or paper so it's okay, you know, after a few minutes. Is there any kind of a guide on what surfaces are, you know, that it survives the longest on? Is there any truth to the fact that it doesn't survive very long on cardboard or paper?

MR. REMBIS: You know, I really don't have the most current information. I would suggest you go to the CDC website they have the latest information on all of the impact of the COVID-19 virus on all the surfaces.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, but do you know from your medical background is there a difference then on the various surfaces?

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MR. REMBIS: I don't think there's a significant difference on the different surfaces. If there is the CDC will have that information.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

MR. REMBIS: CDC.gov.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, great. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Mike? Mike? Mike Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Oh yeah, thank you, Madame Chair. Mr. Rembis, just one quick question with. . .in the news you're hearing about the potential for new vaccines and all of that sort. From your perspective what is the general timetable? I mean if somebody has a promising vaccine out there. By the time testing and everything gets done, when would something like that be available for the public to use or to take. Eighteen months--

MR. REMBIS: I hate to share with you but the information we're receiving is probably a year away. The government is trying to expedite that. It is very likely when this COVID virus is eliminated this summer, it could come back in the fall as many viruses like the flu does. So the government is working feverishly to expedite that but the latest information we've heard it's about a year away. Let's hope and pray that they can expedite that.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Great Thank you. Thank you, Madame Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Shane?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: No questions, Chair. Mahalo, Mr. Rembis, for your efforts for acquiring as many ventilators as possible, thank you.

MR. REMBIS: You're welcome.

CHAIR LEE: All right, Mike. Thank you very much for joining us today. I'm sorry that this meeting was delayed because we were supposed to have you on at our last meeting but that ran so long and then you had other appointments. So, thank you very much and please feel free to call us any time if you have any updates you'd like to share with us.

MR. REMBIS: Thank you very much. I appreciate all of you, thank you. Bye-bye.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you, bye. Okay right now Members, the next one we have is. . .I was wondering if you'd be interested in a little project, you know, I think that as leaders in the community, the community would feel comforted if they heard from us more often. And I was wondering if you'd be willing and I'd write all of these scripts if need be. But, if all of us did PSAs, you know, 30-second PSAs and we would rotate them and

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on all stations and possibly even AKAKU if you wanted to do video types. But, would you be interested in doing that? Cause I could set it up with the station and then you'd just call in to the station and then do 30 seconds and then that's all you have to do. As far as AKAKU, that I'll have to check on. But I just wanted to find out today if you would be willing to do it.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yes.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Definitely.

CHAIR LEE: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Great idea, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Thank you. Okay, that takes care of the first item.

2. REMOTE COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE (Chair Lee)

CHAIR LEE: The second item would be remote communications update. Now, we are trying very hard to shelter in place and so that's the reason why we are doing all of this remote telecommunications. We have received some comments about Members in the Chambers and I was wondering if what you thought about the idea of actually not having anyone in the Chambers? Well, not any Councilmembers anyway. And that our Councilmembers would either operate from your office or from your home. Any thoughts on that? Yes, Mr. Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yah, Madame Chair, I'm all in favor of that cause I think, you know, well I think the big question is how essential are we to be in the building in the first place? But again, because this is happening during the budget process where this is the one time a year where Councilmembers have to be in the Chambers or working on the budget pretty much every day. So, I'm in favor of giving some leeway to the Budget Chair if she wants to or when we go into the Committee phase because I see this emergency proclamation maybe going another 30 days and we'll be in to, we should be done with budget that time and going back into regular Committee meetings. So, I would be okay to allow one Councilmember as the meeting facilitator whether it be you as the Council Chair or a Committee Chair but no other Councilmembers. And then allow us the leeway of, if there may be circumstances where we want to come in and work in our office. Though I'm okay with that but I think for the most part, the majority of the time, we should be operating from home if at all possible because you know we have to try as best as we can to set the example for the community as it relates to social distancing and remote communication. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you, Mike. Tamara?

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I do also agree that the Chair and the Committee or the Council -- Committee Staff or the Council Clerk, County Clerk Staff, if they choose to be in the Chambers, should be allowed. I don't have strong feelings one way or the other about the rest as long as folks . . .(dog barks). . . Sorry, folks are sitting, not sitting close together.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Mr. Hokama?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Thank you, Chair. I leave it to each Member's discretion and good judgement. I operate the way I operate because it works best for my ability to take care Lanai and the rest of the County and I need information accessibility. And I know I'm not going to get that from a home site, not what I want anyway. So, I'll use my good discretion. My Staff is aware of the recommendations of the CDC and social distancing and the impacts of the virus so we'll exercise our discretion insuring safety for ourselves.

CHAIR LEE: Anybody else? Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, I really like your idea of the PSA because I think that goes to what some of us were saying about, you know, needing to continue to have visibility for our community, for the County so that they see their leaders and that we're working in their best interests and so I think the idea of doing a PSA will help with that. And as for being in the Chambers, the Chamber is a shared space and I think, you know, as soon as we realized that this crisis could potentially, you know, I mean, the Maui hospital cannot even fathom accommodating a severe surge and to just like, every try to wrap your head around that. . . You know, Molokai had a real big wake-up call yesterday and I think it's really important as, you know, their elected officials, as their leaders, to lead by example and to be confined in our space, and to you know, share the . . .struggle, sometimes, of having to, you know, not be in a place that's comfortable for us and not our norm. And you know, so that our community sees that we are with them and that we're not an exception to this work-from-home, work from you know, your office, you know, the rule that we're trying to push at. Community members didn't take it seriously, you know, and. . .now we're trying to mitigate the spread as much as possible on our island and hopefully it's not too late for that. So, I support having a Chair potentially -- nope, I don't think anyone should be in the Chambers. Yeah, I think we should lead by example and be in our offices or at our home. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Ms. King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, I was in there with Mr. Hokama a couple days ago and we were far enough apart and that was comfortable. But the one thing that occurred to me is, you, you only have one or two people in there and yet someone has to come in and clean every time the entire Chambers probably because they don't know where you've been. So, we should find out too, if that's an inconvenience and extra unnecessary expense. If it's the will of the Council I'm happy

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to if I need to go in, stay in my office and have the meetings from there. Going to the office, having access to your office I think is important because we have a lot of material that has to be hauled back and forth and most of us don't live in the same neighborhood as our staff so, you know, we're not going to go to each other's house and so, you know, I've been in the office with Kate several times and only her. But, because the alternative is everyday trying to figure out how much of this paperwork and these big books and everything I need and how many she needs. So, but I'm happy to keep to my office if that will help and also if we could just close down the Chambers and they don't have to come in and clean it and we don't have to worry about who's in there if that works for Mr. Hokama working from his office. But I do think that. . . I mean I appreciate having access to my office right now, but, if there's a reason to close the entire building down then I'm not going to stand in the way cause I think we all need to do whatever will be the safest thing for ourselves and everybody around us. And I would not want to see Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez coming back and forth to even be Chair of the Committee over on Maui because she'd be exposing herself on the airplane every time she does that and then she has to go back to her family. So I think we all have to consider everybody around us as well as ourselves and, you know, I'm not, my husband's not that happy every time I have to go into the office and just cause he was in the elevator with you today?! And so I have to assure him that I'm not getting in the elevator with anybody else. If somebody else is there I'm gonna stay out of the elevator, you know, because we are, you know, we are not, it's not just for ourselves it's for, you know, it's for everyone around us too so I'm wearing my mask. In fact, I'm making in between meetings and stuff I'm working on making masks cause I'm gonna make some for Hale Kau. But I still, I know the ones we're making are not N95, they're not medically approved, so basically you still have to stay as far away from people as you can. So, anyway, that's just my way of saying that trying to get as much done by having access to my office but I'm totally willing to do whatever this body decides what we should do for the safety of all. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Ms. Sugimura, did you have something to say?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I think we're all feeling the responsibility of what we need to do. And, I guess I was thinking the other day that I'm going to get to a point where I like working at home. I don't know if you're gonna go reverse and get me to come to the Chambers, but, if you could see my house now where I brought tons of stuff. It's kind of inconvenient but, I'm -- and then there's things I go oh, and that's at the office but it's just temporary for me. And in our. . . in my living room I have a printer, I have three computers, I have, you know, thanks to Bruce and everybody else, you know, that worked hard. But, this is temporary and it's allowing me to enjoy my family and I don't normally get to spend this much time here because I'm usually down the mountain, you know, doing community things and I'm appreciating this. So, you know, whatever opportunity this is bringing and COVID-19 we just gotta kill this virus and we're all in this together. So, every member has their own requirements and I converted to this. None of my office is at the office and everybody is working from home and even that's an adjustment for Miki and Mae and Darryl, you know. But, we're kind of lumbering around and making it happen so, thanks.

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CHAIR LEE: Tasha?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, I think Chambers are out. Do you want to go to your office? Work because I work from the office. I'm home today because my first meeting started at 7 a.m., and I wouldn't have the time to go back and forth and back and forth and taking my baby to her childcare. But, I'm telling you, it is not convenient and that's why I like working in the office and if I have to not go into the building I would not go into the building. But, until then it's just I'm camped out literally in my bedroom because I have no living room, and I have no living room table. It's such a small place but I have to make do with what I've got and I'm willing to do that. . .because I have to. It's not easy. I have to mute myself all the time and sometimes I don't want to talk because I never know if my baby next door is going to say something or caregivers are gonna come and interrupt the day or if they have to talk to me about all kinds of stuff. So, that is just me and that's my life. But, I think the Chambers should be out. Your office, you are the Commander of your office and you have to exercise good judgment as Mr. Hokama has said and I think I'm the only caregiver for my family. I am everything to them so I know how well I need to take care of myself for them and therefore I take even more precautions than ever, and it is isolated at the office and I can concentrate a lot better. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, who did I miss. Mr. Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Unmute myself.

CHAIR LEE: I can't hear--

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Can you hear me?

CHAIR LEE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: So again I just wanted, I appreciate the opportunity to create PSAs especially when all of us are sheltered at home now. I don't get to see my community only if I'm driving around or if I'm going to the store so I appreciate that opportunity. Mahalo for that leadership. As far as being here, we're at the Hana office and so far it's been okay. Aunty Mavis and Aunty Dawn is in other rooms and so far it's been okay for now but we're looking to this is not the most restrictive environment. We'll eventually move home especially during those late nights. I am concerned about, you know, I believe the administration is still working at the building. So, as far as additional safety at the County Building I am concerned about their safety. I know they have to, you know, be there, but you know, again, just additional concerns for that so. But it's nice seeing everybody at home and wish everybody the best of health. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Did I miss anybody?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mike.

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CHAIR LEE: No, I think Mike did speak, yeah. Did Mike wanna talk again?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: I like speak again. . . .(laughter). . .

CHAIR LEE: You can talk again.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: No, no, just following up on what Member Rawlins-Fernandez said about, you know, as a general rule I certainly agree. And you know, now that my colleague Mr. Sinenci has reminded us that you have people in Administration working up there and I believe they have a skeleton crew. So, again it comes down to that question, how essential are we to be here? But because this is happening at an unfortunate time the budget process where we as Councilmembers are expected to be here every day to . . .the Budget is a Charter mandate, you know, and we have deadlines. So, which is why, you know, we have to decide amongst ourselves what is the most appropriate way to do this. Should we establish a rule where no Members in the Chambers but work out of the office? I'm open to leaving it at that and if we have to facilitate from home or our office, fine. I know you, Madame Chair and Budget Chairman Rawlins-Fernandez [sic] you've had the opportunities to facilitate BlueJeans and for myself, I'm not the most literate person when it comes to computers but I'm willing to learn and I must say your OCS Staff and the Clerk's Office they've been very helpful in helping me get connected to BlueJeans. And Member Rawlins-Fernandez, same goes here for your Staff as well so they've made the transition easier cause, you know, old dogs like myself sometimes it's hard to teach us new tricks but I'm willing to learn. And so, if that's the rule we want to go with just work out of your offices and nobody in the Chambers I'm okay with that too. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Tamara?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I just had a clarification question, you know, if you are facilitating the meeting out of your office which I don't have a problem with, is your. . . I guess not -- you don't have Committee Staff but is the Clerks then in the office with you where they're in a closer space as compared as to being in the Chambers with you where they're farther apart? Just a question for clarification, like if the Clerks are--

CHAIR LEE: Okay, like--

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: --or they're in their own office and facilitating the meeting quote, with you. Because if your Staff or your clerks or whoever is facilitating the meeting and they're in the office with you I kind of feel like that's against the point that we're trying to make. If that makes sense?

CHAIR LEE: Yeah, well we tried it today for the first time and there was so much feedback that--

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Which meeting?

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CHAIR LEE: --the, huh? It started--

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Where, what meeting?

CHAIR LEE: --in my office and James had to go next door because there was too much feedback. So then I had one person, Kathy, just monitoring and then we had two Staff in the Chambers. But, for the most part -- I don't know why this happened because Keani has been able to do her meetings from Molokai and her Staff, Tamara, most of them are at home. But, in our case, you know, of course the Council meeting is a little different and it's very hard not to have the Clerk nearby because he has a job and he has to read off so much information. And I have to be sure when he stops I pick up and so forth. So, it's a little harder for him be home. I suppose it's possible.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So my point was just that if you're going to be closer to each other by being in the office then it makes more sense to be farther away from each other by being in the Chamber, to me. In terms of social distancing and whatnot.

CHAIR LEE: You're right, you're right, cause today's experiment wasn't the best because the sound wasn't the greatest and it's because of the feedback to the technical part didn't work as well. Okay, we have Yuki Sugimura and Keani after that. Yuki?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Interesting discussion and I just wonder, I mean, I'm here and out of choice. As you know cause of my office we actually were on our own self-quarantine even before this, you know, was taken. . . actions were taken by the Council. But, the other day I think there was Kelly and Riki, I guess, that were in the Chamber, and to me they looked like there were social distancing a lot, you know, and even more so because there is so much space in the Council Chambers. I'm not sure what the big problem is because they were not next to each other or whatever, so was there a concern that we should just not be in the Cha..., -- is that what we're talking about that nobody should be in the Chambers because if it's just social distancing it looked like they were honoring it, and today for sure Riki is honoring it, he's the only one there. I'm not too sure what the issues are.

CHAIR LEE: The issue we received a couple complaints that, from the public and others that why are we allowing Councilmembers to be in the Chambers when they have to shelter at home. So this is why we're having this discussion. Do we really need people in the Chambers and if not, are there other accommodations available, etcetera? So that's how it all started. Before I get to you Mike, Keani did you have something?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Yeah, so, I guess I'll try to address some of that what Member Sugimura was talking about. So, I think that the Chambers is a shared space and your office that's your space. And I think we should all agree upon whether our shared space is somewhere that we're all gonna go to. And I've received complaints about why are some Members in the Chamber and other Members, you know, in their office or at home. And, I think, you know, to be fair to all the Members, to be fair to our Staff, our OCS Staff, to the public that everything is equal that we are working from home as much as possible. You know I'm not going

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back to Maui until all of this is done. I'm staying on Molokai and you know there's a lot of stuff in my office too that I'm never going to get until all of this is done. As Chair Lee said, all of my Staff are working from home because as best as we can we're trying to follow the order that came down from the State, to work from home. And if you have to work at your office, then be confined to your office. It's not only about social distancing anymore it's getting more and more real. Today is the third death. You know, and we expect more. And I mean, if. . .(sighs). . .so, there was a point I was gonna make before Member Sugimura was talking. I think I'll have to, I'll have to come back to me.

CHAIR LEE: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, let's come back it. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Mr. Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, Madame Chair, just following up on your explanation to Member Sugimura of her question about why she feels, questioning why is this a problem? Well, there's something else I wanted to add because we're telling the public don't come in the Chambers all right, and now we're not making at this point accommodations for them to give them live testimony, which is certainly understandable. So, this one person told me it seems somewhat hypocritical on our part. We're telling them okay, you guys follow social distancing don't come to the Chambers but yet we're doing it. So, that I think is another reason why I think having this discussion is very important. And in terms of the whole idea of sheltering, how can we expect the public to shelter when we're not doing it. So, as Member Rawlins-Fernandez, we need to do as much as possible to lead by example, you know. I'll -- that's just my feeling on this so as we get back like I was stating earlier, I think this is gonna go beyond April and after the budget session we're gonna go back to our normal bi-weekly Committee meetings and so forth. So we just have to all prepare ourselves to facilitate from home or in our office with the BlueJeans and this is going to be around for a while and so we might as well get used to this. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Ms. King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. So I just really appreciate the discussion and I was -- one of the reasons I went in a couple days ago was because there was an issue with the Lanai Ferry which I'm connected to because my brother-in-law is one of the owners. So, you know, Riki and I had a good call with him afterwards. But, after listening this discussion I agree with everybody that we should just as much as possible work from home even trying to get out of our offices which I'm gonna try to do now and try to figure out who needs what. We'll be probably end up spending a lot of time copying more papers or stuff because we need to be looking at things simultaneously. But I just think I agree that we need to set an example and if we're going to be the example for working from home then let's work from home. When we get to the point where we're facilitating the meetings we will figure it out because that's what we do. I don't really like Mr. Molina calling himself an old dog because I'm older

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than him. . . *(laughter)*. . . So, I don't think we're all that old but we will learn. We're learning, we've gotten this far. You know it's pretty impressive where we're at today with this communications and there's always going to be glitches. One of the things I thought would be nice with the Clerk, if you are distancing yourself is if we had a square where we could see the Clerk on the screen. I don't know if we can make all of our squares a little bit smaller then we could see when he starts talking, when could see when he's done, we could see when forgets to unmute and stuff. Right now he's invisible to all of us. So, if there's going to be support like that and we could them on the screen that might help you with knowing the timing of who's talking when and when it's time to start up again or, you know, when he doesn't get the answer that he needs. So, that would be my input is if we can have the, at lease that part of the support on the screen with us if we can split our screens and make ourselves a little bit smaller. That's all, thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Thank you. Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair, I remembered what my point was.

CHAIR LEE: Oh good.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It. . .so, running my meeting didn't come without a lot of practice. We, you know, we invited resource people like ERS, EUTF, N&K and I had meetings before my meetings that we could discuss how it would flow, who would share their screen. We. . .you know, I'm so grateful to my Committee Staff and my office Staff for really helping me help them feel comfortable to do the meeting because, you know, just like it was for many of us there's a learning curve to it and so, you know, it didn't just run smoothly, you know. We met beforehand a couple days we went through the meeting, we practiced and then when we had the meeting everyone -- we rehearsed, that was the word. We did a rehearsal and then everyone knew their role to play and the timing of how things would work out. And so, I'm happy to help anyone, you know, like moving forward when the Committee Chairs have to run their meetings I'm more than happy to work with anyone that, you know, wants to get some practice and feel a little more comfortable. That was the point I wanted to make. That I'm. . .my Staff and I we're always here to help anyone that, you know, needs any assistance and I can already see our meetings running smoother, you know, from the very first meeting on March 20th when we did our first test run. It was a little tricky but, you know, we're like almost experts already now. And, you know, the last point I wanted to make was, you know, yesterday, yesterday was really. . .it was intense and it was scary for me, for my community and it made a really big difference to my community to the people of Molokai that I was on island, that I was here and I was physically here for there and there are seven Councilmembers on Maui and you're there for them on Maui and I try to be there for those on Maui and Lanai because we represent everyone Countywide. But no other Councilmember is coming to Molokai, only me because I live here. And, that panic I don't think I would have been able to help as much if I wasn't physically here that they knew that as their leader I was on island for them. Mahalo, Chair.

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CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Tamara?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, I just wanted to clarify what it is that we're saying is that we're going to have, run the meetings from our own enclosed space. And the Committee Staff or Clerks are going to be in their own enclosed space, or are they going to be . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

CHAIR LEE: What happened? I'm sorry, Tamara, can you repeat the last part of what you just said? Tamara can you hear?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, I can hear. Can you hear me?

CHAIR LEE: Yeah, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, so great discussion and everything but I didn't feel like we clarified how the Staff and the Chair are going to be set up. Like, I mean, I'm cool with not being in the Chamber but I don't think if we're not in the Chamber we shouldn't be in the same room, you know what I mean? Given how not big offices are or--

CHAIR LEE: Okay, well--

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Would it be inconvenient, Riki, if you operated from your office?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Madame Chair, I'll be happy to make adjustments. I've listened to the discussion. I don't agree with all of it but again, we adjust during these difficult times and I'll make my adjustment.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you, thank you. Now getting to the Council meetings. I have gotten some push back from Staff that they feel that it's the quality of the sound is better in the Chamber. If they operated from the Chamber, this is County Clerk's office. So, it's hard for me to dispute that and they've been doing that for many, many years. And that's, they feel comfortable, they can hear better with the equipment in the Chamber. So, I may have to conduct the meetings from the Chamber. Yes, Ms. Keani Rawlins-Fernandez?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I would be happy to help Mr. Kreuger and Ms. Kaohu practice until they feel comfortable with getting set up with the audio on their device. It's possible, I've had lots of meetings, you know, where Staff was assisting me and they were speaking and they had video. So I think it's totally possible. I just think that you know if their comfort level is not there then we just need to practice more and I'm happy to practice with anyone that needs practice.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, thank you. Thank you. Because I'm happy to either operate from home or from my office. But I have to consider the Staff cause they play a vital role in this

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whole production so, if it's training that we need or it could be equipment-related too, it's not only training. So as you work with the Staff maybe you can determine what issues need to be dealt with. Okay, so, all right just to wrap this up. If there are no objections, the County Council meetings will continue to be held in the Chambers until such time that the Staff is comfortable moving to different quarters. Okay, is that no objections?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR LEE: And the rest of the Councilmembers will either operate from their offices or at home.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I object, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: You object.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But it's okay, we can move forward.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Chair, I just wanna, I object as well because we're all out of our comfort level and the whole point of this is working from home. Yes, we're out of our comfort level but this is necessary so, you know, I have concerns about everybody getting to their comfort level before they change their behavior. We're doing this out of a life or death matter.

CHAIR LEE: Anybody else? Mr. Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, Chair, I'm of the, I'm like-minded like my two colleagues that have previously spoke before me. So, I mean, I'm lukewarm having all of us, or work out of the office. I mean there may be extenuating circumstances, but I believe for the most part we should try as much as possible to work from home. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Well, as you know, Mr. Hokama's home is on Lanai and he can't be travelling at this time so, you know, in his case I'm sure everybody would understand his circumstances, right? Ms. Tamara, did you have a comment?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just had a comment that you know, I think folks should remember the 7th floor County Clerk's people are not working from home, currently. And, you know, it's not necessarily about a comfort level or something along those lines and we can to give them training but I think possibly, their primary focus besides the Council meetings is how to pull of this new election system without doing all the face-to-face outreach and other things. I mean, yes, having this Council meetings is primary goal that assigned or tasked to it but it's not their only role. And, just that where I think what we're talking is really three different issues. And one is the appearance of being -- not the appearance but being the role models, yes, and saying that this is definitely not business as usual. That it is a worldwide pandemic emergency and that's why things can't go on as usual and we're not comfortable with it. But the reality is, you know, if we're practicing social distancing that keeps us

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safer and sometimes the appearance of how things are and the reality of social distancing doesn't merge. And I kind of feel like that's the situation we're in now. But, you know, who knows? Maybe by the next Council meeting which is what, two weeks.

CHAIR LEE: The 17th.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, maybe by that time you crew that does the Council meetings with you will feel comfortable with everybody doing it separately in their separate little rooms, locations like how we're doing things separately. I think, I'm not sure where everyone is, I guess. Mr. Hokama's in the Chamber, but, you don't -- I don't know if that was clear what I was saying, like, you know. I think that if we're just shutting down the Chambers for appearances sake and you have 20 people on the 7th floor then the appearance doesn't matter in favor of what the reality is and that, you know, social distancing is the thing that's going to keep us safer. And so, if we had to choose between appearances and social distancing, I choose social distancing. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: So, how do you vote then?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I vote for social distancing. I don't know how you would run the meeting if you run it from your office. Are you running it with people in your office or are you running it with all the Staff in their own offices? My vote is for social distancing.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, so we --today was the first day that I was not in the Chamber. I'm at my desk in my office. I had one person, Kathy, in here and then we had James in my Staff's office because of the feedback it created a lot of noise so he couldn't stay here with me. Then we had Joyce and Lauren in the Chamber, that's how it was set up today.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And so, going forward you're proposing that Joyce and Lauren work from their regular cubicles and James works from his regular office and Kathy works from her regular office? I'm not sure what's being proposed for going forward--

CHAIR LEE: Okay--

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: --how I'm supposed to vote?

CHAIR LEE: Okay, what I was proposing which so far nobody has agreed to, I was proposing that I operate out of my office and that James and Kathy can operate out of their offices or next door to mine, not in the Chamber, but that Joyce and Lauren remain in the Chamber and no Councilmembers in the Chamber.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm okay with that Chair because Joyce and Lauren's cubicles are right next to each other anyway. I mean, as long as they're six feet apart I'm okay with it.

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CHAIR LEE: Okay, Ms. Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So real fast, this discussion is, it mirrors the evolution of the Council as we go through these steps and I just want to thank everybody. This discussion is just gonna make us all stronger in terms of our resolve of all that we're trying to do for the community and I appreciate your leadership, Chair, to even bring this up because it's a tough one and we all trying to do the very best that we can for the community. I think we're all shattered yesterday when we heard about Molokai, Keani, and then today with Hana. I think when, you know, we hear about these things I was on the phone with Upcountry Farmer's Market, Neil, trying to get him not to open this weekend because I think tomorrow's gonna be his last time. He's dwindled down his farmers to just a handful that's gonna be there. But, I think we're all there as cheerleaders and trying to be the image that we're, or the leaders that we want to be for the community and we're taking on a tough thing. I will -- one last thing is I got this email from somebody from the mainland saying that hey I heard you in Hawaii are not following the sunshine and all this stuff and I so proudly went through all the steps that Keani and her Staff has taken us and that we're able to work from home and we're -- this is all adjustments, right? This is all leadership in motion, so thanks, Chair, thanks everybody, and you know what, I'm so proud to be part of this team.

CHAIR LEE: So how do you vote? How do you vote?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: You. . .as we are, I think that we gotta support you to do your job the best way you can. So, I don't know how it is in, with the Clerk and you gotta make it work the best way and please take us through your evolution that you need to do, and Keani's offered to give them training, you know, fine then that's great. But, I don't think we can say oh from tomorrow it has to be this because we're all learning. This is unprecedented, you know. So, anyway, that's my vote to support you.

CHAIR LEE: Thanks. Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I vote to close the Chamber. And I vote to support your suggestion of you being in your office and then the Clerks being in their separated areas nearby but far enough away. Mahalo.

CHAIR LEE: Mr. Molina then Ms. Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Oh yeah, thank you, Madame Chair. Prior to the vote I just want to add my thoughts on the Members being allowed to work in their office. Maybe under extreme circumstances we can allow for that because what if we have a computer malfunction at home or for example, up here in Makawao there's a power outage in Makawao at the time of the meeting. So, maybe under some extreme circumstances you as the Chair can allow for some flexibility of allowing a Member to work out of their office. So, I just propose that so, you know, just in case. I mean, we

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all -- some things may happen here at home that could prohibit us from, you know, cause us to not participate in a meeting from home. So, I would just like to have that consideration for flexibility to be allowed. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Ms. Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. As I've stated from the beginning and I've asked for your consent to work out of the office and that was granted under the conditions that you have talked to me about. So my sense is that. . . I think what I've heard everyone say is that let's just do what we gotta do. I'm going to be working from home as much as I can. Mr. Hokama, I heard, is going to be able to adjust. Our Budget Chair said this is what she believes. So, I think you're the leader. You told us, you know, who can or cannot work in our offices and I think that I'm willing to just say okay, lead. Maybe this is one of those places and spaces that you just tell us this is what you decide so we all to follow you. So, I'm, you know, I'm a team player and I will always follow my leadership. So, it's up to you.

CHAIR LEE: Thanks. Anyone else? Well, again, I don't know if you really want to vote if that's necessary. But, why don't we do this? Mr. Hokama has agreed to work in his office and to me that's a pretty big concession because, you know, he has his -- he's become comfortable in the Chamber. Okay, so I appreciate that. I appreciate Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez volunteering to train our Staff, but, on the other hand, I really don't want to force them. So, if you don't mind, we won't have any meetings in the Chambers but until the Staff is trained and feels comfortable, I'll allow them to stay in the Chambers. And that might only be for a couple of meetings. And you know what, we're spending an awful time on this and who knows in three weeks we'll all be back in the Chambers. So, if you don't mind just, just let me handle this one and--

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah, you're the leader.

CHAIR LEE: --if it becomes a problem, we'll bring it back up and we'll do it another way, okay. I'm not married to this but I'm trying to be sensitive to not only you but to our Staff who play a vital role in our work. So I take all of the concerns expressed very seriously and I'm just hoping you just go along with me on this one so we can move down to the rest of the agenda. This is only number two. Okay, any objections to that?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: No objections.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you, thank you.

3. INSTALLATION OF CAMERAS ON THE 7TH FLOOR, RECEPTION AREA (Chair Lee)

CHAIR LEE: All right, the third item is installation of cameras on the seventh-floor, reception area. This item I was going to ask you -- by the way, I've changed my mind -- but I was going to ask you if we could use those cameras for the front door over here, the

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seventh-floor front door. But, I'm going to, if no objections, defer this item because I don't think it's necessary anymore and you're going to find out why when we take up the next item.

4. LOCKING THE 7TH FLOOR ENTRY DOORS (Chair Lee)

CHAIR LEE: The next item is locking the seventh-floor entry doors. I've become very concerned and the Staff has become very concerned about security. So, Traci, can you quickly go over this one, Traci?

MS. FUJITA: Sure. So as you know the doors are currently locked due to the COVID-19. Prior to this happening, we did check with Security Resources, the vendor who handles the locks for the whole County Building and they're going to be providing us a quote on having some kind of a, like a intercom system? Kind of maybe similar to like what the Corporation Counsel has, you know, where the doors are only accessible with a ID and then visitors would call, use the intercom box to speak with somebody in OCS, and then somebody could buzz them in, you know, if they needed to come in. We haven't, I don't believe we've gotten the quote back yet but from what they said they didn't think it would be that difficult nor that expensive to install. But it would just provide some security for the Staff that works in that front reception area.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, any comments or questions? Yes, Tamara? Tamara.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just was wondering if this was strictly for the OCS side that the doors will be locked.

CHAIR LEE: Well, we're looking to do it on the OCC as well.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, just clarification question. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Any questions? Ms. King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. So, this doesn't affect the elevator access?

CHAIR LEE: No. No.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: It's just for the general public coming in and out?

CHAIR LEE: Yes, of the entrances to OCS and OCC.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, all right, thank you.

CHAIR LEE: All right, so that was to give you an update and if you had any problems with it now is the time to let us know before we make any kind of commitments. We'll let you know when we get the quotes.

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5. **WEST MAUI DISTRICT OFFICE UPDATE** (Chair Lee, Councilmember Paltin)

CHAIR LEE: Now, the next item is the West Maui District Office. Tamara, would you like to give us an update?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sure, Chair, I'd love to. I just got an email from the Director and we had heard from Corp. Counsel that the landlord above of Nagasako's on the Weinberg property just signed off on the lease and so it's being routed to you right now for your signature and it's very happy that things moving forward. We were quoted an April 1st date and even with this pandemic we're not that far off of a April 1st date. I'm not sure when. . . hopefully this is over soon and West Maui people can have easier access to come in and give testimony. Although giving testimony is even more easier than just driving in Lahaina to give testimony but I don't think the sunshine law rules will be in place forever so this is a good step forward for the West Maui Community. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, I think this is a good -- oh, any questions on what Tamara just said? Ms. King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you. So is there a -- since we won't be needing this probably for at least a month or even longer, is there another use for that office, you know, storage or something that? Since we've got our, I'm assuming we've gotta start paying on the lease as of this month.

CHAIR LEE: Tamara?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Um. . .

CHAIR LEE: Is there any other use for the office?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Because we're not gonna be, we're not gonna have people come in, we're not gonna be having it manned, I'm assuming, until this pandemic situation is over?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Well--

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I understand that if you sign the lease that we have to -- you have to honor that, but, is there another use for that office, meanwhile?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I was, before the previous conversation, I was planning on using it because of my kids just jumping in on the conversations and talking to me while I'm talking to you all and having like five conversations at one time, and the dogs and the chickens and all the other distractions. But, I'm open to not using it if you don't want me to use it. My husband got laid off so he can be watching the kids and. . .

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: No, I was just wondering because I know that it's going to be an expense we're going to have to incur and we're not going to probably need it but we don't want to lose it. So, just wondered if there was a, you know, storage or some, you know, if you can use it to hold your meetings from that's great.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

CHAIR LEE: Okay, any other questions? Any other questions? Tamara, we also are using this opportunity to bring up the -- and I know everybody is very sensitive about salaries. But, since we'll paying for a person at the West Maui District Office, I thought we would take a look at what Hana and Lanai is receiving. Yes, Tasha?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I just wanted to ask because my thought going forward was to ask Tamara what the cost the office and personnel would be cause I'm thinking that, you know, in the future we might have to consider looking at district offices in Kihei, Upcountry. I mean, we don't know what's going to happen but we might happen [*sic*] to be doing this a lot longer that we can actually anticipate. And sometimes having offices in the district is easier, it's closer, at least our carbon footprints would be decreasing, and maybe I just thought that that was something that was going through my head. So if it's okay that Tamara could let us know what the annual costs to have the office out there then we could just probably in my head, that's what I would use to think about what the other district offices might have to incur and what those expenses may be about or around. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, all right, good question.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Want me to answer, Chair?

CHAIR LEE: Tamara?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR LEE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, it's one of those stacked rents where the first year is a little bit over 2,000 and then it increases by like a hundred or so each year for two years. I guess usually they do it in three years but because we're on a [*sic*] annual budget we're only able to lock in one year at a time. But for each additional year and we came to this point so late in the game because I tried my hardest to get to any kind of governmental place as I could and it was just not happening. Parks and Rec. have their own meeting room. They wanted to put us in the pool storage at one point and I was like I don't even want having people to come into the pool storage to give testimony and so it was very difficult and I don't think that it's something that we can replicate in other districts because it depends on the available space and the going rates and I don't know if you guys know but West Maui is kind of up there for everything in costs. And one thing I did do was add up all the monthly rentals for three years to see what that would be because in my budget review I noticed that

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Public Works purchased a container office, I believe, for like 75,000 and I was trying to weigh out like, you know, if we purchased a container office to use what is the amenities? Would it have a bathroom and all like that. And so the three-year total for the monthly rate that escalated is \$90,000. So, it's slightly more than purchasing a container outright. Of course if we purchase it we gotta decide where to put it and if it would have a bathroom and what not but all things to think about in the future. We're. . .we got an office space above Nagasako's in the Weinberg Building. . .and, you know, I would love to have that meeting room space at the Civic but Parks and Rec. ain't willing to give it up. Kaunoa Senior Center, they don't want us there so it's like we're the stepchild, I guess, of Lahaina. But, you know, everything in my experience cost more out here on the West Side. But, you know, with the current situation maybe things will not be as expensive in the future possibly short-term rental homes will go down and what not but, that's the situation. It all kind of came together in an interesting way and in these interesting times, you know, rent and the cost of living in Lahaina is definitely higher than other places within the County. So, just taking those things into consideration I'm just grateful and amazed and we pulled it together even with a global pandemic on. But, did I answer your question sufficiently?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes, thank you, thank you very much.

CHAIR LEE: What she didn't add was the Executive Assistant's salary and that is projected to be \$50,956, yeah. Fifty-thousand nine hundred fifty-six dollars and I'll get back to that in a minute. Ms. King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. So, thank you, Ms. Kama, for mentioning Kihei, the potential need of Kihei because it occurred to me and this is kind of what I wanted to ask Member Paltin. It occurred to me that maybe since we're looking at a baseyard in South Maui, maybe we could ask them ahead of time to put in a space for a District Office and try and maybe doing that ahead of time would. . .if we plan it in we could get in there because, you know, going to someone after the fact and saying hey, can I have some of your space? You know, I'm sure I would encounter what you just encountered which is, you know, yeah you can have the pool room.

COUNCILMEMBERS: . . .*(chuckles)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Was that something that you, I mean just in your dealings with the Department that that might help if they plan it in to a building like that, Tamara?

CHAIR LEE: Tamara?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, because you were dealing with the Department so I was just asking you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, I think, you know, personally I wouldn't be opposed to a container office or building it into the plans. Either way would -- but, I definitely think, you know, dealing with the County is much more easy that dealing with a private entity and believe me, we tried, but I guess it's not that easy but if you can get

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your foot in it is. And things are always better planned out before. I don't know about that new gym where the Mayor gave his State of the County address if they have any space for you there.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I'm sure they'd be happy to give me a storage closet. . . .(laughter). . . I'd probably run into what happened to you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, but I mean it would be worth it to go look around and see and I did ask as one of my questions of Public Works who their vendor was and what the amenities and dimensions of the container that they got. . . .(inaudible). . .compare things and see what would be the long-term situation that is most equitable or efficient in terms of saving the County money. But, yeah, I think you know at this point all options should be looked into at least briefly and see which one works out for you if the Administration is willing -- is that the Public Works baseyard you're talking about or which park?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: They're in the planning stages of it right now so I thought maybe this is a good time to get my foot in the door and ask them to plan in a district office. And then, you know, parking's right there and you know there's, you don't have to worry about that kind of stuff. Pretty central.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, if they're open to it. I don't know if like there would be a transfer from OCS to Public Works to accommodate that or how that would work out but I mean, I don't see looking into it as a problem. Just look into all your options and it took us a long while to get to where we're at, so. . .

CHAIR LEE: Okay, good ideas. So that brings us--

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Chair?

CHAIR LEE: Did someone else, oh yes, Ms. Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So, just with that conversation that took place, we could probably consider all the other projects such as what's going on in Kihei as an opportunity to maybe put in whatever district offices that might be looked at in the future and that's a route I think we should take seriously and look and see what other districts are putting up things like that.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, and then don't forget we have the Budget coming up so feel free to propose all of these things to Ms. Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. Mr. Hokama?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: So, my only comments on this district office things. I can see benefits. Lanai gets benefits from our district office so I can see it other districts. Is this the time I can bring up pay discrepancy?

CHAIR LEE: Yes, yes.

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COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Okay, yeah, so that is my concern. How the hell we can have a different pay range especially for the most senior employee in district office? We pay everybody the same so I don't know how we get two different pay scales for the district offices.

CHAIR LEE: Yeah, that's one of the things I was gonna raise today since I just saw this for the first time today and I thought perhaps we should at some point, soon, bring Ms. Denise Fernandez and Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros up to the level of the two newest, I think, they're the newest Executive Assistants, you know, Lanai and Hana. So--

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: How did the new ones get the higher pay than the existing employees?

CHAIR LEE: Okay, now, I'm not sure about that, Tamara? Tamara.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. So, I hired Michelle Blair who is the former County Director of American Red Cross and you know in addition to starting and opening up this brand new West Maui office and trying to get the word and increase participation she works very closely with MEMA and we did have some discussion, Director Andaya and myself. One of the other main things that I -- and she took a substantial pay cut to come work here and I already mentioned how Lahaina everything is more expensive over here, but, the other thing that I'm tasking her with right off the bat is we have the framework for the HARP Plan. We spent couple years going over it, West Maui Taxpayers Association with Major General Douglas Oliveira and so that's an additional role and responsibility that she's tasked with because of the remoteness of Lahaina--

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: District Office employees is all standardized but, we don't get independent district office job descriptions.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: . . . *(inaudible)* . . . One at a time, right? So um. . .

CHAIR LEE: Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because of the fire, the flood, we were -- I know right now Molokai and Hana is experiencing their first cases with COVID-19, we were the first. We're ground zero over here so you know we get a lot of hazards that the rest of the County maybe doesn't. . . experience which is great. But, when I was hiring I was told that this is the SR rating whatever it is, A, B, C, based on their income and experience, same like the Legislative Analysts. Not all Legislative Analysts started at SR-A based on their previous experience some guys came from Washington, whatever, they had a C rating, a D rating. And based on her experience and what she can do for our community and starting out a new office from scratch I chose, I think, C. So that's the explanation. I'm done. Anyone who needs to talk.

CHAIR LEE: Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez do you have a comment?

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VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I guess..I'll, I guess what Member Paltin was saying I'll say in less words is that. . .(chuckles). . . Is that I hired my District Office person because of her qualification and I believe that she is worth it. My understanding is it's not standardized, there isn't just one pay and it's not only based on the number of years someone works there and if Member Hokama would like to bring Ms. Fernandez up to the pay that you know the other two District Offices, I would be happy to support that. She has been there for a long time. I think. . .I mean my understanding is she works hard. We, with District Offices are tasked with determining the criteria and the needs of the office and of the District and I believe that Ms. Lindo is worth it. Mahalo, Chair, I--

CHAIR LEE: Any other comments? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Yeah, Chair. I'm going to ask that the Council then audit this program and let's set a smart pay scale for these positions. I don't agree. That's not how we had set the purpose of District Offices wasn't to replace the Member's Office. This is the Council Services Offices and that's why full-timers get all approved by the total Council it's not by appointment of the Councilmember. We all give our recommendations. But all full-timers are approved by the total Council. And I don't see why we can't audit ourselves.

CHAIR LEE: Any other comments? Ms. Tamara Paltin and then Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just was. . .I didn't understand that last comment because I never voted on Ms. Denise Fernandez being hired so I'm not understanding full-timers being voted on. All full-timers are voted on by the Council. Did we vote on Ms. Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: We supposed to.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And Ms. Oliveira?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: We supposed to, they're full-timers.

CHAIR LEE: Yeah, we vote on all the Staff by Reso at the beginning of the term. Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez then Ms. King.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I was hoping to get some clarification from Member Hokama regarding his last comment. Is it that he thinks that they should all be standardized in at one pay and that is at a lower pay?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Not lower pay, Budget Chair, I would say I just think they should all be paid and what is fair and they should have the same pay for the same job description, yeah? That's what we hiring. We standard. We don't have different types of district offices. We have a District Office and the full-timer reports to the Council Chair for administrative support and direction. They also take into account the District Members' specific needs because of the district. But the person also

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serves all other seven Councilmember. So, you know, for me that was my concern when I start seeing discrepancies of jobs of pay for similar jobs what I consider same job classifications. I come from a discipline from the private sector in government that you know this is how we should be doing job descriptions and personnel assignments and salary ranges. So, that's my suggestion Budget Chair.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Hokama. So, Chair, I guess my understanding is like with OCS we have Legislative Analysts and they come in with different levels of work experience, different education and that's part of the criteria for what rate they get paid. And so, you know, if you're hiring someone straight out of high school then they would get a lower pay. I mean it depends if they're a genius I guess, there's factors. But if they have more education they have more experience and they generally get a higher pay. I mean that's how the private sector generally works. You know, there's criteria and not just job description and I guess, I, you know, support, Chair, what you had suggested earlier with you know across the board. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Ms. King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, I was just going to reiterate what, you know, just the system that Mr. Hokama explained that we do hire every position as it's on a roster at the beginning of the term. But, I do think that we do need to standardize the job description so that the tasks that Ms. Fernandez are given aren't different from the tasks that are being asked of the positions in West Maui or Hana or Molokai that would, the general job description is to run the District Office and to support all the Councilmembers if they go to that district. So, you know, if we go -- and I've gotten extremely good support when I went to Molokai from Ms. Lindo. So I understand, you know, what Mr. Hokama is saying by the job description should be standardized. You know, if they go out of their way and they do above and beyond you know, maybe what we need is what Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez is talking about we need those different steps for that position so that we could say well they're experience puts them at a higher level. But we haven't, I think we've, the problem is we've been doing it just by recommendation and we haven't seen -- we haven't compared the levels of experience or the resumes of the different people in these District Offices. So, you know, I would like to if we're going to standardize it I'd like to standardize it at a little bit higher rate because you know these are full-time people and they -- it's always been kind of a contention with some of the Councilmembers that we're supposed to be served equally by the District Offices and you know sometimes Members haven't always felt that way. Personally I've felt like that whenever I've gone to Molokai, especially, and I feel like you know the Member, the District Offices on the other two islands -- in Hana and Lanai -- are just as supportive of all Councilmembers. So, I would be in favor of standardizing the job description and then if there are higher levels of qualifications then having you know the same step movements that we give to our OCS members [sic]. But I think the problems comes when those recommendations come from individual Councilmembers in that district and not -- because right now all the step recommendations come from the Director of OCS. So if these positions are under OCS then maybe the Director of OCS could be working with the District Members in those

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offices if you feel like there should be a step increase and you know work through the Director of OCS because as far as I know she's been making all the recommendations for the different levels of how people come into OCS as Legislative Analysts and in those different positions. That's just what I have to say. But I do support a living wage and I didn't think. . .you know, I think we need to bring people up to where Ms. Lindo is and not drop her down to where everybody else is because they need that living wage.

CHAIR LEE: Anyone else?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

CHAIR LEE: Oh, yes, Ms. Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. and I just wanted to say the previous wage for Lahaina is not a living wage. Like there's no way. There's no way.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, and this is the reason I brought it up because I noticed that the new person will be starting at. . .*(inaudible, due to end of Part I of recording)*. . .we consider bringing the other two up since there has been no change since 2009.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I agree with that, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Support.

CHAIR LEE: All right.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Agreed.

CHAIR LEE: If there are no objections, okay.

6. HAWAII STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES ("HSAC") OFFICERS, HIRING AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF (Councilmember King)

CHAIR LEE: Okay, fine. Okay, let's then move on. No objections to bringing Denise and Mavis up to 50956. Okay, so the next item is. . .HSAC. And, I know -- I'm gonna call on Ms. King cause she is the HSAC representative. But, it appears that a lot of the work done by HSAC especially in preparation for. . .what do you call that? Conferences. Is really done by the County Council Staff of that particular area. And it's very difficult to rely on our Staff to continually do a lot of HSAC work. So, we were, I was thinking of the possibility of using some of HSAC's money to hire an executive who could organize and plan that type of work for all the Counties and perhaps also create a Director and Staff position. Ms. Kelly King.

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, I actually, thank you, Chair. Thank you. I actually brought this up a couple of months ago in HSAC because, it's not just because of this because not just the conference. But it's because of the inordinate amount of work that Maui has incurred by having the either Secretary or Treasury position over the last ten years more often than any of the other Counties. And those two positions incur the most work and Shelly and Nicole have been working really hard to support what we need to support of as our position as Treasurer and have found a lot of discrepancies. And, things that like you know are our business license wasn't applied -- our GET license wasn't applied for, things like that, in the past year. So we've been trying to catch everybody up and there's no place that all of this information is housed. It just keeps passed from Council to Council over the years. And so I had brought up having an Executive Director for this body. Everybody -- the Executive Board seems to be onboard with it. We, at our last meeting we were going to, I was hoping we would make a move on it but the meeting got so long it got deferred. But we actually had a Executive Director from one of the other County associations on the mainland to come and talk about that and we got a job description for an Executive Director and we're starting to look at pay scales and how we would pay for this position. But we seem to have a lot of carryover money every year so I think the general -- even though this got deferred to the next meeting so I'm gonna have to, you know, I don't have anything to tell you right now other than the fact that most of the other -- I think everybody else is amenable to it and our President right now, Joey Manahan, keeps -- every time we find something else that's a discrepancy from last which was when he was Treasurer and his support person from his Staff left in the middle of the year. And so we are trying to find all of these records and it, it's amazing. Nicole and Shelly have done an amazing job trying to track everything down and reconcile where our account should be. But every time something like that comes up then, you know, we get more support for this idea of an Executive Director because that person would stay as Executive Director over the years no matter who's President, no matter who's Treasurer/Secretary and it would take a lot of the work off of those positions. I think as far as the conference goes the County that has the conference still has to engage their Staff because -- and it's only once every four years you get it, it moves around. This particular year it's supposed to Big Island and they've asked to cancel it so it's canceled for this year. There will be no HSAC conference and it will be moved to next year and it will stay with them for next year. So, now it's going to be five years before we have it again for Maui. But, so that's where we're at with that and we're hoping to have a vote on this at the next conference, the next executive board meeting and then hopefully I can if there's support for our Council, if we can gather support, you know obviously we don't a vote but that would help with pushing this idea through. But, yeah we've been talking about it the last couple of meetings and trying to get more information. There's a lot of County associations out there that have Executive Directors and we need one probably just as badly because we have four different island counties and we can't even find all the records of everything.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, can we assume that we have general support for eventually hiring a Director and Staff--

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Chair?

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CHAIR LEE: --for HSAC. Yes, Mr. Hokama?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: I appreciate the -- Ms. King's report. And I would say, you know, I've been doing this thing for 20 years. I'd been on NACo for 20 years. I can tell you sitting at the national level with state associations it works up there because a lot of the states have quite a sizeable amount of counties in their state membership. You know, looking at the cost of an association, and again, before I agree to one, I would say we need to decide what type of association do we want. Are we looking at the mainland guys are doing, I'm looking at between 500 to \$700,000 a year just for an operating budget. Are the counties willing to ante up that kind of money to run an association? Okay, because basically besides the conference and I can understand putting monies aside for a maybe third-party assistance on the conference. But if it's just for political lobbying at the Capitol, four counties? I still think we need to have or include association discussion with the four Councils together and if the Mayors want to join us that would be great. Is there really great benefits from an association with four members? Yes, it's a State association. It's not like we're like California - 151 Counties; Illinois - 200 Counties. I'm not convinced that an association. Again, depend what type we believe we should be creating, can do the job. You know, I think we have great relationships with our State leadership and we should be utilizing those relationships to our benefits. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Ms. King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. We're not changing the association. We already have an association, the Hawaii State Association of Counties. We're really, our discussion is really centered around hiring one Executive Director as a staffer so, but that person can house all these documents and keep track of all the documents and the checkbooks and the -- we've had a lot of deficiencies that we've found in checks that never, that got reported at the wrong time or never got cashed, or got cashed and not recorded. And it's because the books keep moving from County to County every year and so, we're really not changing the association and we're not talking about adding hundreds of thousands of dollars. We're talking about one Executive Director.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: That's gonna need Staff though, right, Ms. King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No, it would be an Executive Director who reports to the Executive Board. So it would be support the Executive Board. Because right now we got, you know, the President, whoever is the President has a staffer from their office that tries to act as the coordinator and we experienced, you know, all of us have coordinators in our OCS Staff or our personal, or our office Staff. But, what we experienced last year was that when Joey was President, his staffer left in the middle of the year and left the State. And we have -- we don't even know where a lot of the records are for some of the stuff he did. He did it offline out of Quickbooks and there's no way to keep track of all that stuff. So it's basically somebody who'd be the same person that would support the organization year after year and make sure that the

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books are in order. Make sure -- right now we two outstanding audits that cannot be done because of information that was requested in the last two years that was never provided. And so we're trying to you know and it's up to those two we have to track down who was the Treasurer last year, who was the Treasurer the year before and find out why, where that information is and why they didn't get it to them. So, it's really a function of, it's really the in the intent just to have one to support this association that already exists but make it consistent so that we don't have to, we don't lose the contacts and therefore lose all the information and all the work that's been done or hasn't been done.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Well, I appreciate you bringing up this problem the association is having. I wish it was brought up to the total general membership earlier because we never had this kind of problems in the past 40 years until now. So, I'm wondering what has changed so much that now we're having this type of problems that we never had before. And--

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I think--

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: --but I appreciate you bringing it up and because we've been operating on this rotation basis since the inception of the association. And that was from--

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Well, they did away, Mr. Hokama, they did away with the rotation. I don't know if you're aware of that. I was trying to get that put back into the Bylaws and I was not successful but because , we'd been, I've been--

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Yeah, I remember when the yeah they--

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah I've getting complaints from our Staff that they have to do so much work because we keep being either Secretary or Treasurer and that's the most work. Though I think a lot of this stuff is coming to light because our Staff is really sharp and they've been finding these holes in the previous years and they're trying to reconcile everything. It's not that it's happening this year or even last term it's happened in the past and they've just been trying to reconcile everything because we have a really good Staff and they're perfectionist, you know, they don't want to pass on a set of books that doesn't. . .

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: No, I said I agree, I agree. So, I don't know how we've been passing the audits because we have to report to every. . .(inaudible). . .

COUNCILMEMBER KING: We haven't been doing them. Yeah, when we got, when we became Treasurer we looked into it and the last two audits were never done and we checked into it and we got a letter from the auditors. The auditor is saying here are the things that we need to finish those audits. And they were never provided.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: So, we in violation of. . .(inaudible). . .?

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: I don't know, I mean I wasn't on there when this happened but we're finding it now, so that was impetus for the. . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Yeah, I appreciate the good work, Kelly.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Thank you for the good work.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, thank you, and we're trying to follow up as best we can, get everything right and so we can start from a baseline of everything's corrected.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, moving on. Thank you, Ms. King. Just keep us posted.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Will do.

7. ENSURING EQUITY IN TESTIMONY (Councilmember Kama)

CHAIR LEE: And then the next item is ensuring equity in testimony. Ms. Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. I think the OCS Staff passed out the memo on the subject of equity of testimony to everyone, you should have gotten it already. So, I just want to read what it says and save time. It says, in the Economic, Development and Budget Committee meeting of March 20, 2020, the question of how public testimony would be received given the orders enacted by Mayor Victorino and the suspension of Sunshine Law, Councilmember King suggested that individuals be given access to the BlueJeans communication platform so that if they have the appropriate equipment and level of internet access that they could testify to Council and its Committees via video-conferencing. I have concerns about the increasing the current inequity that exists within our system for public testimony. Prior to the existing measure prompted by the COVID-19 outbreak there was already an inequity in the quality and potential impact of testimony. While we as Members of the County Council try our best, oral testimony delivered in person has the potential of a greater impact than the same message delivered via telephone from a District Office or in writing via email and via the postal service. The ability to deliver oral testimony in person, in our Chambers, when our meetings are held during the workday is limited to those who can take time away from work, the retired, the paid lobbyists and those who are of independent means. The system already excludes those who need to work during the workday for the effective means of testimony. The outbreak of COVID-19 provides an opportunity to level the playing field with no opportunity to attend the meeting in person, testifiers are likely to be restricted to providing their opinions to Council by telephone or in a written format. The opportunity to testify by telephone to be available. Almost everyone has access to a telephone. That cannot be said about computers, webcams, microphones, and higher speed internet connections. If Council permits those of means to have access to the video-conference platform, the public discussion would be skewed to a much greater degree to those of substantial means

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who will be giving the most effective audience, the paid lobbyists and those with independent means excluding even those who have the time during the workday and are retired for the most effective means of influencing the public policy discussion for the potential for worsening a system of public testimony that already favors those who can afford being away from employment during a Council or Committee meetings. I strongly object to allowing those with means to buy their way to provide testimony with much greater potential to influence the course of our deliberation. So, just what I'm saying here is we should just be accepting telephone testimonies until such a time when all the District Offices have their own District Office so people can go and video-conference in from those places. And that I have put in as one of my priorities for this Budget Session. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Comments? Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I was just, I wanted to seek some clarification on this request. Pro Temp Kama, is it that you're asking that we should allow people the access to provide testimony via video-conferencing?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes. Written and telephone is what I'm asking.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You just don't want to see their video?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Well, not that I don't want to see them. I think that the opportunity for them to come on to camera leaves the potential for a larger influence than if everybody still on the phone or if everybody is on doing a written testimony.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Because during . . .so, while when we meet in the Chambers, Molokai, Lanai and Hana call in.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And those that are able to, you know, come to the Chambers testify live in person.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I, in developing this process I strive for the most, the closest thing that people would be able to have to in-person testimony which is video testimony. I see that you're trying to level the playing field which is always my hope or what I try to do as much as possible. I . . .so, I guess when people log in we could turn off their video but I don't know if I support that. I want to provide people the most opportunity closest to in-person testimony as possible. So, mahalo for that clarification. I'm gonna think about it a little bit more. Mahalo, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Chair?

CHAIR LEE: Ms. Tamara Paltin? Ms. Paltin.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. So, I had a clarification question as well. It was my understanding that it's up to the Chair to decide how they're going to take testimony, is that an incorrect assumption, or just wondering clarification-wise? And then a second point was that's how it is normally that people who are retired or lobbyists have that extra thing so it's not something that we're changing. It's the way it is normally. And that, you know, it's not just a webcam, it's a smartphone. You can testify face-to-face with a smartphone as well. You don't need a computer or a webcam or anything because I've used the BlueJeans link off of my smartphone. And then the third point or question we're -- I don't know about everybody else but I'm still meeting with the people that want to meet with me while at home face-to-face on the computer and if we don't wanna level the playing field then we shouldn't be meeting with anybody because not everybody has that access. I mean it's not really leveling the playing field if you're not letting folks testify in person at the Committee meeting but then you're meeting with folks outside on your private time that's not a meeting, you know. So, I mean if we're gonna do that we shouldn't have any meetings with anybody on our own time, in our own office that are asking for a meeting in the Budget because it's not a level playing field because we can't meet with every single person that wants to. . . I don't know if you follow my questions but those are my questions. Like how, it wasn't a level playing field to begin with so it's not that we're changing anything, one. And is it the Chair's purview on how they take testimony? And three, should we not then have any meetings with any of these lobbyists and nonprofits and people like that because that creates an uneven playing field as well? So those are my three questions.

CHAIR LEE: Can I answer my part?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

CHAIR LEE: Okay so as far as the Chair's purview for how testimony is provided. I don't think so I think it's the body's purview. And, so, if the body decides it wants to allow let's say only oral testimony and not video-conferencing testimony then that is something that would be considered but then I would have to check with Sunshine Law requirements because you know in this day and age, you know, you cannot disallow types -- you know, pick one type of testimony over another type of testimony. Though I understand what you're saying, Ms. Kama, because some people just don't have that capability like others to jump on BlueJeans or any other platform. But at the same time we shouldn't be preventing people who have that ability. So, you know, I'm curious to hear the rest of everybody's opinion on this matter. Anybody have an opinion? Yes, Ms. King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. I'm kind of the wavelength as Ms. Paltin. And, you know, I feel like we can't, if we try to equalize everybody we'll never have any meetings and we have to only take testimony when everybody's off because people come in, retired people come in, people that have time will come in during our morning meetings and our afternoon meetings, other people are at work. Whether we're in the Chambers or we're doing it this way. So, I don't think there is a way to

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make it completely equal among everybody unless we just say okay we think everybody's off between six and eight and we're gonna have meetings only during that time in the evening when everyone can come in or everyone can call because a lot of people can't even phone in when they're at work. So, even though I understand you know we're trying to make it as equitable as possible I agree that it's not. You know, it's basically if you take the time, you have the time. But some people take the time and they'll take time off because something is really important and they'll come into the Chambers and testify. And I expect people that find something really important even if they don't have videoconferencing will find some way to borrow a computer or something and videoconference in because it's that important. So, yeah it's not even. I agree with Ms. Kama it's not even across the board. But I don't think there's any way to make it so and stay within you know, as you said within the Sunshine Law and allow people you know some people that can't come in and want to videoconference. I mean this -- one of the things I thought was so great about this videoconferencing is we could actually start videoconferencing people from Molokai, Hana and Lanai, who in the past haven't been able to. . .we haven't been able to see their faces when they testify. And so to me this was almost a more equitable way of doing testimony because now anybody can hopefully get online and you know talk and show us their face and they don't have to even have a car. They can do this from the comfort of their home. So, yeah I'm kind of in agreement with the Tamara and Keani that I see the system that we're using as offering more opportunity not less. Well, you know that's just kinda my personal perspective on it. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Anyone else?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: I appreciate everybody's comments. I can tell you for Lanai, my community, our community chose they didn't like the video and that's why at the District Office we blank out the camera cause they didn't want to be seen on TV during testimony. That was their choice. I appreciate Ms. Kama's proposal. I don't have a problem with it, our Charter allows it that we can do emergency meetings by phone and I am open to all means so I support my Budget Chair with the ability of audio/video capabilities but I'm not one to turn away from just those that may have telephone option as what their way of testifying so, I'm open to all of it. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Yes, Ms. Keani Rawlins.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I just wanted to clarify that people can call in using a regular telephone, you know, just a landline, you can call. They no need the smartphone.

CHAIR LEE: We know what a phone looks like thank you.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: In case you guys forgot.

CHAIR LEE: . . .(chuckles) . . .

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VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I thought props would be helpful.

CHAIR LEE: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So yeah, you dial in on a landline and then you call the number, you punch in the meeting code and then it connects you. So, I was going to shoot that video on how to connect to our meeting yesterday before you know we found out the news from Molokai. So, that got postponed because of you know, unanticipated news. I wanted to I don't know, you know, I mean if we're saying that for these videoconferencing meetings that we're not going to accept videoconferencing testimony because we want it to be fair. Then, I mean, when we go back at some point to meeting in the Chambers and allowing, you know, in-person testimony then I think I think it should be fair across the board and we shouldn't make any decision until we allow Molokai people to testify in person, Lanai people to testify in person, and residents to testify in person so that it's fair across the board. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Ms. Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And Lahaina. Oh, they're saying to add Lahaina.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But, I would hope that now that we see that this works and how it works that we would be doing this as well at our District Offices when if whatever normal looks like in the future. I hope we can continue doing this for the District Offices so that we can see the folks that show up to the District Offices like we see the other people now that we're accustomed to how it works. And--

CHAIR LEE: Okay, Ms.--

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: --you know if the road was closed because of a fire or something then I can be there then you can see me, too, cause I know you love that.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Ms. Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I can see once we're done this people are going to want this flexibility in terms of testimony. I think it was Shelly Espeleta when she did her Ka Ipu Kukui project what they did take up was how to County government receive public testimony exactly like this, from everybody anywhere, right necessarily at District Offices. So, this is opening up a whole other discussion that Ms. Lee you may take up at the appropriate time but I think we're under different rules because of Sunshine being relaxed, I think. The evolution of time as COVID-19 is transforming our community and it's also transforming our transparency and our ability to receive testimony. And I can see what Member Kama is saying about the inequities you know that is based upon equipment and availability of things. So, I understand that discussion, too, but this is gonna, we should think about for when we're done with COVID-19 and life gets back to normal. Thank you.

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CHAIR LEE: Okay, thank you. All right, I just want to let you know that Mr. Sinenci has to leave in 20 minutes. Okay, so. Shall we just defer this item, Ms. Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Actually, Chair, you don't have to do anything with it. I just wanted to bring it up for discussion now and maybe future discussions but it's not anything, you know, that people need to vote on or say yay or nay to right away. But just to think that as the future progresses and then people are accustomed to doing this they might want to do this even after this is -- if the COVID-19 is all over they might want to continue to do this kind of a meeting and testifying from their own offices and not having to come to the Chamber and testify in person. But that's just for futuristic.

CHAIR LEE: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: But nonetheless, thank you Members for your comments. I appreciate it. Thank you, Keani and thank you, Tamara. Okay, thank you Chair.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

8. **CONSENT CALENDAR** (Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez)

CHAIR LEE: Okay, all right, moving right along. Number eight, this is Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez's item, Consent Calendar. Go ahead.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I'm happy to defer this item. It's getting late. And then I can perhaps come back next meeting to do a proposal on what the Consent Calendar would be. But, the concept behind it is, well, other jurisdictions, other municipalities have consent calendars and it kind of helps to speed up meetings. And that's the concept behind it and I'll, I'm happy to defer for today.

9. **STATUS OF DISTRICT OFFICES** (Chair Lee)

CHAIR LEE: All right. So the next item, Traci, I think we covered this already. Status of District Offices. Right, Traci?

MS. FUJITA: Yes. . . .(inaudible). . . There was one thing about the closing of the District Offices. We haven't given specific direction to the District Offices to close and have the Staff telecommute. So I just wanted to get some direction from the Members on that.

CHAIR LEE: So, those of you who do have district offices, Mr. Hokama?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Yeah, I've. . . Ms. Fernandez has called and I told her that at this time, again with what's happening with the School and everything else, I've asked

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her to if she had an issue just going to the office, closing door, but accepting phone calls as well as posting those appropriate notices on our bulletin boards for the community members to read regarding resources and assistance for the virus. Also including referral of who to appropriately contact because our County office, we receive complaints for the Federal Government, the State Government, Pulama Lanai, the Union, you name it, we get the calls. And so, Ms. Fernandez and I are using this time to be like a referral. And so she doesn't accept visitors so she's safe. Again, she's just there to take care the phone requirements as well as putting out the information of resources and assistance. So far it's worked for us on Lanai. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez then Mr. Sinenci. How are you handling your district offices?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Similar to Member Hokama. Our door is closed. People don't come. I think we're still posting up agendas but there's a stay-at-home order so they shouldn't be coming here anyway. And we just. . .non-stop no sleep helping the community with everything that's going on. So, it's. . .the door is locked but you know, the office is still going, still taking calls, still helping with everything that needs to be done on the island. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Mr. Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yes, thank you, Chair. Likewise here in Hana, Ms. Oliveira-Medeiros provides a great service to the community. She takes phone calls especially when it's including issues with the State highway as well as the County highways and closures and allowing traffic to be, you know, coming into Hana. She also posts all of the meeting agendas and also posts anything coming up in the community on the website so she's, again, continuing while this is going on. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

10. **PHONE AUTO ATTENDANT** (Chair Lee)

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. All right. So the next item is the phone auto attendant. That is--

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You want me to report or no?

CHAIR LEE: On your district office? Is it operational?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No, but we did hire someone and she is working from home doing similar types of things. You know her background is in the Red Cross disaster and what is kind of difficult for me is I just hired someone on April 1st for my Staff and then I hired a few people a couple weeks just before. So what we're kind of doing is just, you know, assigning tasks, figuring out the email system, like we're just starting from scratch all over again because you know the vacancies we've had and like that. So just building up the team again, getting everyone their County email addresses, get

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everyone up to speed on Teams, explaining the Budget, what the County is, so we're still working although she is not at the office itself. I think if we are able to make use of the office at the earliest time I would continue to have her specifically work from home because she has someone in her household that an increased risk. But for me, if I can be in there away from the distraction of the dogs and the kids that would be helpful for me.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, that's great. All right. Phone auto attendant. Traci?

MS. FUJITA: Oh yes, so, OCS is looking at setting up a Shortel Auto Attendant for the main OCS line, the extension 7838. We found that, you know, if we had had this set up it would have made telecommuting a lot easier for our office. So, this is something that we'd like to implement. The way that it would work is that when people call in we can set up different options for them to get their calls directed appropriately. So, right now we're looking at a script where members of the public -- oh, and I had checked with the front office Staff. The majority of the calls that they get that they need to end up transferring are for Councilmembers. So it seems like the public ends up calling our office when actually they want to speak to the Councilmember's office. So we have that option, we're proposing that option in the auto attendant where if members of the public want to reach a Councilmember that they can you know press a number and then they can get directed to the Councilmembers' main office. And we also have options for Committee meeting matters that right now that would be right now would be routed to the Supervising Legislative Attorney and then for Council meeting matters that would get routed to the Clerk's office. And then there's the zero option for any other matters. So, I just wanted to see if the Members had any feedback on that, how we should set up that auto attendant. One more thing is that Annie Johnson, who we're working with on this auto attendant, mentioned that the toll-free numbers for Lanai and Molokai, she thinks they're not set up right. So I guess I can work with those Members to figure out how those calls should be routed but she said there needs to be a change for that.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Can you explain a little more, please, for Molokai and Lanai? I'm not quite understanding the problem with the phone.

MS. FUJITA: So I guess there's a toll-free number for Lanai and Molokai.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Yeah. Yes.

MS. FUJITA: She's saying that right now it goes to like, just for example for Lanai, it says the toll-free number from Lanai goes to extension 6212 which is forwarding to extension 7678. And she's saying that she doesn't think that that's correct. And then the same thing for Molokai. She's saying that it's, it goes to extension 6213 and then forwards to 7838. So, I guess she just wants to make sure that these, that this is the proper routing.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Okay.

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MS. FUJITA: So, I'll work with you on the Lanai one.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Okay, this is the one from the Council number, right? The Council toll-free number, right?

MS. FUJITA: I think so, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: She's not getting confused the toll-free that goes to the Mayor's office. I hope not.

MS. FUJITA: Oh, yeah, I can confirm with her, make sure it's the right one that she was talking about.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Okay, thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Yes, Ms. Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So is, question for Traci. Are you talking about doing this only during this COVID-19 time or are you thinking this is how people will be greeted once they call Office of Council, the Council Services Office.

MS. FUJITA: Well, I thought this would be a good time to try it out, see how it works because we're trying to have our Staff telecommute as much as possible and then you know, we can see how it goes and if it seems that it's working well then we can continue it. If not, we can stop it.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, if I could. My personal opinion offices that have automated reception is very impersonal. I don't think it represents the body that we basically represent, the electorate. But, if it's only during this time, I understand, it makes sense. But if it's forever then I would like us to have a discussion about it. You know, I guess once this COVID-19 settles down because I mean for sure my office there's nobody there. So you know we're receiving just only messages and then we retrieve it throughout the day which would be similarly the greeting that people would have if, you know, they called OCS once we made this change. But once my office becomes operational and we're in full gear, part of the responsibilities of my office personally is that we greet, you know, the people who call my office and the live person that's always my preference. That just may be my, you know, old-fashioned ways but that's how I think. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Anybody else? Okay, if not, okay. I'm assuming it's okay for her to try it out and see how it goes and then we'll take it from there. If we like it--

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Okay.

CHAIR LEE: --we keep it, if we don't like it we get rid of it. So this item is deferred. But, Traci, please proceed with the process.

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11. **ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES** (Chair Lee)

CHAIR LEE: Now, the last item is electronic signatures. Traci?

MS. FUJITA: So this is also related to telecommuting of the Staff. One of the challenges that we face is that, you know, we need to get signatures on various documents. So for me I've been using Adobe Acrobat. I found that it's really easy to place my signature on a document. It also allows me to add text, I can add a checkmark if I had to check something off and I can also initial things. So I think we're heading, that's kind of what we're looking at for the Members and you know everybody else in the office that might need to sign documents. But I just wanted to see if the Members had any feedback about use of electronic signatures.

CHAIR LEE: Mr. Hokama?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Chair, thank you. For me, I would say I have no problem allowing maybe the Committee Chairs to sign electronically for their requests of an admin personnel and what not. I would still hope that for our official bills and resolutions. . .not that I want you to work more, Chair. But, I believe the Chair's signature, the Clerk's signature, is critical on original documents and that is one area that I feel we should maintain as best we can and other than that I'm open to the Chair's -- to move the business along at this time to use electronic signatures but I would ask that final signatures for enactment into law or formal policy be done with personal signatures. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: I have no objection to that. Any other comments? Yes, Ms. Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I've been using the Adobe PDF sign and fill and it's great. I wouldn't mind to continue using that for the rest of my life but you know, sometimes crisis have to end.

COUNCILMEMBERS: . . .*(chuckles)*. . .

CHAIR LEE: For me I don't have a problem because I live so close, you know, when things come up last minute it's. . .I live two minutes away from here. Three minutes if there's traffic so I don't have a problem. And then so do you have a problem using that signature for let's say Committee signatures, etcetera. Other types of requirements like signing invoices for your office?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I love it. I got no problem with it. Like, one second I can be pau. Like even faster than two minutes.

CHAIR LEE: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBERS: . . .*(chuckles)*. . .

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CHAIR LEE: Very good, very good. Anybody else? Any comments on that? If not, we have reached the end believe it or not with about three minutes to spare for Mr. Sinenci. I just want to let you know, remind you, that these meetings, these Chair's meetings are informal. But if you want to receive a link to view the meeting, this meeting, afterwards, Tammy can send it to you via email, okay. Tammy Frias will send it to you by email so just contact her and she'll be happy to take care of that. Any other comments? Any other comment, yes, Ms. King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Just. . .I was gonna ask you on that last one, sorry I was a little late in raising my hand, that we'll be informed if something needs a -- that can't be use an electronic signature, correct? If it has to have an original signature?

CHAIR LEE: Traci? Traci are you there?

MS. FUJITA: Yes. Yeah, if there's something that -- I can't think of anything right now at the top of my head that would require a wet ink signature, but if there was we wouldn't send it to you to be signed electronically.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, well a lot of the HSAC stuff and especially the checks have to have a hard signature. So, I don't know, I guess we could go offline and figure out how or if you want to send those to me physically and then I can sign them and send them back so I don't have to come in or how to do that.

MS. FUJITA: Yeah, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

CHAIR LEE: Any other questions?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: That's all, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR LEE: Oh we just -- Mr. Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I was just gonna remind everybody that the County Clerk office emailed us about filling out our financial disclosure forms by April 15th. Just a reminder.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you very much. Anything else before we leave. Mr. Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, no, no, just following up on Mr. Sinenci. Now that requires wet signature, right? Not electronic, right?

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CHAIR LEE: . . .(chuckles). . .

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Just thought I'd add to the conversation. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, have a great weekend, everybody. Be safe and take care.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, everyone! Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, see you next time, okay, bye.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Aloha everybody.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Let me know if you need a mask. I'm going to spend my weekend making masks.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay, I need a mask for my mask already.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, nice.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I made this in between our last Council meeting and this Council meeting.

CHAIR LEE: Wow.

MS. FRIAS: Alice, I don't know if you need to adjourn the meeting. Thank you.

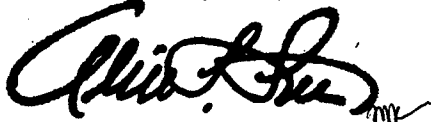
CHAIR LEE: Oh, okay. If there are no objections, this meeting is adjourned.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. . . .(gavel). . .

ADJOURN: 4:21 p.m.

APPROVED:



ALICE L. LEE
Council Chair