

# COUNCIL CHAIR'S MEETING

Council of the County of Maui

## MINUTES

August 5, 2020

Online Only via BlueJeans

**CONVENE:** 10:14 a.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  
Councilmember Michael J. Molina, Chair, Government, Ethics, and  
Transparency Committee (via telephone)  
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Chair, Planning and Sustainable Land Use  
Committee  
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  
David M. Raatz, Supervising Legislative Attorney  
Tammy M. Frias, Supervising Committee Secretary  
Laksmi Abraham, Legislative Analyst  
Kathy Kaohu, County Clerk, Office of the County Clerk

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CHAIR LEE: . . .(*gavel*). . . So this is the Chair's meeting and we are going to start right now. And I am Alice Lee, the Chair, and I will be greeting each of you, okay, as we take...there's nobody really to take roll call. So mirëmëngjes means good morning in Albania. So mirëmëngjes, my colleagues. So I'm going to call you according to how I see you. So mirëmëngjes, Member Tamara...Member Tamara. I keep getting calls, is this Mike, again?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Mirëmëngjes, Chair Lee. Mirëmëngjes. Aloha kakahiaka.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. And then, mirëmëngjes, Yuki Lei Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Mirëmëngjes.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Mike just emailed...texted me that he can hear us. So you can say,

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"hello" to him too. Mirëmëngjes, Ms. ...Member Kelly King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Mirëmëngjes. Aloha kakahiaka.

CHAIR LEE: And mirëmëngjes, Ms. Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Mirëmëngjes, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Mirëmëngjes, Mr. Hokama.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Boxers will say no más. . . . (*chuckle*). . .

CHAIR LEE: . . .(*chuckle*). . .

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: You got that ah, Shane?

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Mirëmëngjes, Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka and mirëmëngjes kākou.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Thank you. Mirëmëngjes, Mr. Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha and mirëmëngjes kākou.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. And mirëmëngjes to Mr. Molina, because he said he can hear us.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Hello, you guys can hear me?

COUNCILMEMBERS: Yes, we can.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: All right. Okay, live by phone from Makawao, good morning, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. So when we do the rap, we'll have your voice and then Keani will show the flyer.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Ah, okay. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: I mean, why, you want us to go find a picture of yourself?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: . . . (*chuckle*) . . . I don't know. Better to go with the flyer.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. We can try it both ways, okay?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay.

CHAIR LEE: We'll see if our Video Director, Alison Stewart, will be able to film you

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separately. It might be difficult if your computer's not working, but...

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay.

CHAIR LEE: Is that your old computer or is this the new one?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah. It...it's my home computer, yeah. It's the one I've been using all this time.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Maybe it's time to go buy another one, okay?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: I tell you, maybe one of those Surface Pros we have. . . . *(chuckle)* . . .

CHAIR LEE: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Mike, did you try logging on through your phone, your cellphone?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Ah, no. I just decided to go by phone for now.

1. **EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT PROTOCOL** (Councilmember Kama)
2. **TESTIMONY BY COUNCILMEMBERS' STAFF AT COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS** (Councilmember Sugimura)

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Let's get started, okay? Because the first item is the Executive Assistant Protocol on the agenda. And this was brought up by Member Kama. So Member Kama --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

CHAIR LEE: -- do you have any comments about this item?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes, Chair, I do. So I wanted to be able to establish for Members what my expectations were for the Executive Assistants, with the hope that...that they would be common expectations. So I noted that the following items on today's agenda may mirror at least one area of expectations for Executive Assistants. So while our Executive Assistants do have interests outside of the responsibilities of our office, their position, essentially, within the Policy Development Branch for County government, carries with it the greater need for clarity in their actions outside of the office. So the public may be challenged, distinguishing the nature of the testimony from an Executive Assistant. Are they testifying personally for an organization, or in direction for their Councilmember, or...but whatever it is, clarity is definitely needed. So I'm suggesting that when the EAs testify to us or at the Committee, that four things at least should be said. Disclosing their role as an Executive Assistant for their respective Councilmember; the role that they're testifying in, whether it's personal or

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on behalf of another special interest group that they are related with or to; or as a member of the Councilmember's staff or not. But also, that they've taken the personal time to testify, and not on County time, and that the testimony given has not been reviewed, discussed, or directed by their respective Councilmembers. And also, for electronic communications, that Executive Assistants are all copied on the emails from OCS to all of us to facilitate that communication, so that we can all be informed about what's going on. So our EAs are aware of the request to our offices, but I don't see that communication as being an invitation for EAs to be able to chime in or comment on those communications from Councilmembers to OCS. And so to me, that needs clarity too, and that's not appropriate. So those are just my issues.

CHAIR LEE: All right. Is that the same thing...the number 2, Ms. Sugimura, is that the same thing or --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Similar.

CHAIR LEE: -- or is that a different issue?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Similar. Similar. So one of the things...

CHAIR LEE: . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah. So if I could chime in, because I think it kind of relates to each other, that I think in the past, if EAs would testify, they would say, "Hi, my name is Yuki Lei Sugimura, and I work for Chair Lee" and whatever, and they would take vacation time if they're not going to be testifying in behalf of the office, and if they're a full-time staffer. So therefore, there's a direct distinction between taxpayer dollars versus their own personal time. And I think that if the vacation request for the time that they're going to be testifying and sitting in Council meetings or whatever, or sitting in BlueJeans for that duration of time that they're going to be doing this personally, or not...for Council or they're...or as a staffer, then that vacation request should be submitted and approved or whatever, and go through. And maybe the Chair's Office can hold that just as a record. And I guess some of the other things is that, I wonder if, when they're testifying, are they speaking on the behalf of their Councilmember, or is it something that is, you know, separate. So I...I...there's...those were the reasons why I put this in. And then I saw when the Chair's agenda came out that Tasha Kama had put in similar concerns, so...

CHAIR LEE: All right. Let's have some other comments. Anybody else want to...Ms. Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I had a...I think it's, you know, the issue with the vacation time. One of my staffers is a half...a part-time worker. And, you know, when the days off switch, or like the hours that...where she's told to do her timesheet don't exactly match up with the hours that she's working for me. And so I think that, you know the . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . that we...we have...in my former role, we called it "flex-time," you know, where you're...you're taking time off during work, and you're doing it...the work during your regular time off. Because even if you take

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vacation and you put in the slip, and then you do the work at another time, it doesn't work out. Like the Native Hawaiian Legal Corp. training is on one of my aides' days off, but I'd like her to go to that, and then she's going to take a day off on the day that she's regularly scheduled to be working. So I don't know how that vacation thing would work out because we have, like, that flex-time thing in the timesheets and like that. I mean I...I think it's a flex-time issue. It's my only comment. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Moving down the line, Ms. King, do you have any comments?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I haven't had a lot of personal experience. I think the one time I had a Councilmember...or a staff member justify she was doing it on behalf of the Committee on the Status of Women. So I'm not sure where that fits in with the concern about taxpayer dollars or not. Or...but I would agree with Councilmember Paltin, that flex-time...you know, most of my...I would say, all of my staffers work more hours than they're paid for...than they have on their timesheet that they're supposed to be paid for, so they're...most of them are working evening hours and putting in extra hours on the weekend. So I don't have a problem if they feel like they want to testify and take an hour off or whatever that they have to wait to testify, but without asking for time off. Because I feel like everyone's putting in...and that's our responsibility as employers, is to make sure that our staff is putting in the hours that we're paying them for. And I don't have a problem with that if they want to take an hour and testify during the meeting on something that's important to their community service. So I just...I feel like...I understand the concern, but I don't feel like it's a particular concern of mine, of any Councilmember, if one of their staffers is putting in the hours that they're getting paid for, and wants to come and testify about something from either their personal perspective or some of their community service perspective. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Mr. Hokama, you have any comments on this?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: I think we should go back to the old practice. If you work for the County, you know, unless you on vacation or whatnot, you cannot testify. I got no problems with that.

CHAIR LEE: Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sure, Chair. I have a lot to say about this, actually. Because I'm sure that this was put on the agenda because of me. So I have a lot to say, so I'll try to make it quick. Every Councilmember...

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: That's not true.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm sorry?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: That's not true, Keani. It wasn't because of you. So I want to just say that. It wasn't because of you. But proceed.

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VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Every Councilmember has the...has had the right to choose his or her own staff. Staff are not be regulated by any other Member. Each Councilmember chooses whom they want based on various criteria. Some may want to give a friend or family member a job, others may look for specific professional work experience when hiring staff. And others, like myself, look for people already doing the work with professional experience to help make the changes the community...that my voters want to see. My staffers are extremely hard-working individuals who are also activists, mothers, and community members, they are all of our constituents who must live with the consequences of the decisions made by this Council, just like any other constituent. In addition, they also bear the burden of fielding constituent's complaints that fall on other deaf ears. They are contacted day and night by members of the community who want to feel heard, and know that they are associated with the Council. They do not receive any extra pay or compensation for taking on this 24/7 role of being community liaisons, nor are they given the platform that we have been given to make the change. Just like us, they are bombarded with folks stopping them at social functions, grocery stores, or when they're just trying to spend time with their children. They can act as a triage nurse for constituent concerns much of the time, and answers....and questions direct to folks where they need to go to help, and many other things. They do this not just because it's their job, but because it...because it does go way past working hours. They do this because they care, and because people look to them, whether we like it or not, provide some assistance or relief. When I hired my staff, I knew that this was the case because I have worked in their position. I wanted people who would work hard and stand up for the community in hard times. That was my decision. I may not agree with how other Members have chosen their staff, but that is their decision, and I would never presume to tell anyone else what the roles of their staff is because that is not my role. To think that any Councilmember would have the right to tell my staff and any other member's staff that they shouldn't be able to testify or do community work because they are not a member of the staff is absurd and offensive. I will not silence any of my staff and the talent that they bring to this community just because a member feels that it's inappropriate . . . (*chime sounds*) . . . to speak on the issue or affect change. That is why I chose my staff. And our staff, no matter why they were given the position, all deserve the right to be heard as constituents or the professionals that they are. They have a unique perspective of hearing the community's voice and needs, and knowing how the County works. We should value their opinion because of this, and see that they maybe bring forward solutions that we may have not thought of, not disregard it because of who they work for. None of them signed away their rights to free speech when they were hired; that borders on discrimination and oppression. They are constituents first and foremost. They have the rights, as individuals, to testify as constituents. And if at some point they are testifying on my behalf, or on the behalf of other organizations, they will identify themselves as doing so, but that is not something we can force because we do not own them, nor do we own their voices. I won't...so from what I heard Member Kama say, there are two things for this first agenda item. I heard that we would like to have a protocol that when any of our EAs are testifying in the meeting, that they would be taking time off. And how that time off looks, I think, is something that's being debated now, whether it would be officially a vacation slip, or whether that would be their

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lunch break. I don't....so I mean, for me, if their lunch break or break from the office, that's fine. I mean, people have cigarette breaks. People have errand breaks. You know, it's...it's...we give them breaks. It doesn't have to be an official vacation slip for three minutes. So I would not support having an official vacation slip for three minutes. I think that's absurd. So I think just taking a break and saying, like Member Kama suggested, that "I'm taking personal time, I am not on County time" is appropriate. I support that. I don't support having to identify them...themselves as an EA for any Councilmember. I don't think that's...unless the EA is testifying on behalf of a Councilmember, then of course, they would be saying that. I wouldn't be doing that because I can speak for myself. . . (*chuckles*). . .and I think...the last thing I need a clarification on, Chair, from Member Kama, is the communications to OCS. I wasn't super clear on what...what that was about, and how to set up protocols for that. So if I can ask Member Kama to maybe clarify a little bit more so I can understand that.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Chair?

CHAIR LEE: Member Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you. Thank you, Keani. Yes. So, you know, all of our EAs are copied on all the communications from OCS to all of us. So I mean...and we can respond accordingly. So I don't have a problem, you know, if you send me something from that communication that asked me something. But I would not be...it would not be appropriate for an EA to question about something about that issue. And that's what that meant, that if you had an issue that you wanted to talk to me about, and you told your EA, then you tell your EA, "Please contact Member Kama, and ask on my behalf," but not just come into a conversation, uninvited, and comment. That's what that meant. Because most of our EAs talk to us, and they talk to each other, right? Okay. But I know that when I ask my EAs to do something, I tell them, "Contact so and so, and tell them I would like to know." So it's me asking through my EA, you or Alice, or whoever, as opposed to my EA just taking it upon themselves to just go directly to you and ask you whatever. That's what that meant.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair, may I ask a question of Member Kama?

CHAIR LEE: Sure. Sure. Yes.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. I just want to make sure that I'm understanding it correctly. Okay. So when an EA is asking a question, if it is coming from a Councilmember --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --you're asking that the EA first preface the question --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

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VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --with "This question is on behalf of --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --Councilmember so and so."

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So...okay. If a...if an EA does have a question for a Councilmember on their own behalf, you want them to go through your EA first and not talk directly to you?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: If it's...if it's...if it's regarding an issue that we're talking about through the OCS email, I would think that they would go through you. But if it's just as a constituent wanting to know something that's going on in my district, then they would contact me outside of this conversation, right? So I'm talking about the conversation between OCS and Councilmembers. That's all I'm talking about. But as a constituent, of course, our EAs are...should be able to contact us about other stuff. But if it's directly in a communication from here, it should be prefaced by their Councilmember. Because don't you want to know what your EAs are talking to other Councilmembers about? Just curiosity. I mean, that's a question I just thought about now.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. But I'm trying to think of a...an example without asking you to give me an example. That...that's...if you're seeing faces, that...that's what I'm trying to do. Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: No, no. No...

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm trying to think of an example when this happened.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I get that. Yeah. Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I don't know if you want to, like, send me a message as an example?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I can send you a message.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I can. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Then I'll know what it is, you know, specifically.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

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VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: 'Cause...I'm not --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --I'm still not clear.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So...so...the whole EA protocol was just to clarify our EAs protocols. That's all. Because I, you know, I just want to know what is that to make it clear, to clarify that, and to make sure that not just us, but also the public knows how we, ourselves, govern ourselves internally.

CHAIR LEE: All right.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Wait, wait, Ms. Paltin, we didn't get to Mr. Molina and Mr. Sinenci yet. Mr. Sinenci, and then Mr. Molina. If you have something to say. Otherwise, that's okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Real quick, Chair. So I mean, just trying to personalize it. And for my case, we had asked Ms. Karaca that's in Member Rawlins-Fernandez...but we asked her...we had a Committee meeting on food security. So we asked her in the capacity of her being on the Common Ground Collective. So...and we also...we did check with OCS to see if it was okay for her to speak on their behalf and that community organization, and OCS said it was okay. And then Ms. Karaca also said that she would have to check with...with Member Rawlins-Fernandez to see if she could get some time off to speak in that capacity. So whenever we brought her on as a resource, she always made it clear to us and our staff that she was taking time off and that she was speaking on behalf of the Common Ground Collective, which we asked her to speak to. So that was...I just wanted to clear that up with the Members. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Next, Mr. Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah. Thank you, Madam Chair. I have a little bit to say on this. And I'm sorry to be a pest about this, but you know, at the last Chair's meeting, I asked for Members to provide background information prior to the meeting, with all due respect to my colleagues, Ms. Kama and Ms. Sugimura. Because to me, when an item is put on an agenda without any backup material to review, it's really hard to process a decision on the fly like we're trying to do this morning. And to me, it's not fair to the Member, it's not fair to staff, it's not fair to the public to have no information on the subject matter prior to a meeting. And you know, we've all talked about being a very upfront and transparent Council, so providing information like this in the last minute, to me, in my opinion, is not being transparent. Now, for the subject matter itself, to me, this item should not focus on how you supervise your

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EAs. No other Councilmember should determine how your EA functions or what type of work they should do. And if an individual Member wants to direct their EA, then they have that authority, and we should not get into that habit of telling other members how their EAs should function. And as far as on the floor, if an EA goes to testify, all of us Members, we have that right, if the EA does not clarify who he or she is representing, you can ask that question on the floor and tell the testifier, for the record, you know, who do you work for, who do you represent, et cetera. So those questions can be answered on the floor and for public record. So in my case, with regards to responding to any OCS transmittals, you know, my EAs will typically ask on behalf of myself. So there's that understanding, I've made really clear to my EAs. If, you know...I grant you the authority to ask questions on my behalf, but make sure you clear it with me first. So that's kind of my spiel, Madam Chair and my colleagues. It's up to us how we want to deal with our EAs. And certainly, if an EA does something egregious, then by all means, that should be a concern brought up immediately. And I guess it's generally...every...you know, EAs are all County workers. There is a protocol for behavior, and I certainly wouldn't appreciate an EA berating me for...publicly, for a decision making. I think if you have an issue, then certainly, bring it up. And I think that kind of protocol should be looked into as far as EAs conduct towards Members. But again, I believe it should be just up to us how we want to handle our EAs and, you know, we can tell our EAs, this is what you can, or you know, what I prefer you to do and not to do. So my whole point is, I think we should just kind of leave it alone. Let all of us handle our EAs the way we see fit. And as long as our EAs are not doing anything egregious or inappropriate, then to me, just leave this alone. So I don't know if the intent is to establish a firm rule, but certainly, I appreciate the concerns from the other Members. And if any EA of mine wants to testify, it's their right. I don't think we should prohibit our EAs. They're citizens too, and there could be a concern, a challenge, if you try to silence an EA from testifying. They have a right as a citizen to testify. So that's a very slippery slope to walk on. So I would not be in favor of placing any restrictions like that on an EA who wants to testify on any particular matter. So I think I've said enough on this at this point, Madam Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. All right, everybody, it sounds like this is...this doesn't happen frequently. Probably, perhaps, an isolated issue, and that raised questions with some people. So what I'm going to recommend is it seems like if there is a need for clarification between Member Kama and Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez, maybe you can handle it individually. In the meantime, I would strongly suggest that everyone who testifies, please fill out that form. And then we don't have to ask questions like, "Who are you representing?" et cetera, yeah? So if everybody fills out that form, that should suffice. But if it doesn't suffice, the Member always has the opportunity to get further clarification. Yes, Ms. Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So you're talking about regular times in person, about the form? Because right now, it's not...there's no form when we're online.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. But I have a feeling that this happened during the times that we were filling out the forms, and people were coming to testify on, you know, a couple

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occasions in person. But --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then --

CHAIR LEE: --but wait...wait a minute. Okay, so how are the forms handled now?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: They're not.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No more.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: No more. They just show up on BlueJeans.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Ms. Rawlins....Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez, I think you need to go figure that one out. . . . *(chuckle)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I also --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: No, no, but --

CHAIR LEE: She's the BJ expert. Yes, Ms. --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I also wasn't clear on the EA communication part of it. Like, you know, when we first started, had plenty EAs asking my EAs questions, and it was taking up their time away from the work that I assigned them to do. And so I...I don't know if there's a protocol on that. Like, I'm...I'm glad to help out other Councilmembers, but that's something that folks need to take into consideration when they hire their EAs. Like, if it's going to be an everyday kind of thing where they're asking somebody else's EAs, like, how to do procedural things and like that. Like, can I pick your brain? Can I pick your brain? It's like...it's kind of...it got distracting for a while because I had things that I assigned them to do, and they're constantly helping other people's EAs type of thing. So just, you know, I'm not sure if that was what was part of Member Kama's situation, but I just wanted to point that out. Like, you know, if we're talking about EAs of other Members, also be respectful of their time that they're doing the work for their Member and, you know, try to limit...limit that kind of thing. Maybe they can limit it to like once a week or, you know, like, not too much of using other people's EAs to find your answers.

CHAIR LEE: Oh, my goodness. I didn't know all this drama --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, interesting.

CHAIR LEE: --was going on.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah. Yeah.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Ms. King, and then Ms. Sugimura.

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

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, Chair. I just wanted to kind of go back to what Member Molina was saying, that you know, it's up to each one of us to run our offices and our EAs. And it's nice to know if there's a problem with one office, like Member Paltin maybe is getting asked too much. But just personally, when I came on as a new Member, I got a lot of assistance from Elle Cochran's office, and so I was happy to have my staffers help any other Councilmember's staff. And I understand, if it's a problem for somebody, to just let us know. But I don't...I don't agree with this idea that we need protocols. Every Councilmember has their own hiring, you know, guidelines, and then their own office guidelines, and we're not...we're at...we're kind of at the top level. We're not like the departments in the Administration where the, you know, the buck hopefully stops at the Mayor, and the Mayor can tell them all, you know, whether they're violating protocol. But I think each one of us has hired, in our own right and, you know, we are answerable to the public. And so we run our offices, hopefully, as professionally as possible. When I came on as a new Member last term, I was surprised that there were no guidelines for staffers, for...for new...for Councilmembers. And when I asked OCS, I...I got a very puzzled reaction, like, what do you mean? You just hire who you want, you tell them to do what you want them to do. And so, you know, for me, I wrote up job descriptions for the, you know, the type of staffers I wanted in the various skill levels I wanted. I offered that to other Councilmembers and they could use them or not. But, you know, it's up to each one of us to decide how we're going to run our offices. And so I think this is a good discussion because we're kind of getting out some people's concerns, and now we know, you know, it's going to help us in how we interact with our...the other Council offices. But, you know, this is not a decision-making meeting, so I think the discussion...just to leave it as a discussion, and I'm...where each one of us is more informed about the concerns of others. But just like we're not allowed to...to direct the Administrative departments, we're not really allowed...I don't think, by law, to direct each other's offices either. So I'll just kind of leave it at that and just let...I think everybody does the job that they see that they were hired to do, and we don't always agree with...on issues or on how we're supposed to do our jobs. But that's for the voting public to decide. That's it. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Yeah. I totally agree. However, I also encourage people who are not feeling comfortable with a particular situation to be able to feel free to voice it amongst us because, you know, we're all big people now, you know. And we should be able to handle these types of sensitive conversations to a point where we can, you know, easily work things out.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah. And that's why I say --

CHAIR LEE: . . . *(inaudible)* . . .informally.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: --it's a good discussion. I think it's a good discussion to have, so I don't...I don't have a problem with having the discussion. I just wanted to make it clear because, you know, Member Molina was saying, "before we make any decisions,"

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but I don't think we're here to make any decisions, just to kind of air some concerns.

CHAIR LEE: No. No. No. Okay, Ms. Sugimura, you're next.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, I think that, you know, I echo that. It's a good discussion to have. Kind of interesting to hear what everybody thinks, right? Because we don't ever sit around on a, you know, the back lunchroom and talk about things like this and...so Chair, thank you for having this...the Chair's meeting, and for, you know, this item to be discussed. So we can, you know, ask testifiers, "Are you representing your office" or, you know, whatever. I mean, we can be as clear as we want during the public testimony, and it's interesting...an interesting discussion. You know, some of...some of it I never thought of but, you know, it's out there and amongst us.

CHAIR LEE: Yeah. You know, I'll tell you a historical fact, Ms. Sugimura. It was over 25 years ago that I initiated this Chair's meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I heard you say that.

CHAIR LEE: And...yeah, you know...and the reason why is because I felt there are many issues that can be discussed informally, and not require some kind of standing committee agenda item.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Um-hum. Um-hum.

CHAIR LEE: And over the years, many of the Council Chairs have not necessarily used this platform because a lot of times, all they would hear would be complaints.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh.

CHAIR LEE: Yeah. So in my case, I'm not that worried about complaints because what we're trying to do is reduce complaints, and try and work things out amongst us. Because after all, you know, we are a team; no matter what, we are a team. And we're going to cover the hard issues, the easy issues, and the in-between issues. So let's figure things out. And you know what? I like working as a team, because I have eight other brains helping to figure out solutions. Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. You forgot about the fun issues.

CHAIR LEE: The fun, yeah. The fun factor, yes.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(chuckle)*. . . Like we're going to do a rap after this, and that's going to be so much fun. So I just wanted to...Kasie chatted in the chat box that OCS asks...OCS staff asks testifiers to state for the record if they're testifying on behalf of the organization. So when we have our committee meetings, our staff...I think all of the OCS staff, they do ask testifiers to...when they're signing up in the chat to identify their first and last name, and what item they're testifying on, and if they're

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testifying on behalf of an organization or are a lobbyist. So I said that we don't have a form anymore, which is true because we're doing this all virtually, but we do have --

CHAIR LEE: Chat.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Chat.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --kind of replacement of that, yeah, in the chat box as much as possible. It's hard for those that are calling in via phone to do that in the chat box though because they're calling and they're not video. So I think, you know, we're still trying to have that form online for the meeting. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Last comment, Chair, please.

CHAIR LEE: Yes, Ms. Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you. So today's discussion had nothing to do with who hires, how you hire, or what other Councilmembers get to tell you about your EAs. That's your business. Today's discussion was only about testimony time and our EAs protocols, that's all it was. Just was a very narrow discussion, tried to keep it narrow, and that's all it was. So thank you all for the discussion. Let's do the fun thing now, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Well...well...we have a few more items to cover.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Oh.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Okay. Everybody --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Let's do that first.

**3. REVIEW JULY COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE** (Council Chair Lee)

CHAIR LEE: --can we move on to number 3, which is July committee meeting schedule. Now I think we postponed this Chair's meeting, so that's why...to be more August and September. How are you feeling about going back to the all-day schedule, and should we or should not do it? Ms. King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I really liked it. So I want to thank Keani because I thought it was really productive. It gave me more time to plan out a really comprehensive meeting, and the items flowed into each other, and we were able to kind of get a really comprehensive idea of where we're going with the Paris Climate Agreement, and some of the State Statutes that relate to that. So I...I wanted to continue on doing it. I was disappointed that we weren't doing it in August, but I'm going to...I'm trying to still get

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a date so that I can do...so thank you to the Members who have responded to the poll, because I think we're going to be able to do it. But I felt like having the full day gave us more opportunity to get into the meat of the issues, and to complete it without having to carry on...carry it forward. And then, you know, we...if...I think what's happening with EDB is, you know, if you have...if you have a need for timely issues, you know, you can call another meeting and do a poll, and that's what happened yesterday. So I think that having these two half-day meetings on this regular schedule forces the Committees who...just to keep that schedule, and even if you don't have anything, you feel like you're pressured into having a meeting, and maybe just putting a presentation on. So to me, it's a...it gives a little more flexibility, and it allowed me to really do some deep diving and bring in some...some experts from outside the County, even, to participate. And this is a...and what a great venue that we have because we can bring in, you know, national, international experts. All they have to do is get online. So it's really...to me, the...though, the idea is really conducive to this type of meeting. So anyway, thank you, Keani, for..you know, I hope we can go forward with that, at least with...maybe with you and I, and our schedules. And you know, I think everybody...if...for the Members who don't want to do something like that, that's fine, you know. But if we can match it up with another Member who's willing to do that, then it gives...it allows me to really focus all the energy on that one day, and then use the rest of the time to follow up on the items that came up in Committee. Anyway, thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Anybody else? Mr. Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to add my comments. You know, I'm appreciative of...of flexibility. Especially if, you know, we're looking at a new normal, we need to stay home, and we need to switch up how we do things on a regular basis. So thank you, Chair, for being flexible and bringing...Member Rawlins-Fernandez, for bringing it up, that we can be open to different ideas. Mahalo.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Other thoughts, anybody? Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. And mahalo to the Members who took advantage. I think it was just Kelly and I . . . *(chuckle)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER KING: . . . *(chuckle)* . . .

CHAIR LEE: . . . *(chuckle)* . . .

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But like Kelly said, you know, it...it really gave us a lot of time to discuss larger issues. And I think moving forward, that's really going to be needed, because of...when we re-establish the TIG, for example, I think I'll need a full day so that we can really discuss all of those items that come out of the TIG, so that we're not wasting time taking them up piecemeal, and having to, you know, jog our memories when we have to recess a meeting or, you know, wait 'till the next Committee week to take up these items. And then, you know, we have to, you know, try our best to review our notes or recall what were the discussion points. And I think

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it's really important to just...as best as possible, to go through all of it and take care of it all one time. I think that that's easier, or...yeah, more conducive. And we have, like for example, a 201H project that's coming up in Affordable Housing, and we know that three hours, especially...I mean, I don't know about this project, but when 201H projects do come up, oftentimes they're...they, you know, require a lot of discussion. And sometimes it even, you know, we get a lot of testimony. And sometimes the testimony is about three hours, and that's the time of the Committee. And then...and then we have to recess and...and...it's...it's always a concern for testifiers that...will the Councilmembers remember the points that I made a week from now, you know? And so I think it's important for the testifiers to testify to whatever item it is that they came in for on the same day that deliberations and the voting take place. And so a full day of meeting would allow for that to happen. I think that for July, unfortunately, you know, that wasn't really a good example of what the proposed schedule was supposed to be. It's not supposed to be two Committee weeks back to back. But that was, you know, we're in a, you know, a different month and we're trying to accommodate the election. So I...you know, I'm not complaining about it or anything, it just wasn't a good example of how the proposed...my proposed schedule would have worked in a more normal-ish month. And so I would be happy to try it again, maybe, you know, in September, when we can kind of plan a little further ahead, and maybe other Members would be willing to consider to try that too. Because it's...the proposed schedule is also supposed to alleviate some of the work by having only four Committees to prepare for in a Committee week, instead of eight. Because it's a...it's a lot, you know. Especially when you have housing projects and, you know, TIG items and, you know, just planning. You know, those require a lot of discussion and sometimes, like I said, it draws in a lot of testimony. And so to just have all of that done one time, and not, you know, taking up what's supposed to be non-Committee weeks, so that we can work and prepare for the next Committee week. We're starting to take up a lot of our non-Committee weeks with Committee meetings. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Okay. Ms. Kama, and then Ms. Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So when you go back to doing the one full day, that means your Council Committees only meet once a month? Is that what it comes down to? Each Committee, Chair?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

CHAIR LEE: Yes. Yes. But that's your choice, you know.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But you can have a special meeting if you need to, if something is urgent.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I got to think about that. Okay. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Yeah. Ms. Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So I think we all experienced July, and having the all-day

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meeting. I really would like to hear from staff because they're a big part of who we are. Every time I stand in my committee, I know that behind me was Laks, and Lesley, and Miki, and Daryl...everybody who kind of helped, you know, get me there. But I really would like to hear from OCS staff, so maybe that's another Committee Chair's agenda.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. You know what? Okay. If I were the staff, I wouldn't want to be put on the spot right now. So why don't we just --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: No, not now.

CHAIR LEE: --ask them to put it in writing. Yeah?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Not now.

CHAIR LEE: Let's have them put it in writing, and then --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, and . . . *(inaudible)*. . . input.

CHAIR LEE: --but that's a good idea, to get their input. Okay. Ms. King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, I think though...and maybe for myself and Keani, we can talk to our...the OCS staff. Because, you know, my experience is it's less work for the OCS staff because they're only planning one meeting a month. And I can go back and ask them if...if that's true. I mean, it...it allows...it's really allowing us to focus and reach out to bring people into the meeting. But the other thing I wanted to say was that for July, because we had those back to back weeks, it was really great to only have one meeting because then I didn't have to quick...try to plan a second meeting the next week. So it actually worked out better. But the idea would be...it's not...we're not trying to limit anyone to once a month. We would just, you know, I think my...my thought is that we would just have one scheduled meeting a month, and if you wanted to have another meeting, you could plan it. But I think that we have...our schedule is extremely rigorous, more so than any other Council in the State of Hawaii, with these two...you know, the two meetings a month. And then when you only have three hours, and you're having to sometimes recess to another date, I agree with Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez, that we have...you know, the people might testify one day, and the issue doesn't get taken care of for another week or so, and they feel like maybe their words are not being carried over into the decision making. So those are some of, you know, my issues, why I really liked this...this exchange. And I think it doesn't have to hinder anybody who wants to have more meetings, it would just be, like, here's the regular schedule if we end up going that way.

CHAIR LEE: All right. And then any...Mr. Molina, did you have anything to say?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: No, nothing much to say, other than just I appreciate your flexibility with Members trying new things, and I support all of my colleagues if it's something that works for them, then you know. I'm appreciative of everybody coming in to meet on off weeks for my GET meetings. So just in general, I support

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everybody's, you know, request if they need to meet in a different fashion. So I have no problem with it. And thank you, Chair, for being flexible. I don't know if it's because of your Aikido training you just naturally flexible on all things but, you know, I just...you know, I'm open to all ideas. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: The things you think about, Mr. Molina. Okay. Wait 'till you see me. Wait 'till you see my costume. All right. Mr. Sinenci, and then Ms. Paltin. No? Ms. Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just wanted to echo Mr. Molina's sentiments, that I appreciate the flexibility. If you guys would be flexible, I'll take two all day meetings in a month. But, you know, what I noticed was even for the one where I had just one meeting of all testimony, for the breadth of issues for Planning and Sustainable Land Use, when we're dealing with those things, it kind of helped, just for that one project, to like, you know, hear their...hear the testimony, then compile all the testimony with my staff, and try and turn those into conditions or questions, you know, so that if I'm not, like, right there, kind of try to do it. And then, you know, going back and forth and giving the developer a chance to go and meet with the community associations, and then coming back. But, you know, there's all sorts of different types of things, so I appreciate the flexibility. But for that last one, it was...I thought it was helpful to...to deal with it, take a break, then go back and talk with staff about, like, here's the conditions, talk with the Members about the conditions, go back, modify the conditions into the format of the wording that was legally acceptable, and then come back. So...but yeah...if there was two all-day meetings, that might even be...work out as well. So that's just my two cents. It's kind of unfortunate because you want to be transparent and give the public as much notice about how it's going to be, but you want that same flexibility. So it's not like you can say, like, oh, this meeting...I mean, you could, but it wouldn't be getting the word out to everyone once they're like in a schedule, and they're like, I thought PSLU was this day for three hours. But like the next week, you have an issue that you know could take eight hours. So it's kind of like a balance act, you know, if you want the consistency so the public can count on it and rely on it, or you want the flexibility to fit the agenda item that you're talking about. So it's kind of like a...you got to figure it out, what people would prefer more. But to me, I like to be able to like, hear them, and then address it...here, you guys, compile it and address it, and like that support for those kind of projects. But I have some different issues coming up, so we'll see how that works. But with all the unilateral agreements and stuff like that too, it kind of takes some time to go back and forth with the developer and things to get the wording correct, and the meeting correct. So I appreciate the two meetings a month to get those things straightened out.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. All right. Anybody else? Mister...we...anybody else? Mr. Hokama? All right. All right. Now the next item is...so I guess to kind of bring some little closure to this, we...it seems that the Members are fine with Climate Change and EDB going all day, but not necessarily their Committees. So we can work, you know, we can work through that, okay? All right.

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4. **CLOSED CAPTIONING IN BLUEJEANS** (Council Chair Lee)

CHAIR LEE: So...now, so closed captioning in BlueJeans. This was more a Traci item than mine. Traci, are you...Traci or David, are you there?

MS. FUJITA: Yes. So this one...David actually brought to our attention that there is a feature in BlueJeans for closed captioning. And as you know, the...currently, the Council meetings, we do have a contract to provide closed captioning, but we don't have that same contract for the Committee meetings. It was proposed as a project for FY'21, but we reduced our funding for FY'21, so that project got removed. But we would like to maybe give it a try...try using this closed captioning feature in BlueJeans. Apparently, it's one...I think Tammy turned it on for this meeting, and if you go to your apps, I think, you can turn it on. So it's like a...I guess it's similar to how your TV...you know, how your TV, you can turn on closed captioning, so it's kind of like that with BlueJeans. So if somebody would like to have closed captioning --

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I can share screen.

MS. FUJITA: --I'm sorry?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You want me to share screen?

CHAIR LEE: Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Here, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Okay.

MS. FUJITA: Oh, okay.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, I'm going to share screen while Traci is talking.

MS. FUJITA: Okay. Yeah. So we, were just gonna...we were just gonna give it a try. We just wanted to let the Members know that we were going to give it a try for our Committee meetings.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Can everyone see it? See, it types as you're speaking. Can you see it typing?

MS. FUJITA: Um-huh.

CHAIR LEE: Oh, I see.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I'm looking at a...or is it in chat? I see the chat box.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, the chat box, on the side.

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, the chat box is in closed captioning?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You see it typing as we speak?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: That's closed captioning?

MS. FRIAS: Excuse me, Councilmembers, this is Tammy. I just wanted to clarify. There's two things that can happen in BlueJeans. So under the apps, there's this transcription feature that's transcribing the meeting live, which you all can see if you go to apps and click on view under the Transcription box. But there's also another feature to...to put your settings on closed captioning. Under the settings tool, there's a closed captioning feature you check off, and only you would be able to see that on your computer...as BlueJeans is going on, there's another closed captioning feature. So there's two different things in BlueJeans.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's right there, in Settings.

CHAIR LEE: Wow, what else can it do?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It can go Facebook live.

CHAIR LEE: Yeah, but can it cook dinner? . . . *(laughter)* . . . Okay. So any...that's good. So wait now, how much does this cost?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Free.

MS. FUJITA: It's included...it's included with BlueJeans, yeah.

CHAIR LEE: Oh, wow.

MS. FUJITA: So yeah, we just wanted to let the Members know that we were going to be trying it out at the next set of Committee meetings, see how it works.

CHAIR LEE: Yeah. Okay. Everybody in favor, I'm sure. Yes, Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair, real quick. So...but Traci, when we put it on...oh, so if the moderator puts it on, then it's on for everyone.

MS. FUJITA: Oh, may...maybe. I'm not sure.

MS. FRIAS: Sorry, this is Tammy. I'm the moderator for this meeting, so I have it turned...I have it...I'm turning it on now, and I can see it on my screen. I'm not sure if you folks can see the closed captioning. It'll be at the bottom of all of your video.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Cannot.

MS. FRIAS: It came on?

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COUNCILMEMBERS: No, we cannot see it.

CHAIR LEE: Well, we don't need to see it right now as we go through the meeting.

MS. FUJITA: Yeah, so I think the person viewing has to turn it on.

CHAIR LEE: Yeah, yeah. Yes.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, I know. *Akakū*...

CHAIR LEE: Yes, Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR LEE: Yes?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair, when *Akakū* is filming, if *Akakū* puts on their closed captioning, then it'll go onto the screen, I think.

CHAIR LEE: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's my theory.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Good theory.

MS. FUJITA: Well, I think the...yeah, I think what happens is *Akakū* will...they'll...they'll show the video...the BlueJeans video on. But I'm not sure if they have...because our...the closed captioning that the Council meetings have, it's a separate contract. It's not through *Akakū*.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, no, I mean --

MS. FUJITA: Oh.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --that if *Akakū* turns on their settings for closed captioning, then it'll show on their side. Like if I turn on mine --

MS. FUJITA: Oh, oh, oh.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --I can see closed captioning. So --

MS. FUJITA: You mean for the TV.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. As a meeting participant...as a meeting participant, if *Akakū* turns their settings on to closed captioning, then it'll show on their screen.

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MS. FUJITA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And what's showing on their screen will go onto the TV, yeah?

MS. FUJITA: Okay, got it.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I think.

CHAIR LEE: All right, let's move it on here. So everybody's in favor of the closed captioning.

**5. CEREMONIAL RESOLUTIONS** (Council Chair Lee)

CHAIR LEE: Now the ceremonial resolutions. What we're trying to do, everybody, is trying to catch up, and trying to take things in chronological order. Unless...unless you guys have some kind of time sensitive matter, just let us know. But we are going to start trying to catch up. Please remember for...until further notice, we're not accepting recipients in the Chamber. Any questions on that? If not, moving on to Number 6.

**6. OCS PROCEDURES REGARDING RESPONSIBILITIES FOR OBTAINING MAILING ADDRESSES FOR RESOLUTIONS** (Council Chair Lee)

CHAIR LEE: Okay. This one...Traci, you want to take this one too?

MS. FUJITA: Okay. So this one, I guess it was just more of a clarification. So for ceremonial resolutions, the Members' offices are responsible for providing the mailing addresses for the recipients of ceremonial resolutions. We've been having some other types of resolutions, they're not ceremonial, but more policy-like. And sometimes they have recipients that are not...they don't normally receive, you know, copies of our resolutions. So OCS staff will be working with the Councilmember's staff to get the mailing addresses for those types of resolutions. So we just wanted to provide clarification on that. As you're working on your resolutions when you, you know, who you want the resolutions to go to, kind of keep in mind about the addresses for these recipients. That was it.

CHAIR LEE: Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez? Boy, you're chatty this morning. . . *(chuckle)* . . .

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And I didn't have coffee. . . *(chuckle)*. . .

CHAIR LEE: Oh, my God.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I woke up on the right side of the bed this morning.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, not the side of the wall, okay?

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VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . . *(chuckle)*. . . No, I woke up with a lot of energy, I don't know why. Might be the moon. So the resolutions. When we're adding to who we're going to send it to, can we have, like, a shared list? Oh, so okay, here's an idea for everyone to consider. Maybe we can have a Google spreadsheet...Google spreadsheet, where we have all the, you know, the State Legislators, Congressional Delegates, and the other Councils, I guess. And those, you know, will be like the standard addresses. And then as we look up more addresses --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Add it to the list.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --we can add to the spreadsheet. Yes, exactly. So like the, you know, nation of Palau, that was a new one for us. So we...we throw it up on there. And then, you know, because we have that as a shared resource, no one will have to go and do that work again because someone already did it, and we won't have to, you know, constantly reinvent the wheel, and we'll save time. Mahalo, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I like that idea.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Kama.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Sounds good. Traci, is that okay?

MS. FUJITA: Sure. I know the Clerk's Office also maintains a list of commonly used, you know, recipient mailing addresses. But yeah, having a shared list would be helpful.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. So Members, please be cognizant of that. You know, don't start, you know, trying to send things to South Africa and whatnot, without having the address, yeah? Okay. All right. Moving on to--

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That's right. . . *(audio interference)*. . . Good morning in South Africa.

CHAIR LEE: Oh, Ms. ..huh?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But, you know how to say, "good morning" in South Africa, right?

CHAIR LEE: Yeah, I know, but that, you know, is not...that'll only get you so far, and not too far.

**7. UPDATE ON PURCHASING RECYCLED LAPTOPS FOR MAUI COUNTY'S STUDENTS IN NEED** (Council Chair Lee)

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Now let's see. The update on the laptops. Okay, we are...as you know, are trying to find out from the DOE...boy, and it's hard. It's like getting information

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from the CIA. But our staff, Mona, and Kayna, and Dianne, have been working hard to penetrate, you know, that group. So we finally got the information. You see, you cannot just send information to the principals. You cannot send stuff directly to the teachers. You have to send information to what is called the...the "Complex Liaison." And this person is in charge of several campuses. Like one of them is in charge of King Kekaulike, Baldwin, and let's say, Maui High. I don't know. And then some other person is in charge of the other schools. And then some other person is in charge of the middle schools. So finally, we got the permission from these liaisons to send them the information on the contest, and we also, at the same time, asked them...maybe not this particular group, but we did ask the DOE for information on their need for laptops. Because we were very successful, through the efforts of Member Kama, to get laptops from the mainland...recycled Chromebooks. And a bunch of them went to Moloka'i, 32 of...Tasha, how many went to...some went to Lana'i? Tasha?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah. I think we sent ten.

CHAIR LEE: Ten? And then you were...

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Ten went to Lana'i, and then 40 went to Boys and Girls Club over here in Maui.

CHAIR LEE: ...40? Yeah, so close to a hundred, you know, Tasha was able to get. So when the...we heard that the schools were only going to do a couple of days of in-person teaching, then of course, the kids need, you know, the devices at home. And many of them don't have. And we know the State doesn't have money. So we were trying to go back to the same source that Member Kama had, but...but now it would be much more expensive. So...because initially, he did it for free. And we just paid the freight. Now, there's a charge on it. So we're looking around for various sources on Maui, first of all. And then in Hawai'i second, to see if, let's say, Office Depot or whoever else does...works with computers has a whole bunch of recycled Chromebooks or laptops, et cetera. So we're still looking, and we found out that the DOE needs at least 2,000...for our kids now, Maui County kids. So we're going to keep looking and see...checking to see if there are companies that would consider partnering with us and we would help to...if there's any expense involved, then I'll be talking to Sandy Baz to see if we can get it covered by the COVID funds. So that's...that's the update on the laptops. Now, the way you guys are smiling at me, I thought I muted myself, and I would have to repeat myself . . . (*chuckle*) . . . I tell you guys, drive me crazy. So anyway, that's the update on the recycled laptops. Any questions on that? Okay. So the next thing is the contest.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Oh, Madam Chair? Madam Chair?

CHAIR LEE: Oh, yes, Mr. Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Sorry, Madam Chair. I know this is not on the agenda, but this does relate to laptops. My understanding is, we do have some laptops available

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for individual offices, and if you could provide us an update on that. Because I'm making this request because, you know, our desktops that we have in the office doesn't really work out well using the BlueJeans app, as far as the audio portion. So I was made aware that, you know, we do have some laptops that will soon be issued to any Members requesting. And as you know, a few weeks back, I'd ask you about purchasing a laptop. So once I found out...I heard the news that there is laptops available, rather than spending additional taxpayer dollars for, you know, a laptop.

CHAIR LEE: Right. Right.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: I would certainly like to request getting a laptop for myself and my office staff. So if you could provide us an update on that, I'd much appreciate that.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. In fact, right now, Traci, can you make sure that Marlene takes care of Mr. Molina's request for himself and his staff? And make sure that those laptops are cleaned and ready to go by Bruce. And see if he can get them this week? Okay, Traci?

MS. FUJITA: Yeah, I will see. I know Bruce has been really busy working on election stuff, but I'll check with him on the status.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Yeah, but make sure he has enough for the...his...him and his staff.

MS. FUJITA: Okay.

CHAIR LEE: Ms. King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah. Can we put in a request too?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Because I have a couple of staff that would like laptops as well, they've been having difficulty.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Traci, can you send a memo to all the Members and get a list? Get a list of requests. I know we have a bunch, so we should be able to --

MS. FUJITA: Yeah, yeah.

CHAIR LEE: --take care of everybody.

MS. FUJITA: No, I think everybody....everybody....I think Surface Pros were ordered for everybody, it's just a matter of getting them set up for use. So I'll just check with Bruce.

CHAIR LEE: Yeah.

MS. FUJITA: I did...I know Marlene told me that Bruce is going to be working on it --

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CHAIR LEE: Okay.

MS. FUJITA: --it's just that he was tied up with the election stuff.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Can you kind of make sure that Mr. Molina gets his first? Because we need him back --

MS. FUJITA: Okay.

CHAIR LEE: --with us, yeah?

MS. FUJITA: Okay.

CHAIR LEE: All right. That takes care of the laptops.

**8. UPDATE ON IMI PONO CONTEST** (Council Chair Lee)

CHAIR LEE: Now, the contest. Okay. We're almost ready to launch the contest. And of course, you know, we have one last chore today, and that is to do our little rap song. And the idea is, we want to make it exciting for the kids, yeah? We want to inspire them. We want to energize them. And sometimes, just regular talking doesn't do it. So we thought that, you know, if we did something closer to the...they...what they can relate to, then maybe that'll be even more encouraging for them. So we...like I said...started to say earlier, we got all the permission from all the complex liaisons, and they're ready to go. As soon as we do our rap video, we're going to send our rap video to every single school, every single grade, high school and middle school. And then you can start making your own appointments to go visit the school, if you want to. But I don't know how successful you'll be because I don't think they want to encourage gatherings, yeah? So that's the reason why we want to do this by email. We can send it to all the kids at home, if we wanted to, and we will try. We're going to boost this. I mean, we're going to send this not only to them, but to...to all the businesses that we know, all the people that are on our Facebook list, everybody, okay? And so...because we want everybody to have a chance at this. Okay, so hopefully, we can get through the rest of the agenda fairly quickly, and then we can do our video. Because you know us, we're not professionals, so it might take a little long to...even though everybody just has one sentence. But I hope you practiced your one sentence last night, okay? And Sarah is going to provide us with some background music. Okay, so Number 9, inauguration. Again, Traci, you want to come back on and tell us what you're thinking of?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Can I just ask one more question about that, before we leave the Imi Pono?

CHAIR LEE: Oh. Yes, Ms. King?

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, the...for the...when I was looking through the script, there's actually...everybody has their one single line, but there's actually two lines of all of us speaking together, so everybody should have three lines.

CHAIR LEE: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I just wanted to point that out.

CHAIR LEE: And just...just...I know you don't really care, but I changed my line.  
... *(laughing)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I might...I had changed mine slightly too, so.

CHAIR LEE: Yeah. And that's fine. Anybody can change, as long as you stick to the idea of that sentence because you might be encroaching on somebody else's sentence if you change it altogether, yeah? Okay. Like let's say, if you have a...trouble saying a certain word, you can use a synonym, yeah? That's what I mean by changing.

**9. PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION ON COUNCIL INAUGURATION** (Council Chair Lee)

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Now the discussion on the inauguration, Traci.

MS. FUJITA: Yes. So OCS just wanted to get some direction from the Members on inauguration. Normally, by now, we have the different areas of responsibilities outlined and like, staff responsibilities, and things like that. Given the COVID environment, we weren't sure if we should maybe be looking more at an online type of inauguration, or the traditional one in Chambers. I mean, we just kind of wanted to get an idea of what the Members were thinking. I know it's kind of...you know, it's kind of hard because, you know, we haven't had the election yet, but the staff needs to start preparing now for it. So yeah, we just kind of wanted to get your thoughts on that, what you were thinking.

CHAIR LEE: Okay Members, before I call on you, let me just share my thoughts. I figured if we couldn't get Dr. Fauci, then we should ask the winner of the Imi Pono contest. . . . *(chuckling)* . . . Okay, who's next...who has ideas, raise your hands. Tamara, you looking like you taking me seriously, I don't think we can get Dr. Fauci. Okay. Ms. King, and then Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, I was going to say, I'll...I'll see if we can...I'm doing the climate reality project training, so I'll see if I can get Al Gore. But no, I think that...I think we're going to...we need to wait 'till it gets a little bit closer too, because things are changing almost daily, weekly, monthly. So even if we tried to make decisions today, it's going to be different in a month. It's going to be different in two months. So, you know, I just...I don't really have any ideas that I think are going to stick through next January, I guess is kind of where I'm at. But you know, kind of have to see. And I understand wanting to plan, but you know, you could put a lot of energy

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into it, and then it could change next week. So, you know, just...that's kind of my input.

CHAIR LEE: Yeah. Yeah, that's pretty much how I felt too. Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez, and then Ms. Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I think, maybe what would be helpful to OCS, and Traci can correct me if I'm wrong, but I think we should set, like, a deadline for when we're going to say, okay, we're not going to have some...a ceremony in person. Because it takes --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Time certain.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --yeah, it takes time to plan these things, and I don't think it would be fair to our staff if, you know, COVID disappears in, you know, on November 15th, all of a sudden it's gone, and we expect, you know, our staff to put together a in-person inauguration, you know, in a month and a half. So I think what might be helpful...and I don't know, Traci, if you think this is helpful...if we choose a date where we're saying, okay, we're not going to have it in person for sure, and then we can plan to have something online. But either way, I think what Chair Lee is saying is whether it's in person or online, having a keynote speaker is something that we will likely want. If anyone disagrees, I think this is the time that we'll...we'll say, we disagree. But I think we are all on the same page as far as having some kind of a keynote speaker, and it takes time to secure a keynote speaker as well. And so, you know, we need to put our nine brains together to figure out who it is, and then ask someone. I'd love to have Jason Momoa...just kidding.

COUNCILMEMBERS: . . . *(laughing)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I have a friend who knows him, so maybe, you know...just kidding. And back to serious. So for the inauguration, you know, I think if we can just choose a date and then help out OCS staff in that way, that would be good. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Ms. Paltin, and then Ms. Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I just was thinking like, you know how Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez, when she was going into the budget, she said that we should prepare for the worst case scenario? And I was thinking we should do something similar, whatever it is, the worst case scenario for the folks that are getting inaugurated, that that's kind of what we should try to prepare for. Because then everything else is easier, maybe. And I don't know if the worst case scenario is in person for OCS, or if the worst case scenario is online for OCS, they probably know what the worst case scenario for them is. And you know, I don't know, only Member Sugimura and Member Lee are guaranz ballbaranz, so I would be fine with leaving it up to OCS, what is their worst case scenario, and working backwards from that. It's my vote, or my comment.

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CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Ms. Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Although, if I did win, I did want to take a picture with the little sign and Ms. Kaohu. Or maybe we can still do that if it happens.

CHAIR LEE: What sign?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You know how they give you, like, a picture with your name on it or something, and you took a picture with Josiah, last time?

CHAIR LEE: I see. Yeah, yeah. Okay. Ms. Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So I'm really supportive of having a time certain, what is that drop deadline date that we have to make a decision. I'm also supportive of whoever that speaker might be, we can agree on that. Because you also need somebody to swear you all in, you know. So that has to be decided upon. But stuff like that can be thought about even now. But I think the bigger thing is, is it in-person or is it on virtual? But you know, some of the campuses, the kids, where they graduate from high school? They did the whole decorating the field, they did this, and all the kids did was go, take pictures, did their march, did their walk, and then they proceeded off the field. I mean, something like that could...could maybe be created just in case, you know, that you could do either/or. But at least you'd have the background of the...you know, the Chambers would be decorated, you would have that sense, that aura, that feeling, of this is really something great, you know. And then you do whatever you have to do, whether it's virtual or in-person. But, you know, we could probably think about doing it in a way so that if the drop dead date was in October, then you could still actually do something, you know, in January if it had to go live or whatever. But that's just my thought, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: All right. Did I see your hand up, Ms. Sugimura? Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So I think until we find a vaccine, we're going to be kind of in this mode. And as long as we have the leadership that we do in Washington, D.C., we're not going to be...the nation's not going to walk together. I think if any of you heard Dr. Fauci this morning, Keani, you would be happy to hear his analogy about why this pandemic is...is still around. But he talks about...he said he really thought about this, and he said, "if you think about a canoe, and everyone is paddling, and you have one person who doesn't paddle the same as everybody else, it doesn't achieve what you want, right?" And that's...he said that that's where we are today. I think we're still going to be online, and that until we get...even on Maui, you know, you walk around and you see people that are not wearing masks, who are out in the open, who think that it's no big deal. Well, guess what? It is. You know, they're the ones not paddling in the same direction as everybody else. So I stand by the things that we need to do as leaders, and try to walk the talk. I don't think we're going to be able to have, you know, ceremonies like we were...like was so special in the Council Chambers, and I appreciate, Traci, you even asking us. But I think the reality of this

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pandemic is way bigger than a wish that, you know, we wish that things could be better. So choosing your, you know, speakers, and doing some basic stuff, yeah, that can be done. But I think we're all going to be doing the...you know, the inauguration like this, and that's fine. You know, we just maybe put balloons in the back of us, or flowers or something. But we're in a new reality until we get a vaccine.

CHAIR LEE: Anybody else? If not, Traci...

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Chair? Chair?

CHAIR LEE: Oh, Mr. Molina, I'm sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah.

CHAIR LEE: That's right, I don't see you.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: That's okay. That's okay. Just, you know, my thoughts on this. I think I can agree with my colleague, Member Paltin, we should plan for...I don't want...I guess you have to call it worse case scenario. We should plan for a virtual inauguration, at least to make sure it's in place. Because I don't know if we're going to have a vaccine developed by that time, but...and, you know, to me, better to make the commitment now for virtual inauguration and move forward with it. And it also sets a good example for others to live by. And...but if I could ask Director Fujita, how much did it cost in terms of doing an in-person inauguration versus doing something virtual? If you have that information.

MS. FUJITA: I don't have it handy, but I believe it's in your budget documents, the expenditure for the inauguration. It can be found in there.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, okay. Yeah, so I don't have that good a memory, but I would imagine a virtual inauguration would cost less. And so if we're talking about trying to be tight with the public dollar, then that might be something to consider. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Good point. Yes, okay. Anybody else? If not, Traci, why don't you work with the staff and figure out a deadline --

MS. FUJITA: Um-hum.

CHAIR LEE: --that works for you guys, and then...and let us know what...when we have to make certain decisions. Okay?

MS. FUJITA: Okay. Yeah, I'm thinking it might be helpful if we could at least start, you know, planning for something virtual. And then as the time gets closer, maybe we can add...you know, we can change it, depending on, you know, how things are. But even for that, like for the keynote speaker, we kind of have to know, you know, is this keynote speaker...are we expecting that person in-person or virtual? Because that's

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going to make a difference, you know, as far as who we can ask. So I think for the staff, if we could maybe just start right now planning for something virtual, and then if things open up, we can modify it. I think that might be helpful for us at this point.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Agreed.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. All right.

MS. FUJITA: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: And then people...maybe for now, people can send you their suggestions on a keynote speaker.

MS. FUJITA: Um-hum.

CHAIR LEE: At least you have an idea of what people are thinking. Okay?

MS. FUJITA: Right. Okay.

CHAIR LEE: All right. So...

MS. FUJITA: Thanks.

10. **UPDATE: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT VIDEO** (Councilmember King)

CHAIR LEE: So then let's move on. The next two items will be Member King, Civic Engagement Video, and the pamphlet regarding the Charter Amendments.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. On the first one, I was...Dave Raatz is on the line, I think, and he's going to give an update. OCS has been working real closely with Suzanne from my staff in continuing on with this project. And we got waylaid, of course, by the COVID-19, all the shutdowns and everything, but got it up...up and going again. So, Dave, are you there? Do you want to give a quick update on where we're at with this project?

MS. FUJITA: But, Chair...oh...

MR. RAATZ: Thank you, Councilmember. Yes, I'm here. But Laks, actually, I think, is ready to give an update. Thanks.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, great. Thanks. So we've had...we've had Alison Stewart, Kasie Apo-Takayama, and Laksmi Abraham working on this as well. And so, Laks, you want to give us an update of where we're at with it? We're almost done with it, we're going to...

MS. ABRAHAM: Sure. Hi, everybody. So as far as our Civic Engagement Video is going,

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we've been working on it since early spring. I came in somewhat, like, midway through the project. But the video is intended to be used as a tool to help the public stay informed, get involved, and help them lend their voice to Government issues. And as I mentioned, the project did launch in spring; however, like everything else, we were affected with this project through COVID as well, and had to change a lot of the things in the video because obviously, civic engagement had changed quite a bit as well. So we quickly rewrote our script, and the script now will be broken down into five key areas. We kind of struggled a little bit with, you know, do we change...do we change the video to accommodate post-COVID? Do we change it...keep it the same way as it was before? But we decided to go with adjusting it to the way that we're doing civic engagement currently. So the video will be broken into five key areas. The five areas include...the first section will be focused on what you should know about your local Government, basically just explaining the three levels of Government: Federal, State, and County. It'll give an explanation to the Maui County Charter, County-wide Plan, and County/District representation. It also explains how the Council works, and their responsibilities. The second section will go into how the County Council makes laws. That will break down the process of how laws are made and breaks down the steps to explain how bills are passed, and resolutions are approved. The third section will go on to give information on just something as simple as reading a Council meeting agenda. Things as simple as like, where to locate it, how to read it, what information...where to pull information off the agenda. It also explains what the Council can take action on, and how. And it goes on to also talk about the Sunshine Law. The fourth section, "How can I provide testimony at Council and Committee Meetings," this section breaks down how to do written testimony, oral testimony. It also helps give tips on preparing your testimony for people that are really new to the process, and it also encourages people that, you know, if you don't want to give testimony, you can also get involved by watching the meetings on *Akakū*. And then the fifth section focuses on, "How can I participate in local Government?" It kind of recaps a lot of the things that we talked about in the first four sections, but specifically, it explains how to stay involved...I'm sorry, stay informed and get more involved. And this, again, recaps the testimony, also talks about watching *Akakū* and the Council meetings, and other ways that you can get involved with your local Government. So the sections are intended to be able to be watched in five different sections, or you can watch them together as one full section. And it's our intention that this piece will be able to be used when you go and do presentations...the schools, association groups, town halls, to try to help engage the community a little bit more, and help them understand the process, and how they can be involved in that process as well. So we're hoping to have the video wrapped up by the end of next month. And we have finalized the script, and we are shooting as we speak, and with a little luck, we'll be done by the end of next month. Any questions?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Thank you, Laks. And then just to follow up on where...you know, Laks came in at the point when Chester left because Chester had a lot of...we had him on this project because of his experience in this area. And so thank you for stepping in, Laks, where...and that kind of slowed things down a little bit too, just repositioning everybody, and also adding the pieces on for the new way that we're doing our meetings and taking public testimony. And so the...the

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piece...the five sections are just a few minutes apiece. I think the longest section is maybe five minutes. So it's intended to be somewhere around 25 minutes max, 25 to 30 minutes max if you showed all of it. But you can pull out pieces of it, and just talk about pieces of it. And we're going to...the plan is to distribute this to community associations, to schools, to wherever and whoever is interested in...I spoke at a couple of civic classes, high school civic classes in the last couple of years, and it's amazing how interested the students are in, actually, the differences in government. They don't understand why we can't do anything about the schools, and why the State people can't do anything about our parks. You know, like the differences in what we do versus what the State Legislature does, and the Administration versus the policymakers is a big difference too, that people don't quite understand. So I was...it was interesting that I got so many questions when I spoke at King Kekaulike, that the bell rang and they were still asking questions. You know, I expected everyone to head out the door. So this will be a tool that we can use. It's ongoing. It'll make it easier...if we make changes to our process, or if the laws change, we can pull out sections and redo pieces...correct pieces that might not be...to update it as we go. But hopefully, we'll have...maybe if there's another Chair's meeting in the next few weeks, we can have some...a little bit of a trailer to show to the Councilmembers. But, you know, it's totally meant to be non-political, so no elected officials or anybody...candidates or anybody in the videos. It's just pure...it's really trying to focus on the process, and trying to make that interesting without big personalities has been a challenge, I think, to our videographer. But he's very dedicated to what...to going through this process.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you very much.

MS. ABRAHAM: Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Sounds wonderful. Great project.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Well, we'll try to get some little snippets, at least, to show to the Councilmembers. And then the...are we...do you want to go onto the second...the next one?

CHAIR LEE: Yes.

**11. INFORMATIONAL PAMPHLET REGARDING CHARTER AMENDMENTS**  
(Councilmember King)

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. So the next one was creating an informational pamphlet. And I opened up a PAF on this, because when we started talking about Charter Amendments early or maybe mid-last year, and hopefully Mike Molina is still on the call, there was a lot of talk about --

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: I'm here.

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: --thanks, Mike--there was a lot of talk about, you know, some of the complicated background on some of these issues. And back then, our County Clerk had made a commitment to publishing information on the Charter Amendments once they got passed through the Council. And so I did go back to Kathy Kaohu, and she indicated that she would not be doing that. And so rather than push her on it...because I know she's just still feeling her way, and there's a whole new process. So I did go to OCS, and OCS is looking at it. I asked them to send...I got a email from James Forrest with a copy of...an attachment that's a PDF of a pamphlet that the Honolulu County Clerk did for their Charter Amendments, and so he was...did you guys get that? Because I asked him to send it to everybody. It's...this is back in 2016. They had a little brochure they put out, and it says, "your"...it's on Charter Amendments, and it says, "your vote counts." And so I can, I'll have them...did anybody get that? Anybody? You got it? Okay, Keani got it.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I got it.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So, you know, I really felt like this should come from the County Clerk's Office, but I think the next best thing is if OCS can put it together, and then bring a draft to the Council so we can make sure that it's...everybody's comfortable with it, that it's purely informational, and it's not advocating for any of the Charter Amendments one way or the other. I mean, having a brochure is purely informational, I'm sure people will pick it up and use it to advocate for, and use it to advocate against. So we're not making a judgment call, it's just trying to get the information so people understand what the...what these Charter Amendments mean. And there'll be links to the actual committee reports, after the...after passing them out of Committee . . . *(coughing)* . . . sorry about that. So anyway, that's kind of...I just wanted to update everybody on that project. And I know there've been a couple of other Councilmembers who have talked to OCS about the same thing, so hopefully we can move forward with it.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, everybody. Comments? Mr. Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, I was just wondering if..was the Council going to be sending out, like, a mailer that has all the Charter Amendments in it prior to the November election?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Well, we don't have that budgeted. You know, to tell you the truth, we could if we wanted to because there's a precedent for it. Back in the last term, when the State Legislature had proposed to tack on a fee onto our real property tax, and the Council sent out a mailer about that issue to all of the residents. I think Mike White put \$50,000 in the budget for that. And we actually got taken to court over that because we're not supposed to be using taxpayer dollars to advocate. And the case was made that we weren't advocating, we were just presenting the information, and it actually held up in court. So we didn't get...we were cleared of that...as a Council, we were cleared of that charge. But that...that is the precedent, although we don't have any...I don't know that we have any money in the budget specified for this. That was a case where the Council put \$50,000 in the budget to do

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that mailer. And they didn't use the whole thing, so I don't...I can't remember the amount that they used. So we could do that if we had money, and if we wanted to. But for right now, it's just getting it in a format where we can share it, and it can be on our Council website to explain the...what the Charter Amendments mean.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. I thought maybe prior, that Ms. Fujita said that there was some funds for just mailers in general for...that was budgeted.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, I would love to...I would love to be able to do that if the Council wants to. I think that's something that we can decide on as a body if we want to do that.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Mr. Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, no. I just want to say I appreciate Member King bringing this matter up. And just as an FYI, for next week's GET meeting, August 11, I plan on having the Clerk's Office, you know, share with us a presentation, if they have any, about educating the public about the Charter Amendments. So I think this is quite timely that Member King is bringing this up. So I just wanted to share that with you and the Members, Madam Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez? No?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Yeah. So yeah. So the former Clerk, Josiah Nishita, put \$60,000 in for Charter Amendment education. And so...I don't know if everyone's seeing it, but I can share my screen. So that's what the Charter Amendment that Member King sent...so that's what it looks like. The Charter Amendment question, the present situation, the proposal passes...proposal...if the proposal passes, so what we're going to do. So I'm not sure if it's something that, as far as process goes, and I'm not sure if our attorneys would want to weigh in on this, but if Council would...or I don't know. Maybe the question is, how was Honolulu's one put together? Was it the Clerk's Office, their Clerk's Office that put that together?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah. Yes.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It was? Okay. Yeah. So...and my...my...I guess my thought was that. . .*(audio interference)*. . .if we could have a resolution that would...that we would discuss what would be on the pamphlet? . . .*(audio interference)*. . . And that way--I think that's Member Molina--that way we would...it would be more fair. ...That's not me.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No that was...I was just showing...I was just sharing what the...what the piece was from Honolulu. It looks like this.

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VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, yeah. I did. I shared it. Yeah. So I think our Council, if by weighing in on what would the language be for what the current situation is, and then if the Charter Amendment passes, what would be the new...or what would be the new situation. And then that way, both those that agreed with the Charter Amendment, and then those that didn't, would be able to wordsmith the language that would go into the information, the pamphlet. And then that way it would be perceived as more fair, so that that pressure of choosing the right words and how to frame it wouldn't be solely on the shoulders of the Clerk's Office, which I can understand it would be a really uncomfortable position to be in. And so I don't know if that's something that would be legal, if like we created a resolution for us to help to wordsmith or choose the language that would be in the educational pamphlet for the Clerk's to use to send out to the public. But that was something that I was thinking could help with the perception of it being fair. Mahalo, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So we...so Chair, can we maybe ask David Raatz to weigh in? Because that's one of the reasons I went to OCS because I was figuring, you know, we...we have legal advice of our attorneys. You're muted, Alice.

CHAIR LEE: Yeah, we will. So first, Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So my sense is that I would think that the Clerk would probably be a lot more fair in terms of just saying, "This is the Charter Amendment. This is what"...if you pass it, this is what will happen. If you don't pass it, this is what will happen." And just kind of, like, let it go at that. But just explain it to the people, so that it's clear to them, that if they say, "yes," this is what will happen; if they say, "no," this is what will happen. And it could be just as simple as that, so that maybe we don't get into the weeds of stuff, but just, you know, at least a summary of what it would do. And I think if the Clerk's Office did it that way...that way we don't get into that discussion that we got into when we started talking about the Amendments to begin with, which brought us to where we are today. So my sense is that, if the Clerk doesn't...similar to how...what O'ahu did. If you look at that brochure with their 20 Amendments on it, that it's very clear. It says, this is what it is. If you vote "yes," this is what it will do. If you vote "no," this is what it will do. And then they just let the public decide. I think that's probably a lot more fair, and a lot more in terms of...there's no biases. Because, you know, we're all going to be fighting for our biases now, and no matter how much you wordsmith, we want to make sure our word gets in there. But if it's from a Clerk perspective, it comes out a little bit more equitable and, you know. So that's my sense of...you know.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Can I respond, Chair?

CHAIR LEE: Yeah, okay. Ms. King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So...okay. So exactly what you just said was what I was hoping for. And so...but when I emailed the Clerk and asked her if she was planning to do something like that, or if she would, I got a response to that, "No, we're just planning

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to put the actual question on...out there, so people know what the questions will be." So that's why, you know, I have no...I think...you know, that was my first thought is, it should come from the Clerk's Office. But...and then I thought, well, maybe, okay, if they're too busy or if they're...if they're, you know, having issues with all the other stuff their dealing with; the mail-in, the COVID-19 pandemic, and now we have Trump threatening to shut down the Post Office. So, you know, I understand that they're busy. So maybe we could...and possibly through the Chair, get OCS to work with the Clerk's Office to help them put that together. But I thought it should come from either OCS or the Clerk's Office in that...that that would make it more fair and objective, rather than coming from my office. You know, if I put something together, probably it would be more subjective because I have opinions on these things, and every Councilmember does. And I've seen things come out of other Councilmembers' offices that have an opinion on some of the Charter Amendments. But I think we need...just...you know, for the general public, we need to put something out there that's objective, that has just the black and white, here's what happens if you vote "yes," here's what happens if you vote "no," what does this mean? And then, you know, it has links to the Committee meeting, so that if people really wanted to delve into why they...why this came about and what the discussion was, that they could go back to that...that Committee meeting, and see what it was that we were thinking when we were making these decisions.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Here's Kathy Kaohu.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Anyway, that's my...yeah, that's my...that was kind of my...well --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Here's Kathy.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: --and I see we have our Clerk here, so maybe she has some comments.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, Kathy, do you have any comments? You can unmute yourself. Unmute your...you're muted.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Sorry, we're not laughing at you. We're just...we've got a...

MS. KAOHU: Good morning.

CHAIR LEE: Wow, Tamara.

MS. KAOHU: Oh, my gosh.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, Kathy.

MS. KAOHU: I'm just looking at the pink hair, sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: It's a little distracting.

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MS. KAOHU: We have our final election...our primary election day is Saturday. And so there are some things we're looking into. As far as the educational piece from the Honolulu City and County, that came from their Charter Commission. And so I...but I got at least a week or a few days after primary to look further into this. I do have some legal questions that I'd like to pass, perhaps, or express to the Chair. And then maybe more comment will be ready for the GET meeting that Councilmember Molina just informed us about . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

CHAIR LEE: Okay. That sounds good. That sounds good.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah. Thank you for . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR LEE: Okay. We'll just wait for them then, the GET meeting.

MS. KAOHU: Thank you. But taking everyone's comments in heart and consideration.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. And can you...can you...Kathy, can you do me a favor and just talk to James Forrest and OCS to see where they're at with moving this along? Because he was the one that sent me that brochure and said it was from the County Clerk over there. So...however, I think it's great that we're all kind of working on this together, and however you can get it done.

CHAIR LEE: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I'm not married to having to be directly involved. . . (audio interference) . . .want it to happen. So thank you for that.

MS. KAOHU: I'll check with James, and I'll also check with Josiah --

CHAIR LEE: All right.

MS. KAOHU: --and...to better understand what his intentions were.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Good.

12. **CHAIR'S MEETING SCHEDULE** (Council Chair Lee)

CHAIR LEE: So the next item is the Chair's meeting schedule. And all I have to say about that is, we...for some reason, some of our Council meetings have been going extremely long. So it would be torturous to add the Chair's meeting on top of the Council meeting. So if you don't mind, we're going to move that meeting around so that we don't have such long, long meetings, okay? Any problems with that? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: No objections.

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**13. SOCIAL DISTANCING/ANTI-COVID-19 MEASURES FOR RETURNING TO COUNCILMEMBER OFFICES** (Councilmember Kama)

CHAIR LEE: Now, number 13. We're almost done. Social distancing. Member Kama, you brought that up.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Right. So the issue was that I wanted to try to get back into my office and bring my staff back, but there's just no room. And so I was trying to...so I told them to go and make space, and you know, they did create space, but it's like it doesn't matter. So then I wanted them to go and have a risk management goal and do some kind of recognizance [*sic*] to see how can we...or what can we do to be able to put up some kind of safe distancing mechanisms, whether they be shields or glass or whatever. But in the end, it almost seemed like what...we make room only to crowd it out again, if you're going to try to put some safe distances between the staff and...so I don't know, maybe we should just go somewhere else and have our office. I don't know. Maybe we should be like Tamara and go and have an office off campus somewhere. But anyway...but the idea was that if we intended to go back, you know, how does...how are we going to safe distance ourselves when the place is so small that we can't even get two of our own people in that small place. So hopefully that, you know, our Councilmembers will come up with some ideas --

CHAIR LEE: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: --in terms of how do we create safe distances in our own office.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Yeah, that's...that's going to be quite a challenge. But I do...I do have to say that I spoke with the Mayor a couple of weeks ago, and I asked him if he'd be interested in giving us some land for...to build our own building, and he did say ten acres by the base yard. So that'll be a future discussion, okay?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Wow.

CHAIR LEE: Maybe we can design something for ourselves, and not squeeze into what, you know, these little old cubby holes that have been here since the '70s.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Well, you know, you're not talking about us, right? Because we not going be here by the time that gets done. But it's the nice thought for the future.

CHAIR LEE: No. No, no, no, no.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah. Ten years, we out.

CHAIR LEE: I always tell people, don't underestimate me.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Okay.

CHAIR LEE: Okay.

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COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I got that.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, so then...

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: In our lifetime, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: In your lifetime. In our lifetime as Councilmembers.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

14. **COVID-19 IMPACTS** (Council Chair Lee)

CHAIR LEE: Okay. So...and then the last item is COVID-19 impacts. That was just a general...

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: But Chair?

CHAIR LEE: ...that was just a general... Oh, Mr. Molina, you have a comment?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah. No, no. Just real quickly, just wanted to thank Member Kama for bringing up the previous topic. And you know, again, before we consider opening, we need to make adjustments to the offices to protect our employees. That should be the first and foremost thing. And we cannot force our workers...as you know, how our offices are configured, at least the front portion, we cannot force our workers to work in tight quarters and subject them to potential infection. And, you know, one option is, you know, if we want to open our offices, have one...and most of us have had two EAs working in that front portion of the office. One EA can work at...in the office, and the other can work at home. So, you know, leave it to the members to how they want to do that. And I know the Mayor has made public statements that seemingly, at least the way that I interpret...pressuring the Council to open our offices. I mean, you know, I think the Legislative branch and the Executive branch, you know, we have the right to view things differently, and I think we're looking at putting more focus on employee and public health. So I don't think we should give in to that kind of pressure. I mean, you know, we have a right to...if we want to put an emphasis on protecting our employees, I think that's within our rights. So just wanted to make that statement, Madam Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Absolutely. Tamara, what are you doing? . . . *(laughing)*. . . You driving me crazy. Yes, Ms. King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: It's a fun diversion over here. So no, I just wanted to piggyback on the concern for our offices. And do we know what's being cleaned...how often? Because I've gone in a couple of times, I think other Councilmembers have, it seems like Riki Hokama goes in and does every meeting from there. So is that...is the 8th floor being cleaned? Do we...do we...can we find out what the schedule of...

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CHAIR LEE: We'll check on that. We'll ask Kathy or Traci to check on that.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, especially the common areas.

CHAIR LEE: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I'm not so worried about my office because I do have staff that trades off, but --

CHAIR LEE: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: --using the bathroom, or using the printers --

CHAIR LEE: Yeah. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: --and, you know, who else has been there.

CHAIR LEE: Yeah. Kathy, you don't have to answer now. You don't have to answer now. Okay, maybe by email, you and Traci can get together first. Talk about it. Okay. . . . *(laughing)*. . . Are you growing a beard?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: . . . *(laughing)*. . . I was wondering what...

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Anything else? Yes, Ms. Sugimura? And then Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Based upon...based upon the show that we've been seeing with Tamara Paltin, and I think she's getting ready for the rap. But I really believe that we need Mike Molina with us. I don't know what..you know, if we do the rap today, and he's only by phone, I mean, he's the one person, honestly, that is a professional quality musician amongst us, with the Molina family...

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Oh, my God.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: And I mean, you know...he's...

CHAIR LEE: Hey, wait a minute. Wait a minute. I resemble that remark.

COUNCILMEMBERS: . . . *(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR LEE: Okay...

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: You are too kind, Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: . . . *(audio interference)*. . .maybe we can get Mr. Molina here, and we can actually see him rapping.

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CHAIR LEE: No, I'm sorry, I'm sorry. We're all geared up for this. You know, we can have him do one separately --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: . . . *(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR LEE: --with...Alison can contact him and they can do it by BlueJeans just like this. And so what I'm going to ask everybody, since we're pretty much done with our agenda, is take a couple of minutes to fix yourselves up a little bit. Yes, Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I had one more item under COVID-19 impacts.

CHAIR LEE: Oh, what...and what is that?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The gallery view.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Go ahead.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. So really quickly. So I've been hearing from the community that they really want to see everyone's beautiful faces all the time on *Akakū*. Because right now, when we have meetings, if we choose speaker view, then it'll only be one person at a time. And there are other, you know, squares at the bottom, but it's covered by the banner. And so I've been having my EDB meetings in speaker view so that everyone can...so that the public can see everyone as we're discussing and deliberating, and making funny ears and funny faces. . . . *(chuckle)*. . .

CHAIR LEE: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. And...

CHAIR LEE: No, I'm listening. I'm listening. I'm getting into character.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: ...okay. . . *(laughing)*. . .your filter is real-life filter.

CHAIR LEE: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's not a virtual filter. So I know *Akakū* encourages us to use the speaker view, but the speaker view will only have one person at a time. So it would be more closely like having the meeting in person by having gallery view because then, when we have it in the Chambers, people can see everyone in the Chamber. And it would be kind of like what Member King has been pushing for, which is, you know, turning the Chambers to view the public so that we're...so it looks more like a...like a meeting.

CHAIR LEE: Okay.

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VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: If we can have that for the Committee meetings, and for the Council meeting.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Are you done? Done?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . . *(laughing)*. . . I know, I know. We're getting to the important part. The rap.

CHAIR LEE: Yeah, you know. Come on. It's almost lunchtime.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Holding it up. Okay.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, Mr. Sinenci and Ms. King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Can I ask...can I ask something really quickly of Keani? Because I thought that it was up to us to put the view that we want. But how...so you're saying that the public is only seeing us on that...the linear thing, and they're not seeing this gallery view? Oh, okay.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes, yes. Exactly.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: 'Cause the gallery view is what I always pick because of that...because I like to see everybody's faces at the same time.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Right. Right.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So I think...you know, so I totally agree that that's what the public should be seeing.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Right. So if you...if you choose the icons that are on the bottom left with the speaker, the people, and the gallery view, that's only for your individual view, for your individual screen. So if you go to settings, and choose...go down...oh, here. Well, if you go down more, then you can see it. But if you go to settings and choose gallery view on your settings, then it'll make...oh, right. I'm not a moderator, that's why. I don't have the...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So basically, what you're saying is that the moderator can keep it on that gallery view for the public?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, for everyone.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then that gallery view will end up on Channel 53.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. I totally support that. Thank you.

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VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member King.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Okay, ready? Now, just to let you know --

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I love it.

CHAIR LEE: --just to let you know that when I was walking to work today, yeah, I was thinking, now, what can I wear? And I passed my son's room, so I got a gold...I got a chain, but he didn't have a medallion. See. But then I saw an empty Vienna sausage can, that's my medallion. And then...and then I pass my mother's old drawer, and she has this old scarf, kerchief, yeah. So I was . . . *(audio interference)* . . . this is what I can use in the future, you know. So the good thing about this, it's very versatile. This is what was called a "Portuguese bandits." They're for bank robbers. They would cover their eyes, like that. See, Portuguese bank robber. That way, nobody could identify them. See . . . *(audio interference)* . . . and I kept walking.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair.

CHAIR LEE: So I put all these, you know --

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair, would you like to adjourn the meeting?

CHAIR LEE: --all these bling, bling stuff on. Yeah, all this bling, bling stuff. And then finally, I passed the bathroom. Because I thought, "oh, I need earrings." And then I took from the shower curtains...which are falling down now...the shower curtain. Here's my earrings. . . . *(chuckle)* . . . So I am ready. And then I got my baseball cap, yeah? My baseball cap. I am set. So look at Tamara. Do it, Tamara. Now everybody, are you guys ready? You guys look the same to me.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. We have to...we have to --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: You're going to give us a few minutes to go get ready.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, go get ready.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --we have to adjourn...you have to adjourn the Chair's meeting. Adjourn.

CHAIR LEE: Any objections to adjourning the Chair's meeting?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR LEE: Give you five minutes. Five minutes. Five, five. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

**ADJOURN:** 12:14 p.m.

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APPROVED:

  
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ALICE L. LEE *MP*  
Council Chair

chr:min:200805:jkh

Transcribed by: Jaylene K. Hamilton

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CERTIFICATE

I, Jaylene K. Hamilton, hereby certify that the foregoing represents to the best of my ability, a true and correct transcript of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not in any way concerned with the cause.

DATED the 11th day of September 2020, in Wailuku, Hawaii



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Jaylene K. Hamilton