

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

April 4, 2007

Lokelani Intermediate School Cafeteria, Kihei

CONVENE: 6:06 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Joseph Pontanilla, Chair
Councilmember Michelle Anderson, Member
Councilmember Gladys C. Baisa, Member
Councilmember Jo Anne Johnson, Member (Leave 9:05 p.m.)
Councilmember Danny A. Mateo, Member
Councilmember Bill Kauakea Medeiros, Member
Councilmember Michael J. Molina, Member
Councilmember Michael P. Victorino, Member

EXCUSED: Councilmember G. Riki Hokama, Vice-Chair

STAFF: David Raatz, Substitute Legislative Attorney
Tammy Frias, Substitute Committee Secretary
Kelly McGinnis, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Joseph Pontanilla

OTHERS: Andrew Beerer
Taylor Yap
Chloe Yap
Wayne Cochran, Save Honolua Coalition
Isabella Bissen, Family Case Manager, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.
Head Start Program
Sandra Hernandez, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. Head Start Program
Hildie Schap, Enlace Case Manager, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.
Head Start Program (translator for Sandra Hernandez)
Marian Ringius, Teacher's Aide, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. Head
Start Program
Mike Morris, Maui Family Y.M.C.A.
Stacy Dugan Wood, Maui Family Y.M.C.A.
Mary Ann Mitchell, Maui Family Y.M.C.A.
Eric Kollist, Maui Family Y.M.C.A.
Curt Leonard, Program Manager, Oceanit
Elle Cochran, President, Save Honolua Coalition
Walter Enomoto, President, Maui Bicycle Alliance

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Bob Richardson, Kihei Community Association
Mark Coronesi, Kihei Community Association
Phill Schmidt, Tech Coordinator, Kihei Charter School
Gene Zarro, Board Member, Kihei Charter School
Cheryl Zarro, Board Member, Kihei Charter School
Gary Elster
Bud Pikrone
Jerrie Sheppard
Todd Lawson, Akimeka, LLC
John Andersen, Executive Director, Na Hale O Maui
Tammy Corden, Member, Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance
Sheilah Jorgenson, Member, Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance
Kylie Schellenburg, Member, Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance
Summer Bradbury, Project Member, Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance
Rachelle Quinn, Project Manager, Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance
Bobby Becklund, Member, Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance
Monica Garcia, Member, Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance
Kelly Flielar, Kihei Little League
Janice Hill
Donna Hansen
Bunny Spalding, Bunny Bags and Tropical Rags
Pamela Wolf, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. Business Development
Sonia King, Acting Library Director, Hawaii Business Research Library
Tony Fisher
Brad Quinto, Ocean Safety Officer, Aquatics Division, Department of
Parks and Recreation
Zach Edlao, Ocean Safety Officer, Aquatics Division, Department of Parks
and Recreation
Keola Brown, Ocean Safety Officer, Aquatics Division, Department of
Parks and Recreation
Kris Ivary, Ocean Safety Officer, Aquatics Division, Department of Parks
and Recreation
Buck Joiner
Navayo Caiserman, Lifeguard, Aquatics Division, Department of Parks
and Recreation
Alika Atay, Executive Director, Kihei Youth Center
Adam Radford, Vertebrate Operations Supervisor, Maui Invasive Species
Committee
Abe Vandenburg, Maui Invasive Species Committee
William Midgley, Maui Invasive Species Committee
Darrell Aquino, Maui Invasive Species Committee
Ray Oshiro

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David Frazier, Kihei Community Association
Vincent Mina, Maui Aloha Aina Association
Mark Simon, Director of Marketing, Four Seasons Maui
Ray Hart, Maui Economic Development Board
Peggy Temple, Teacher, Lokelani Intermediate School
Anna Greenwood
Matt Swartz, General Manager, Outrigger Palms at Wailea
Liz Zarro
Meg Hernandez
Daryl Dean Davis, Vice President of the Board of Directors, Kihei Youth
Center
Kimoqueo Kapahulehua

Additional attendees:

Hector Leyva, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. Head Start Program
Lis Richardson, Kihei Community Association
Mark Christiano, Principal, Kihei Charter School
Kathlene Oldag, Teacher, Kihei Charter School
Glenn Aki, Ocean Safety Officer, Aquatics Division, Department of Parks
and Recreation
Nancy Geist, General Manager, Maui Schooner Resort
Joshua Gibbins, Aquatics Division, Department of Parks and Recreation
Maryanne Mitchell
Darren Quinsaas, Lifeguard, Aquatics Division, Department of Parks and
Recreation
Allan Raikes, President, Condominium Rentals Hawaii
Lynn Britton, President, Maalaea Community Association
Chandrika McLaughlin
Fran Oshiro
Stan Franco
Dave Handley, Community Work Day Program
Bill Brown, Treasurer, Island Sands AOA
Hollis Williams
Micheala Grady Christian Pinney
Zakry Williams Others (25)

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . .(gavel). . . I'd like to call the Council's Budget and Finance Committee meeting on April 4, 2007, at the Lokelani Intermediate School Cafeteria to order. Good evening, ladies and gentlemen of the Kihei community. The Chair would like to thank you for being here tonight to provide public testimony on the various Fiscal Year 2008 Budget that was presented to the Council on March 15th.

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At this time, I would like to have your Council member, Councilmember Anderson to introduce the Members that are here tonight. Michelle.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: Thank you, Joe. Thank you all for being here. Our Budget Chair, Joe Pontanilla . . .

. . . *(Applause)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: Now, I'll go down this way – Bill Medeiros from Hana; Michael Molina, Haiku-Paia; Member Danny Mateo from Molokai; Gladys Baisa from Upcountry; Jo Anne Johnson from Lahaina; and Michael Victorino from Wailuku; and me, from Kihei.

. . . *(Applause)* . . .

ITEM NO. 1: PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008 FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (C.C. 07-29)

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you very much, Michelle, for the introduction. Again, you know, tonight is your turn to provide public testimony to the Budget and Finance Committee in regards to the Mayor's March 15, 2008 *[sic]* fiscal year budget.

Just a few ground rules before we start. If you could turn off your pagers and if you have new technology, cell phone, you can put it on the silent mode, the Chair would appreciate that.

For those that are providing public testimony, you do have three minutes to provide public testimony with one minute to conclude. At the end of three minutes, you will be notified by our Analyst here and following the three minutes you'll have that one minute to conclude your public testimony. When you come up to the mike, if you could state your name and organization that you represent. So, the first testifier we have here tonight is Mr. Tony Fisher. Tony.

. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

MR. FISHER: Thank you. My name is Tony Fisher. I represent MEO and COMET, and I thank you, Joe, for allowing me to go first cause I really don't feel very good and I need to go home.

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Anyway, for you who don't know, there is a new grandfather in the group. And that is that Mike Victorino just became a proud grandfather last Friday. We who have this color hair have done it multiple times and it gets better and better for sure.

The two groups that I'm going to talk about this evening, first of all, is MEO. I have been associated with MEO for a number of years. That's how I got to know Gladys Baisa. And I have said this before and I will say it again, if there is one organization in all of Maui County that really deserves your full vote and as much money as is humanly possible to give is these guys. I have a very dear friend who has a need for dialysis, three times a week. And his family . . . and they're very old. MEO comes and picks him up and takes him to Wailuku and then he's there for three or four hours and then they take him home afterwards. What the total cost of that is – zero. They are not wealthy and it is of extremely big service that MEO provides. This is a wonderful organization. By the way, he lives here in Kihei so that's a local guy.

The second thing I want to talk about is the other side of the equation here which is the revenue side. If you all read the *Maui News* today, there was an interesting thing in there that the State of New Jersey passed a tax reform and it was signed into law. And it has a property tax cap of 4 percent that went into effect. That's what COMET is proposing. I believe you all have copy of the latest ordinance. We have reduced it to one page. And I just want to spend a minute or so, and I'm not even going to take the full time, to go over some of the things that we have discovered that are running around in the County of Maui that are not correct. First of all, the objective of the ordinance is to provide more revenue. It's not a tax cutting measure. Some of the other counties, other states have done it as a here's how we're going to cut property taxes. That is not the objective. Number two, I heard a guy came up to me on the street the other day, and he says because my license plate is Tony F., he says, I know who you are. You're that guy with that Prop. 13. And I said, no, god, it's not Prop. 13. Prop. 13 froze all taxes to 2 percent per year. Not the assessment, not the tax rate, but how much you actually pay. The ordinance that we have proposed puts a limit of not 2 percent but 4 percent on the assessment and leaves the tax rates setting to this body, the County Council. We think that's a very fair way to do it and if there is a down turn in the economy and you've got to raise tax rates in order to offset --

MR. RAATZ: Three minutes.

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MR. FISHER: --some economic problem then that's okay. There are two people who really benefit from this. One of them is the renters because the ordinance as proposed is for all property categories, which means that the people that rent out their property, are not hit with that problem of my taxes went up. I got a call today from a lady. She said, Tony, my assessment just doubled. I don't understand it. I got a call yesterday from a lady with a similar kind of a problem. And last but not least is the new, the first-time buyer gets an enormous advantage because they have absolutely and positively assurance of exactly how much their taxes are going to be as long as they live in that property. And I thank all of you again. How many more of this you've got to do – one more, two more?

CHAIR PONTANILLA: One more.

MR. FISHER: You know, whoever said you guys need a raise, I agree with them. Thank you, Joe, and thank you again for letting me talk first.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Tony. Members, any questions for the testifier? Tony, hang on.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: Tony, I'm going to take the time to ask this question because I think it's very important. Briefly explain to us how your proposal will increase revenues?

MR. FISHER: Okay. The County has, over the last 25 years, has increased the taxes, the income, from a taxation standpoint approximately 6 percent per year. That's what it has been. Four percent of that, therefore, will come from . . . of that 6 percent will come from that. Secondly, I think as most of you know, the reassessment occurs at the time the piece of property is sold. So if it's assessed at 400,000 and it sells for a million, it is immediately reassessed at a million dollars. We call this the reservoir because this money sits there as long as there are people are just staying on at the 4 percent per year. The national average where this has been done in other states, is somewhere between 3 and 4 percent. So 4 percent plus 3 or 4 percent is 7 or 8 percent. In addition to that, you have all of that fall back stuff which has been there for years that you will take advantage because you know they have not kept up with the growth. There is about a 1 percent, which is the fact that you are approximately 18 months to two years behind now. So when you assess and when you go and put something out, what you are really doing is to have what the situation was two years ago. I talked to an appeals man the other day and

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his name is not important, but he said, yes, you're right. It's 18 to 24 months. This happens at the time, by staying current in an increasing market, that is another 1 to 2 percent. And if you add all those numbers up, this is an 8 to 10 percent. You still should be able to have rate reductions and still keep up with the 6 percent average that you have done. But the advantage to this system has always been that the long-term buyer no longer gets penalized for staying in his or her property and the person who is speculating on real estate coming and going who never gets caught up with because he buys and then he sells and then he's gone and it never does catch up with him. He now must pay the increased taxes as it occurs at the time. So, it is somewhere between 7 and 10 percent is increased revenue. Now, in the down economy, obviously, who knows. But you have the tax rate variable to deal with.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Tony. Members, any more questions for Mr. Fisher? Thank you very much.

MR. FISHER: Thank you, sir. And thank you again for letting me testify first.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: The next testifier is Andrew Beerer. Andrew.

MR. BEERER: Good evening, Council Members. Thank you for coming down to hear us tonight. My name is Andrew Beerer. I'm a member of KPAT and the KCA Parks Committee. I'm gonna basically be addressing some parks issues. First of all, I would like to thank the Council for recognizing and funding the needs of our South Maui parks. I think we're really on the right track and today's article about funding the Park Rangers Program is great. It's really made a huge difference in security in our parks. I really appreciate that.

As we look forward to breaking ground on the new regional park, it is important that we also stay focused on maintaining our current parks. This has been our intentional strategy for which we currently have three major projects in the works at Kalama Park. These CIP projects were funded in the 2007 budget and we're passionate about seeing these projects through to completion. Now, if you look at Page 2 of the handout that I gave you, it will give you a list of the 2007 and 2006 CIP projects budgeted for South Maui parks. And what we're really trying to do is get some follow up on this because and we're doing this ourselves as volunteers because we understand the trouble you go to, to find this money for us and it comes from another program or another opportunity and we're doing everything we can to properly allocate this money. So,

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we thank you for your due diligence and we're doing our due diligence as well.

These three projects, the three major projects we're focusing on in Kalama Park are the Kalama walking path or the "Whale Trail" as we call it; Jerrie Sheppard's pet project. And then a new play structure to replace the old one; and a youth favorite a new, improved skate park. Two of the most heavily used parks facilities are the playground and the skate park. These facilities are used every hour of every day, 365 days a year. There's no off season, there's no three month on season, this is every day usage.

The playground – there is no more underserved demographic than the keiki who use the playground. My unscientific research shows that 99 percent of kids between ages 1 and 12 use the playground, while less than 20 percent are involved in organized sports. There are thousands of users in Kihei alone and the playground gets heavy visitor use as well. We are committed to building a new playground. We have done the research, we have solicited multiple proposals and bids with the help of Bob and Liz Richardson. We have vendors who have given us official bids and we're ready to move forward with these projects, and we're going to do that. So, thank you for your support. We're ready to make this a reality.

Under the skate park – the other most popular facility is the skate park. On behalf of the skate park users, I would like to thank Michelle Anderson, Jo Anne Johnson and the rest of the County Council for recognizing our needs and funding the skate parks in the 2007 budget.

MR. RAATZ: Three minutes.

MR. BEERER: Thank you. However, the Parks Planning Department quickly dismissed this project in Kihei. Luckily, we have the support of the Parks Director and Mayor as well as a very organized and motivated user group that is moving forward. This is going to be a wonderful project. A community bill that features a collaboration between skate park users, community youth groups and local businesses and contractors, this park is being designed by local students from this school – Lokelani, Baldwin, Maui High School, Kihei Charter High School, with additional support from the Hope Chapel Youth Ministry and the Maui Skate Park Advocacy group. This project will be a rallying point for our community and a beacon for our youth. We are determined to prove that your \$100,000 gift will not just build a recreation facility, it will build strength in our community and enlighten our youth. Please help us encumber these funds

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so that they can be used for their intended purpose. If there was ever a great community project to get behind, this is one of them. Thank you for your time. Aloha.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Andrew. Members, any questions for the testifier? Member Anderson.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: Hi, Andrew.

MR. BEERER: Hi, Michelle.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: Thanks for staying on top of this and championing it, the skate park particularly but also the playground. You mentioned that you now have the support of the Parks Director and the Mayor.

MR. BEERER: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: And so they are willing to allow you guys to collaborate and get this up and going?

MR. BEERER: We're hoping so. Yes, they've been supportive all the way until this juncture. It wasn't until two weeks ago that I got official word from Parks Planning Director that the Kihei project was ridded off months ago as a no go project. I've been assuming that may be a possibility and I actually called to say that we're formalizing plans and we didn't want to complicate any thing that he had been doing and he told me that he hadn't been doing anything because he wrote it off. At that point, I said, is there any problem with us pursuing it as a user group, and he said that's between you and the Director. And I do believe I do have the Director's support and I do believe we have the Mayor's support. And I'll have to pursue it from there.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: Thank you so much for picking up the ball as it were and running with it because I was very disappointed to see that the \$100,000 that we had allocated last year is not in this year's budget. So, you know, you're telling me that they kind of wrote it off.

MR. BEERER: They wrote it off two months into the budget.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: That's too bad. But we'll make sure that it stays front of mine and with you folks all championing it I'm sure we'll

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get it done. And this picture you have on the front this is what is called a street skate park.

MR. BEERER: Correct, correct. And that's what we're pushing for in our Phase I redesign of the Kalama Skate Park as a street skate park course. It makes an urban skateboard setting and that's really where the majority of skateboarders want to go and what they're crying for. And local businesses are crying for us to provide this to them to get them off of their private property.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: I bet.

MR. BEERER: So it's a win-win situation.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: It looks beautiful. It's a computer simulation, I guess. But you're going to . . . have you talked to anybody in Parks about moving it forward and finding a location at the park to bring it forward?

MR. BEERER: Yes. I've had some discussions. I have met with John Buck. I have met with other people in the Parks Department. I've met with Jo Anne Johnson regarding the Lahaina project. I have met with Mary _____. I'm currently overseeing the repair of the current skateboard park project so I'm regularly in touch with other members of the Parks Department. So, yes, we have had discussions. They haven't formally told me where we could go but that is one of our next steps.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: Okay, great. Thank you very much, Andrew. The kids are really lucky to have you champion this.

MR. BEERER: Well, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Andrew . . . Andrew, you have more questions.

MR. BEERER: Oh, I'm sorry.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: First of all, I have some information here. Grants and budget ordinance in the Parks grants I see skate park management. I don't know if it's for Kihei or any other place on this island. But on the Fiscal Year 2007 budget we do have \$112,000. So, hopefully, it's there.

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MR. BEERER: Correct. That was a grant that was given to the Boys and Girls Club to manage the skateboard facilities. Two months into the contract, they decided to get out of that grant, which did open up a little bit of money to be used for some of our repairs. So we do have that. But that is kind of where the Parks Planning Department decided not to continue with the project. Unfortunately, they're totally unrelated situations and I think we have lots of people in the house that would support the skateboard park getting back on track. So, if I could see anyone who stands up who wants to support our park, I'd really, really appreciate it.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

MR. BEERER: And this is just to show that we're trying to get the youth involved with civic responsibility and with the process and to get to know you as the Council as well.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Hang on.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Andrew, good evening. Thanks for testifying. I congratulate you and your advocacy group for pursuing these two projects for Kihei. We're also planning on trying to get a skate park for Hana so I may be calling you for your knowledge and experience when setting this up in Kihei. So, expect a call from me. I see your number is listed here on your handout so congratulations.

MR. BEERER: Well, thank you. I think this will set an example. If we can do something positive with a hundred grand, we set an example that we can do this in Makawao, Hana, Pukalani. We're working with Zachary Helm on Molokai and we're working with Jeff Anderson on Lanai. So we're really working on a lot of different directions and we're going to spread the love. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. The next testifiers are Taylor and Chloe Yap.

MS. C. YAP: Good evening, Council members. My name is Chloe Yap and I'm 12 years old. I'm here to represent MEDB's Women in Technology. They're a partnership between ESRI, MEDB, Project EAST, and 4-H. I was introduced and exposed to the GIS and GPS technology. My 4-H club, the Lady Bugs, created a project called "Malama the aina". We went out and gathered points, data of all the recycle and redemption centers

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around the Central area with GPS units. We then created GIS maps with the information we gathered. Maui High Project EAST served as our mentors and taught us all that we know about GIS and GPS. The most important thing that we learned was about giving back to our community, caring about our island and some really cool software. Thank you to the MEDB's Women in Technology for creating this opportunity for us.

MS. T. YAP: Good evening, Council Chair and Council Members. My name is Taylor Yap and I'm 13 years old. Today, I'm here to talk to you on how the Maui Economic Development Board's project introduced a girl to Engineering Day, allowed me to have the chance to job shadow a civil engineer. Thanks to the exposure it had shaped my point of view on possibly pursuing a career in engineering. In addition to introduce a girl to Engineering Day, I'm also a part of the Lady Bugs 4-H group project – Malama the aina. My favorite part of this project was being able to create a database and be able to visually see all of my point data. Thank you for your continued support of Maui Economic Development Board.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifiers? Seeing none. Thank you very much. The next testifier is Wayne Cochran.

MR. COCHRAN: Aloha, Council and Kihei friends. I'm Wayne Cochran and I'm trying to bring you guys maybe some ideas to make money for your Maui County money. I believe that the building permits are far too inexpensive for housing exceeding 5,000 sq. ft. They should be raised 500 to 1,000 percent. The builders in California pay \$40,000 to \$75,000 for permits for these trophy houses we see all around. Similar to what builders over here pay around 4,000 for these permits. The permits break down into money. The high priced permits break down into money for schools, Fire Department, Police, waste treatment, water supply, roads, and other infrastructure and relieve the long time residents of increased taxes. What you're saying about Proposition 13, I kind of believe in keeping the taxes as low as possible for the long term residents. People like my mom and Uncle Fred about two months of their social security is going to pay for increased taxes on their house they live and they don't want to move so I'd like to keep the taxes as low as possible. But increase the burden for the developers and they're going to sell those houses for a million dollars anyway so another 40,000 or 50,000 plus to the Maui community is only going to benefit them. They'll still pay that. It's not like we have to give that permit for \$4,000. You can use that money for infrastructure instead of taking it from the regular residents.

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My second thought would be to add a tax of \$2 to \$3.00 per rent a car to support the transit system. We could have it worked for the locals and tourists alike. The buses we have it really isn't much fun so I'd like to talk about the Tahitian transportation system. It's used by everybody in Tahiti. They get on this bus. They call it le truck. And it's a big old Mercedes flat bed with bench sits, open air, big speakers and it blasts reggae music. And from every village around they have their own . . . each community has their le truck, everybody gets on board, they go to the center of the city where Ah Fooks market burned down some place like that, all the buses gather, the people disburse, there are buses going in through the city but it's a fun ride. Nobody is going more than 40 miles an hour or anything but we're not all really going that fast anyway. Why are we trying to go fast? We're on this island Maui, we don't need to go 70 miles an hour. Each district of the island over there is just like the old Hawaiian deals. The village of Hana would start out with . . . they're small, they have one truck. Everybody loads up that wants to go. They bring that truck into town. Kihei would have plenty trucks, man, and they would be full. Everybody would be jamming along, get along, put in a dollar and get on the truck. Tourist can come on there throwing their suitcases, stop at the first stop at COSTCO, get on the next truck to their condo, you know. It works for everybody and it would be fun. And you have a lot of trucks. I think, you know, it's like the Kaanapali trolley kind of deal. It would be a fun ride and it would be sponsored by the rent-a-car so you get people out of the rent-a-cars from blocking the roads, slowing driving, get everybody into, you know, 30 people, 40 people into one vehicle instead of two or three and 40 cars.

So, anyway, I think it would take off a lot of the stress off the roads and the locals could, you know, have an easy drive. So that's the kind of an idea I have. I think you should support transit with the rent-a-car money to help support . . . tax those guys a little bit more. We need less rent-a-cars and more community riding. Thank you very much.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Wayne. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you very much. The next set of testifiers are Isabella Bissen, Hector Leyva, Sandra Hernandez, Hildie Schap, Marian Ringius.

MS. BISSEN: Aloha and good evening once again, Council Members. Thank you so much for being here and the people in the community. I'd like to introduce actually our families that will be speaking on behalf of MEO

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Headstart. And one of those families is Sandra Hernandez and her spouse Hector Leyva.

MS. HERNANDEZ: . . .*(spoke in Spanish)*. . .

MS. SCHAP: Good evening. I'll be translating and helping Sandra with her testimony. We would like to thank Enlace Hispano for their support, and MEO Headstart for our children . . . for offering our children education and having interest in the entire family. It's very important to know that people . . . that do exist people who worry about our children, children who have low income and are able to receive a free education through this project. And offering support for people of low income so that the family can have a good education. Thank you very much.

MS. RINGIUS: Good evening, Council. My name is Marian Ringius and I have been a Headstart teacher's aide for the last two years at Kihei B right over here at Kihei Elementary. I know that it is so gratifying to me to be able to afford to work for Headstart and seeing these children come and their parents who have no real support in the community but are going to be the future of our community. They are learning, they are learning their shapes, they are learning their colors, whether they're Hispanic or they're from Tonga or they're from another totally culture diverse, like myself, Sweden. They're learning in English. We're trying to get them prepped for kindergarten. And I have been to many conferences and I really appreciate the fact that there is a junior kindergarten . . .*(end of tape, start 1B - 6:37 p.m.)*. . . 40 placements here in Kihei and there's probably 140 that needs us. In order not to speak and bore you, I would like to really read a letter from one of our families that really, to me, gives a full scoop and I won't detain you.

I hope that you're very well and I want you to know that your hard work is sincerely, deeply appreciated. I'm writing to you today to request continued and increased funding for MEO Headstart Pre-school. Our grandson, Elijah, who is also our foster care, who is in our foster care, goes to Headstart and absolutely loves it. He has blossomed tremendously with the help of Kihei B and so have we. We are very grateful, however, it is also important to look at Headstart Pre-school from a community standpoint. The gap between "Haves" and "Have-nots" continue to grow wider and wider across the country, but especially so here on Maui. Maui's working class people struggle with extreme high cost of living. Food and gas prices are nearly doubled here. You know what a nightmare it is with the affordable housing problem. In order to financially survive

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families must live together in small, often cramped places with very little yards or none at all for their children to play in. Our school system continues to get low grades and yet are bursting at the seams in growth. We have all these issues, so what to do?

MEO Headstart is an ongoing program here that provides a valid solution to much of the problems stated above. Headstart provides children ages 3-5 years old a safe place to play, socialize, while learning all the fundamentals children need to successfully transition into the public school system. It develops a true love of school and learning, which is what we want, what we need for our children to achieve success. Headstart is a culturally diverse classroom that actively encourages the parents and families of the child to be involved and to stay involved. Headstart closely monitors the physical, mental and emotional health of each child and their families. It provides not just a positive learning environment for their child but also encourages and provides ongoing education and guidance to families for their success within the community. The entire program is a marvel in how they have so much family participation; the children love it and so do the parents.

Many families would not be able to afford childcare if it were not for Headstart and certainly not at the same high standard of care that Headstart provides. As a result, many families would suffer without it. Mom and Dad would have to work different shifts in order to work and care for their children, adding stress to the parents trickling down to the kids. Many children would not get sufficient educational or social skills in order to be able to successfully transition to public school. If a child is not prepared for school and is overwhelmed and fearful then that child may not come to love school or learning. Our public school system would be even further burdened by problems that could have already been avoided.

MR. RAATZ: Three minutes.

MS. RINGIUS: We see the value of the need for Headstart and it continues to grow as does the size of our community, yet the funding for Headstart continues to cut. How is it morally possible? Our island's future generation needs our support. Our children will be inheriting a lot of different issues that cannot be avoided. This is no secret. But we must help them early while their minds and bodies are eagerly absorbing how to be intelligent, active community members. The benefits are enormous now let alone what it will do for the future. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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In closing, I would like to see the Council reconsider our summer program funding. It's a long summer and the parents have to work and this would be a great help. Thank you very much for your time and for listening.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you very much, Members. Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you again for being here.

MS. RINGIUS: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: The next testifiers are Mike Morris and Stacy Dugan Wood.

MR. MORRIS: Good evening, Council Members. Good to see you again. I will be brief as usual. We are here again to talk about our campaign that we're running - \$10 million capital campaign to add to our building. But we are more than just a building and that's why these folks are here tonight and I'm going to let them speak about the program we run here in Kihei, our after-school program.

MS. MITCHELL: Aloha, Council. My name is Mary Ann Mitchell and I'm a mom that has two children in A-Plus. I'm here to ask the County to support the Y.M.C.A. I have six year old twins and one of my kids has disabilities with social skills, fine and gross motor disabilities. A-Plus has helped my child with all these issues. My child no longer needs outside services for physical and occupational therapy because he gets it as part of the normal routine at A-Plus and better. His social skills improved dramatically. Children at A-Plus not only are benefited with improved physical strengthening and improved social skills but they learn respect from one another, honesty, discipline, and sharing. My main reason to stay here in Maui is because I am getting so much educational support and improvement in my child's disabilities that I did not receive on the mainland. So I beg the County to help Maui Y.M.C.A. to the best that they can so our children will continue and other children can continue to grow in the right direction. Please allow them to receive their grant.

Before I was told about this meeting, in the past I had written a letter to the "Y" about the Director there and I just would like to read it. Dear Mr. Michael Morris. I would like to take this opportunity to express my undying gratitude to my childcare providers – Stacy Dugan Wood. Stacy takes care of my two children – Joey and Lauren, whom are six year twins at A-Plus. I would like to publicly proclaim her excellence. She has truly

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been the mom my children needed. She cares for them as if they were her own. Stacy displays good character, judgment and patience with them and the other kids along with educational programs to enhance their growth. However, the greatest appreciation is the trust that I know my children are in good hands and they are loved, protected and safe in her care. Stacy gives my children the kind of attention and nurturing care that makes me completely confident in leaving my precious gifts with her. Ms. Stacy's energy, dedication, thoughtfulness and professionalism are to be commended. She treats all of her daycare children as her own and have been a major influence on our young children's life. She's truly a blessing from heaven. Well, this just goes on and on but since my kids are a little bit restless I think I'll stop. My point is here that my one child does have social disabilities and had some fine and gross motor disabilities. But because of the programs done at the "Y", as you can see, he's a normal child. There's playground activities, swimming at the beach, basketball, soccer, water play, and they have to socialize there. You don't have any other alternative. So if you have a child that has social issues, A-Plus is the place to go.

MR. MORRIS: Thank you. Stacy has 225 of these every day.

MR. KOLLIST: Hello, my name is Eric Kollist and I'm here to testify on behalf of Y.M.C.A. too. I have two children involved in the program ages 9 and 7. They go to Kamali'i School. They're not only full-time users of the A-Plus program but they also go to Camp Nalu, which bridges all the gaps in our lives including the entire summer recess, all the holidays. My wife and I both have full-time jobs in the day time. I don't know where, what we would do without the Camp and all the gaps in our lives that they're able to bridge. Stacy has done a wonderful job with this, with the Y.M.C.A. I remembered we started with the "Y" prior to Stacy and things were not quite as good. But when Stacy came in she completed organized everything and created a wonderful atmosphere for us. My kids go to the beach during the long days and they come home tired. They get a lot of exercise. It's just I don't have enough good things to say about what the Y.M.C.A. has done for our lives. That's really all I have to say. Please help them to keep everything going and funded. Thank you very much.

MS. DUGAN WOOD: Hi, I'm Stacy Dugan Wood. I'm the Aquatic and Childcare Director for the Maui Family Y.M.C.A., so I'm suppose to come up and tell you would my programs. As Mike mentioned earlier, I have 215 kids in my after-school program every day from the time they get out of school until 6 p.m. It's a latch key program which means my

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parents have to be working in order to attend my program. Not only do I provide after school service but every time there's no school because Kamali'i is on a year-round school system so literally every time there's no school, all those inter-sessions, all those individual school day off. We open at 7 am and we don't close till 6 pm, so we're there 10 hours providing service for the people in this community here. A lot of my parents work at the resorts, some work for the County, some work for the State. We try to do as much stuff with those kids as we think those parents would be doing if they weren't at work. We take them to the beach every day. A lot of those beach guards are there supervising my kids when we go down to Camp One. They do a good job. My kids thank them. They yell at the top of their lungs – thank you, lifeguards, before we leave the beach everyday. So we try to instill the respect, the caring, the responsibility, the core values of the Y.M.C.A. in the program. Again, we're non-profit. The fact that we're making an impact in the community, the fact that I have these people's terrific kids every day when I know they can't be with them but I don't get paid the most amount of money either but the fact that those little kids walk up to me and hug me every day and tell me you rock my life, there's no bigger amount of money worth that, you know. I'm blessed to get to do what I do every single day. I love my job at the Y.M.C.A. I hope to be there for many years. I hope to have these kids when they're seniors and juniors and see them. People ask me when I look at my job at the Y.M.C.A., I'm supposed to try to characterize that.

I'm from the mid-west, originally grew up in Nebraska so I looked at it, I brought into my farming roots, I look at it as I'm a farmer and all those little kids are my seeds. And it's my job to water them and nurture them and watch them develop into the awesome crops end result that they will be. So, I'm very, very blessed and we're making a huge impact here in Kihei. I also on the aquatic end do all the swimming lessons and lifeguard training. We do all the trainings for the Pacific Whale Foundation. Train all of their staff so I'm busy with them on top of my after-school programs. So, I have about 28 hours in a week doing my aquatics and another 28 hours a week with my after-school program. So, Mike's got me busy. So, I just wanted to let you know what type of impact we're making in Kihei as far as all my working parents because it is expensive here. A lot of them have two or three jobs, and I know if they could be with their kids they would be but a lot of times they don't. Financially cannot and I love the fact that I get to share what their kids develop to be. Thank you.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Members, any questions for the testifiers? Member Medeiros?

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Maybe for Mike. Mike, where do you conduct your program here – the after-school program?

MR. KOLLIST: At Kamali`i.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: At Kamali`i School?

MR. KOLLIST: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay. And is there an income criteria for children to participate in your program?

MR. KOLLIST: There is a . . . it's set by the State of Hawaii --

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: I see.

MR. KOLLIST: --for the after-school because it's partially funded by the State of Hawaii.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: I think my son works in this program.

MR. KOLLIST: He does.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: After teaching here, then he goes there. Okay, thanks, Mike.

MR. KOLLIST: Thank you. Stacy is one of 100 employees that we have at the "Y", so we have a lot of folks and your son.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any more questions? Seeing none. Thank you very much. Thank you, Mike. The next testifier is Mary Ann Mitchell. Mary Ann Mitchell?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Oh, sorry. Eric Kollist. Was that Eric too? Okay. Curt Leonard . . . followed by Elle Cochran.

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MR. LEONARD: Good evening, County Council Members. My name is Curt Leonard. I'm here this evening on behalf of the Maui Economic Development Board. I've had the good fortune of working with the MEDB over the past five years on a number of initiatives and I thought I kind of share a couple of them with you tonight that have had significant impact in Oceanit over the past . . . over the past 12 months. For those of you who are not familiar with the Oceanit, we're a company in the Tech Park.

We've had the very good fortune of growing significantly. We've hired 29 employees over the past 15 months. As part of this initiative to recruit, there are many programs that MEDB offers that help the Tech industry and recruiting these people. One of them is called the Holiday Job Fair, and the one that was held this past December we hired somebody who is a scientific programmer on staff now. Another program that they offer something called the Kama`aina Come Home, in which they're working with . . . they go and visit many places on the mainland and they have little gatherings in which they promote some of the opportunities here on Maui County. And we've had employees hired through that program. A third one is the MEDB partners and they're co-partners and something called the Akamai Internship Program. This particular program we had a student at MCC that we hired on a permanent part-time basis. He's going to graduate this coming Spring and after that it's our intention to hire him full-time. So it's just one activity that we've been engaged in. Another program that you're going to hear about very shortly is something that started last year – it's called the Ke Alahele Education Fund. And it's been in existence for about a year now and its annual fundraiser in which we raise money for students and educators that's working in the science technology, engineering, and math disciplines. And the idea behind this is to provide educators and students with opportunities to encourage them to pursue careers throughout science and technology. As an example, last year, it was our first year we raised about \$27,000 and in the process of doing so we've provided grants to some teachers on Molokai to become . . . get further their education and learn how to become facilitators for Project EAST. There's a digital lab up in Kula in which they need some computer systems at this particular education fund has provided grants for. And also, there's a program that's going to be running this year. It's called "See the Stars", in which they're going to get an all day event, in which they're going to try and excite the kids throughout Maui to become part of the careers that would pursue science and technology.

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So these are some of the many activities that we're involved in just to name a few, and I really ask that you give the Maui Economic Development Board's request for financial support . . . support your full endorsement during this current session. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Curt. We do have a question by Councilmember Anderson.

MR. LEONARD: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: Thanks, Chair. Curt, you're with Oceanit?

MR. LEONARD: Yes, I am.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: The employee that you recruited through Kama`aina Come Home Program didn't happen to be an engineer.

MR. LEONARD: Yes, she was an electrical engineer.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: And the reason I ask that and everyone's laughing is because we can't get engineers at the County and we just informed one of our departments today that they need to hook up with the Kama`aina Come Home Program.

MR. LEONARD: Absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: And so we can compete with you.

MR. LEONARD: . . .*(laughter)* . . . Well, quite honestly, there are actually either on the mainland or in the process of going to the mainland. I looked at their schedule and it's a very aggressive schedule. They have over a dozen different stops throughout the mainland to try and promote. You know, there's local . . . you know, Hawaii-related organizations there.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: Could I just ask you --

MR. LEONARD: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: --just for our own edification what range do you hire an engineer at? What's the beginning range and then, you know, the salary range?

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MR. LEONARD: The salary range. It depends . . . obviously, it depends on their experience and education level. But the salary range, you know, the very low end would be something like 50,000. And then for someone who has been around quite some time, let's just say a Bachelor of Science, they've been around for many years, say 20 years. It could be 80,000 or excess of \$80,000.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: Thank you very much, Curt.

MR. LEONARD: You bet.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: And congratulations on all your success.

MR. LEONARD: Oh, thank you. Thank you very much.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Curt. We all can afford \$67,000 at this time.

MR. LEONARD: Okay. Thank you. The next testifier is Elle Cochran followed by Tammy Corden.

MS. COCHRAN: Good evening, Council. My name is Elle Cochran. I'm here on behalf of the Save Honolua Coalition. I know you've heard . . . first I'd just like to applaud the Kihei community here for being on the ball and really involved with their community. I see a lot of, you know, active participation. And as being a representative of Save Honolua Coalition, I'm really trying to get the West side people, community involved and, you know, a lot more things and approaching the County Council in getting our voices heard but together. So, I know the Council has heard a lot of testimonies from the Save Honolua Coalition the last few evenings. And basically, I just want to reiterate again that what we're looking to do is to increase the Open Space fund so we can basically buy the Honolua-Lipoa Point area and get it basically out of the developer's hands and into the caring community's hands. Right now, what they're proposing is pretty ridiculous. You know there's a lot of cultural and environmental significant areas there, well, not just there but we're asking to increase the amount to \$6 million from the 1.97 million proposed by the Mayor and that's not only for the Honolua West side area but for all other culturally, environmental sensitive areas in the County.

Just to bring this up, driving over here from Lahaina it was really depressing to see all the buildings coming up – the barns and noble

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building. It looks like a big concrete prison. It totally blocks the whole West side mountains. All the buildings on North Beach, I mean, you can't you can't even see the oceans, the islands any more. It's just like disoriented, you don't know where the ocean is any more because of all these buildings. So my point is, there's a lot of open space. I mean, they're becoming slim to none on this island. It's really sad to see so I would really like to see us get more funding in order to preserve these areas. And I'm sure . . . this is like the other side of the world for me. I haven't been out to Makena, Wailea area but I've been hearing, you know, that's getting a little bit over-built too. So that's, you know, that's where open space funds can help.

And basically, you know, what we're proposing to do is maybe following suit with the Mū'ole Point out in Hana, which was publicly bought and also community run, and we were thinking of doing something like that out at the Honolua area but maybe combining County money along with publicly raised funds and having the community run it, such as the Save Honolua Coalition. And I'm hoping to work together with you folks in order to achieve our goal. And I thank you for being here and letting me share.

Skate park . . . um . . . I was happy to hear about Andrew here. I think the West side youth, people could really use a skate park. The kids and I think Jo Anne she's shaking her head and a big smile so I think it looks like we might have a go on that. And I know . . . some studies have shown that open space acquisition is one of the most effective uses of taxpayer's monies. So I guess I'll leave you with that this evening and I want to thank all of you again for being here and thanks to the community of Kihei for, you know, enlightening me on the fact that the community can come together and work along with County Council and the government and get some projects for the betterment of the community. And I hope to see your example carry through on the West side too. So, thanks, everyone and thank you, Council Members. Aloha.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Member Anderson. Elle, question.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Elle, I just wanted you to know that there is 100,000 in the budget also for West side. And Mr. Beerer is working with us and Zach Helm of the Parks Department to get that project going as well as the one over here.

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MS. COCHRAN: Okay , thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: The next set of testifiers are Tammy Corden, Sheilah Jorgenson, Kylie Schellenburg, Summer Bradbury, Rachele Quinn and Bobby Becklund and Monica Garcia. Members of the community, these are students and the reason why the Chair is putting the students up front is that they need to go to school tomorrow.

MS. CORDEN: Hey, my name is Tammy Corden and I'm 16 and I am a Sophomore at Kihei Charter High School. I am a current member of the Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance group. I've been a member of the Youth Alliance for about four months now and I've learned many things throughout my time because of the leaders in Focus Maui Nui that make the things fun that we learn about. At one of our meetings we went to the *Maui News* and I got to interview Archie Kalepa. And I learned a lot of things in Journalism. Thank you for your continued support which has helped us learn about many things throughout our community.

MS. BRADBURY: Hi. I'm Summer, a Freshman at Maui High and this is my first year at Maui Nui Youth Alliance and I've had a lot of fun at the meetings so far. We meet monthly. And we do a lot of different things every time and visit different places. There are a lot of underground stuff around Maui that I wouldn't have known about or have every visited without this program. All the kids chosen for this program are great. And it's not just like we learn about the places we visit but our friends wonder what we do on the Saturdays that we're not with them. So they begin to learn more about what we're doing so more than just us lands and stuff. I think many of us benefit from this and it would be greatly appreciated for your continued support. Thank you.

MS. SCHELLENBURG: Hi, I'm Kylie. Sorry but I get really nervous when I speak in public so if I stutter, please forgive me. I've been a Focus Maui Nui person for like four months now. It's been a lot of fun. We get to go out into the community and we learn more about how a community is run, what helps keep everything running smoothly. We, like Tammy said, we went to the *Maui News* and we got to interview people and we got to learn all about Journalism and how the newspapers are made and stuff like that. It was a lot of fun learning . . . yeah. I'm just going to read. There we go. Okay. I believe that . . . well, it's been a lot of fun and I've learned a lot about what makes Maui more independent and self-reliant, and I've become more aware of my community and I care more about my

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community, the future of it, you know, how are we going to continue to be more reliant and not . . . yeah.

And for the few months that I've been in Focus Maui Nui, like I said, I've been to the *Maui News* facility and I've also went to the Lavendar Farm. And we got to go up to the Lavendar Farm and I learned all about the different uses of lavender, such as medicinal value, luxury value, culinary and hygienic value that lavender has. And the main advantage that I've been given a chance . . . darn it . . . the main advantage that I'm getting out of this is that I have been given a chance that few ever do being able to become closer to my community and getting new friends and learning the fundamentals that make a community successful. Thank you for your time and continued support.

MR. BECKLUND: Aloha. I'm Robert Becklund and . . .(end of tape, start 2A – 7:09 p.m.). . .as being a member for two years I've learned a lot about Maui and the good things that people are trying to do. For example, people are trying to preserve and protect Maui. Every meeting we go to a new place with a different lesson. For example, we went to the Maui News and interviewed the Mayor about her plan for her term. We also went to the Maui Land & Pine office and learned about their plan for the next hundred years. I would like to say that this program has helped me a lot but more importantly it's helped me understand government more. Thank you for your support.

MS. JORGENSON: Hi! My name is Sheilah Jorgenson and I'm a 10th grader at Kihei Charter High School. I've been in the Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance for a year and four months now. And we have been all over the place. We've been to the HC&S Mill, we've been to Lanai, we've been to the Lavender Farm, *Maui News*, we just go everywhere. And I think it's been a really big help in how learning about our community and how it's run and the necessities of these small businesses on the island that I don't think we could go without. And I just want to say, thank you for your continued support and aloha.

MS. GARCIA: Okay. Hi, my name is Monica Garcia. I'm a Junior at Baldwin High School and a returning member of the Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance. I personally feel that this program has given me the chance, not only to voice my opinions on issues regarding my home and the chance to be an advocate for my community but more importantly Focus Maui Nui has allowed me to learn about Maui Nui, its citizens and what is needed to insure a happy future. I think this program is a wonderful way to get

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involved and get educated for the benefit of everyone. After all, we are the future being youth. I love that this program has allowed me to be more familiar with where I live and I've made new friends. So, some of the things I've done with Focus Maui Nui, like touring the Kula Lavendar Farm and learning about agri-tourism. I wouldn't have never had the opportunity for it not for Focus Maui Nui. So, I love being a part of this program and I'm definitely looking forward to being a part of it until I graduate. So, thank you for your continued support.

MS. QUINN: Good evening, Council. My name is Rachelle Quinn. I am the Project Manager for Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance, which is a program of MEDB and one of the parents of a youth alliance member, Summer Bradbury, she couldn't be here tonight so she wrote a letter and asked me to read it. "Aloha. My daughter, Summer Bradbury, learned of the Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance from her classmate, Robert Becklund. She has long been involved with student government in her schools and has a great interest in community affairs as well as government workings. While she is yet young, I sense that she may become a future leader in our community if the importance of community leadership is being known to her. From my perspective, I feel that the Focus Maui Nui is just that kind of guidance that our youth needs and which to bring their focus and awareness to where our community needs for the future. Focus Maui Nui is providing our youth with clarity of the issues that our community faces. It is raising awareness of methods, and issues, and problem solving and future planning. Working with our youth is an optimal way to forge ahead with our future here in the islands. Since we are such a limited resource, there is an especially impor . . . and we do not waste a moment of our time in training our young future leaders.

We do not have the luxury of excess resources or time to squander since we are such a desirable and small community. We need these young, efficient, energetic, modern thinkers to start focusing now on our fast maturing future. It just thrills me to see the interest and excitement that my daughter displays after attending these workshops made possible by Focus Maui Nui. I sincerely hope that our government officials will recognize the importance of furthering any support needed for this program. Our children are our future. Sincerely, Jeanine Summer. And I'd just like to thank you for your time. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifiers? Seeing none. Thank you very much. The next testifier is Walter Enomoto followed by Bob and Lis Richardson.

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MR. ENOMOTO: Good evening, Chair Pontanilla and Members of the Budget and Finance Committee. Good to see you . . . most of you again. Again, my name is Walter Enomoto. I am the President of the Maui Bicycle Alliance. And we just wanted to reiterate our opposition to the \$500,000 funding of the Baldwin Bike Path. But tonight I'll be kind of talking with a South Maui flavor. I'd like to read from a short passage here . . . if you'll bear with me. "It is noted that the proposed Kihei Greenway project, the four mile long greenway running through the middle of Kihei parallel to Piilani Highway and South Kihei Road with the streambed connectors to the proposed coastal bikeway offers a unique opportunity for bicycle travel through this linear park. It will be especially beneficial to children bicycling to and from Kihei Elementary School and Lokelani Intermediate School. Presently, in its initial planning stage, the greenway is envisioned to be an integral part of the Kihei area's bikeway system." I'm reading from the Maui Bikeway's capital improvement plan dated November 1991. To this date, we have not built a single foot of the Kihei Greenway. Now, why are we going to enter into another appropriation for a major project when we have not even gone one foot in South Maui? How can you justify to the people in South Maui as well as the people in Central who have been waiting for the completion of the North Shore greenway? How can we justify starting another major project? \$9.3 million at built-out and those costs will only go up as cost of construction and things go up from there. Again, we would like to see that funding go toward an increased amount for the study to look at all of the downhill tour issues, including Baldwin Avenue, and maybe utilizing some of those funds to move projects like the Kihei Greenway towards fruition or even beginning to actually get pavement in the ground for the benefit of the South Maui people. This report was the initial one that came out of the Mayor's Bikeway Advisory Committee in '91. I just wanted to mention and unfortunately he couldn't probably be here, freshman Representative Joseph Bertram, was an original member of that committee and helped develop and conceptualize the Kihei Greenway system listed in the back here. And again, it's long overdue but how can we justify another major expenditure?

One of the things, one of the other factors that have affected non-motorized transportation in the South Maui area has been the loss of the Piilani Highways when it was re-stripped from two lanes to four lanes, the wide 10 foot wide shoulders that many people use for running, walking, jogging, bicycling became a deterrent. No one uses that corridor now. In fact, it's actually prohibited for pedestrians to cross over the bridge.

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You'll notice those signs – Pedestrian travel prohibited on the bridges along Piilani Highway because of the narrow corridor when they went from two to four lanes. That forces all non-motorized pedestrians and bicyclists and others to use South Kihei. Now, South Kihei has the bike lanes and I will give credit to the Department of Public Works for putting those shoulders in. It's taken a while but they are there. However, there is another segment that cannot probably use that because of its proximity to traffic. Younger and less experienced riders, bicycle riders may not feel comfortable in those facilities and this Kihei greenway . . .

MR. RAATZ: Three minutes.

MR. ENOMOTO: Thank you . . . will help to get those or allow those people to travel the length of Kihei, north to south, in a, on a facility that is much safer and much more comfortable to them. So, again, I ask you again for the third time this week for your consideration. And in your meeting with the Department of Public Works I've added some supplemental testimony on bike projects that were listed in Bike Plan Hawaii. For your reference, I've outlined or highlighted all of the County projects in green and there are 18 proposed bicycle projects for the Kihei-Makena area. Please ask Public Works where are those projects as well as for all the other communities too. Thank you, again, for your time and your consideration and I really appreciate the opportunity to testify. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Walter. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you very much.

MR. ENOMOTO: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: The next testifiers are Bob and Lis Richardson, along with Mark Coronese. Members, soon after Bob, Lis and Mark give their testimony, the Chair will call for a ten-minute recess. Go ahead.

MR. RICHARDSON: Aloha. I'm Bob Richardson and I work with the Kihei Community Association and with the KPAC group. We have a tremendous turn out tonight of people that are interested in parks related issues. And I think if you look around and see all the children that were here this evening, you'd get a good idea of why we're so concerned about playgrounds and skate parks. And working with the Parks Committee of the Kihei Community Association is so rewarding because we have individuals like Andrew and Mark and Lis and Jerrie and others that are

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working with us that add, that keep us really moving. We appreciate their help.

I'd like to mention just one item tonight that really isn't a budget item but it's key to other budget items that are mentioned about the parks in Kihei. I would encourage you to put the public back in our public parks. I think it's an important concept when you . . . what I'm asking for is I'm asking the Maui County Council to recommend to the Maui County an advisory board for the Parks Department. I think it's long over due. We need to be able to discuss with the Parks Department their priority list for CIP items for our communities before we read about them in the budget. We need to be able to talk about what amenities we want. For example, in our new regional park before it gets submitted as testimony during a public hearing. We also need to better understand the difficult job that the Parks Department planning group has in planning for parks some times years in advance. With user input, we can help the Parks Department better serve the customers. And who else runs a business and doesn't ask the customers about the product? So, to date, if questions have been asked of the public they've been asked by paid consultants that are hired by the Parks Department. So, please, give the public the opportunity to comment, review and recommend. Thank you very much.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Bob. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you very much. Mark.

MR. CORONESI: Aloha. I'm following along with Bob. My name is Mark Coronese. I'm a resident of Kihei. I'm also a member of the Kalama Park Action Team and the Kihei Community Association Parks Committee. You can see that we have a very active community group here in South Maui. I'm happy to be a part of that team and to effect some positive change for all of us. I'm here tonight to actually acknowledge the Parks Department and the role that they play to make our South Maui parks better than they were. I didn't say good, great or perfect but they're certainly better than they were. They partnered with us more effectively this year. They've met with us, they've asked for some of our input although we have been very proactive in providing it even if we haven't been asked. And they have been willing to try some new ideas with us. Through these efforts collectively we've realized a number of achievements this year. In general, I think it's safe to say that our South Maui parks are becoming safer and cleaner. Broken things are now starting to get fixed. We can now barbecue again. Our broken swings now have new chains and our skate park is getting some needed TLC.

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Kalama Park is now more welcoming and less intimidating place to be. This is a small part due to the Park Ranger program. And I know this is something that we put into a test this year but the park ranger patrols along with the evening security patrol has some teeth to it, and it's worked and we've had a lot of results here. And I'd also like to thank all the Members of the Council here because I know a couple of months ago we met and you've decided to extend our funding and let us keep that success going. I hope that . . . and I know in the 2008 budget there's some appropriations to expand this program and I hope that we consider doing this so that the rest of Maui County parks can achieve some of the success that we've done here in South Maui. But while I've said that we made progress. There's still a lot more to do. And I think before we can say our parks are level that we're happy with, we still have to do that work. The most dreaded words I hear when I have my family at Kalama Park or at Kamaole beaches is – Papa, I have to go potty. It can chill you. We need better facilities here. In most of these cases, it could mean new or replacement items but often like our new playground that we've got in plan for Kalama Park but in many cases we just really need to maintain what we have in place now. And I think the simple fact is our parks don't maintain themselves. It takes money, it takes people and it takes frequent attention to keep the parks in good shape. And it's no different than us going to our dentist. We skip a check up and cleaning once in a while, that's okay. But if we do it consistently, it gets to a point where that deterioration is so severe that we're stuck with major work expense and pain to get through it. That's somewhat similar to maybe what we've done with our parks over the last number of years. We skipped a few of these maintenance visits and we've held off on the work that we need to keep our parks as nice as we deserve them to be.

I would like to thank the Mayor's Office for putting forth an increase in the Parks budget for 2008, and I'd ask the Council to please support that increase in their review process. If I have another minute or so . . .

MR. RAATZ: You're right at three minutes.

MR. CORONESI: Okay. Just one more thing if I can still ask for things.
Pardon?

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: You have a minute.

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MR. CORONESI: I have a minute. Thank you. Okay. Money is great to have in the budget but what really matters is getting things done. And you know we've got some money from last year and thank you for doing that but you know we're taking some baby steps to get it done. And it's kind of frustrating as part of the community group and you know you see the work we've all put into this and if we sit here a year later after asking for something from last year which you've graciously gave us, we can't show what we've delivered because there's very little to be delivered. I'm hoping that perhaps with the new change we've got in place in the Mayor's Office, the Council, and the department heads of our various departments can figure out a way to streamline these processes that we have to go through. We're willing to do our part and more and just to make it happen. But there must be a way to short cut things like a SMA process to put a new playground in to where this same playground has been for 15 years and the same exact foot print and the same exact park. So, thank you for listening to me and I appreciate your help.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Mark. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you very . . .

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: I'll ask a question.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay, fine. Member Anderson.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: Who told you, you needed an SMA for the playground?

MR. CORONESI: Oh, we've been by the Parks Planning Department that it's required now. Apparently what was done in Kalama Park years ago things like that weren't done but we were told that the playground was a part of, and the pedestrian trail and the paving needs to be in SMA.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: How much did we allocate for that playground?

MR. CORONESI: \$300,000.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: Oh, that's why. Okay, thanks.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Members, it's 7:25 and we'll reconvene the meeting at 7:35. This meeting is in recess. . . . (*gavel*) . . .

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RECESS: 7:25 p.m.

RECONVENE: 7:45 p.m.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . .(*gavel*). . .The Budget and Finance Committee meeting is now back in session. Members of the public I know this has been a long first hour and 45 minutes. It's going . . . just for your information, the Budget and Finance Committee meeting of next week is going to be held at the Council Chambers from 9 o'clock to whenever we're done probably 4 to 5 o'clock in the evening. But you do have an opportunity to testify at the Chambers Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of next week. So, if you need to leave and you want to testify at the later date, you're welcome to come to the Council Chambers. I know there's many of you that have asked me to put you up front but in order for me to do so I probably would start a riot over here. But anyway, the Chair would like to call the next testifier – Phil Schmidt and Project EAST students.

MR. SCHMIDT: Our students have gone home but we're still here. We're going to thank you guys. First of all, this is a great meeting, opportunity for us to come up and talk and I don't know if this gone on in every community so it's wonderful. When we came, we came with some students to talk to you about the Project EAST. And we started looking around and we noticed we had probably 15 or 16 students here from a high school. So you've empowered them in a lot of ways. I guess there's four different groups here for different reasons to talk to you. So it's just a great thing. But we're really here to tell you how much we appreciate your support of the Maui Economic Development Board and our Project EAST Program. Our kids have had great opportunities to go not only to Arkansas to compete with other kids around the country but then also we've been working with other groups here in the community because you've funded MEDB they've helped us and now we've worked with . . . there's another group here called Challenge Maui and it's a handicapped group. I don't know if any of you heard of it but we've identified all of the handicapped areas on the island, all the different associations, different people who can help the handicapped people – recreation spots, hospitals, hotels, restaurants, everything. It's also a great benefit to travelers making this a nice destination for people who aren't physically able but they can still see Maui as a great destination. So, I think some of the money that you spend on us also helps bring into the County so we really appreciate that. Thank you.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier?
Seeing none. Thank you very much.

MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: The next testifier is Gene and Cheryl Zarro. Gene and Cheryl Zarro followed by Mark Christiano.

MR. ZARRO: Hi. Welcome, everybody to South Maui. My name is Gene Zarro. My wife can introduce herself.

MS. C. ZARRO: I'm Cheryl Zarro.

MR. ZARRO: God, it feels like we're on a talk show or something. You guys are really great. You come out here, you spend your evening, you ask us the best way you can help us do things for the community that we want to help. So I'd like to talk to you. You know that Cheryl and I support youth activities. So I'd like to speak about some of the organizations that I think are really important to us and, hopefully, you'll continue to support them. You've heard from Maui Economic Development Board people that are supporting them. I can't imagine a better partner. They have been a Charter member of the Charter School since day one. And they have continued to grow their educational program and continue to include us in their growth. And you've heard from our students and it just brings joy to our heart that they can come up here and do that. Maui Economic Opportunity – I really think it's important that we focus on some positive things. Educational and economic opportunities for our youth are what's going to save us older guys, you know. So, the Maui Economic Opportunity they do so much and you know we don't have to testify as much for MEO as we used to because I think there's someone on your, in your ohana there that might do that for us. . . . (*chuckle*) . . . But the Maui Economic Opportunity is really, really an organization that keeps giving to not only their constituents but to other nonprofits and we can go there for help and we'll be counting on them for transportation for our students when we need it so we'll be calling Cindy.

And I got to talk about the Charter School. We are, we are blown out. We have too many kids. We're up to 250 students. We can't take any more. We're already on a waiting list. We are going to be building as soon as we can get the land in place. We hired a development officer to help us do that. You're going to see this happening. Now, one thing I need to emphasize to you, Charter Schools are community schools. In our

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opinion, it's not a State responsibility and it's not a battle between is it a State responsibility, a County responsibility or some other responsibility. It's a community responsibility to see that these things happen. So we're going to be coming to you with our request, with our help, with our support, with whatever you could do to help us because Charter Schools are community schools and we're already on a waiting list and it's already April 4th and that's for '07-'08, so we need to be doing things.

The last thing I'd like to speak about quickly is our youth group organizations, whether it's the Kihei Youth Center, which is a remarkable organization. That still needs continued support. Or whether it's the Boys Club/Girls Club, whatever those organizations are if we take care of our children first that's putting the money at the right end of the equation. If we catch them while they're young, we'll never have to deal with the other side of the equation – the stuff that brings them back on track. So, I thank you for your support and I don't know if Cheryl would like to say something.

MS. C. ZARRO: I'd like to thank you for coming out and listening to the testifiers tonight. I have to say that everyone I listened to tonight, I agree with. So right off the bat, the greenways we need them. I still have a 11 year old, believe it or not, and he's trying to walk from Lokelani to the Charter School or he bikes. He's decided he wants to stay fit, which we're trying to have our youth do. And the bicycle goes only so far and then it's in dirt and then maybe kiawe and who knows, and he eventually gets there and then people feel bad because they see him walking some place where there's no sidewalk or something along those lines. Our student body, if you come into Kihei at 10 of 8 or 8:05 you will see them coming on skateboards, they're walking, they're bicycling, they may be car pooling, they aren't congesting the road with a lot of cars. They're just getting to school in their community. And we don't have any way for them to do it easily. We have student after school that say, yeah, I can take the bus but then but you know I can't do this or I can't do that and if I could have a bikeway that would make it a lot better. So I would really like to see some of the projects completed. I was here at Lokelani as an employee for eight years hearing about a gymnasium and parks that were going in and I really reviewed the whole book on the budget and I really didn't see anything that said anything at all about a gym. So, I don't know where that actually went but, you know, I want to also say let's finish some of the projects that we have had on the books. Seem like it needed to happen. I also know that Lokelani brought Milton from Public Works here to the Lokelani campus because you have students leaving and there's no

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crosswalk and there's no real way to get from this side over to where the crossing guard is and if you come down to this school when school is out they stagger the two bells so that Kihei El leaves at one time and Lokelani leaves at another time, and you'll see the cars all parked where your greenway and bikeway all that suppose to be built out, and people just kind of wandering all over the place and it's a really dangerous situation. So it needs to be addressed. Other than that, I do want to thank you for all the support that you give to the youth programs and I know that we have some youth that are waiting to also testify about the skate park, so I appreciate all that you do. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Cheryl. We do have a question for you.

MS. C. ZARRO: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: Cheryl, you said that you didn't see anything about the gym in the budget?

MS. C. ZARRO: I wasn't seeing it. I got the proposed budget like the big thick book.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: I think you need the Details.

MS. C. ZARRO: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: But I just want to let you know that there is \$700,000 in the Mayor's proposal for construction of the South Maui, they're calling it community park, Phase 1. This is out of park assessment fees that we already have. The description says that the SMA permitting and environmental assessment process is ongoing. Initial site work is ready to start – Phase 1, and that's what is budgeted in this budget, if it's approved. Phase 1 includes mass grading of the site, construction of a gymnasium with air conditioning and meeting rooms, access and interior roadway, parking, restrooms, one lighted soccer field, and one lighted softball field.

MS. C. ZARRO: Great. Good. I'll look for that detail and I guess it wasn't in what I was looking at -- that big thick book that they send out on the proposed budget 2008.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: I can . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

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MS. C. ZARRO: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Any more questions, Members? Thank you very much.

MS. C. ZARRO: Thanks.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Mark Christiano. `Mark Christiano followed by Kathlene Oldag.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . . (*inaudible*)

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay, fine. Thank you. Gary Elster followed by Bud Pikrone.

MR. ELSTER: Good evening, Members, Council. I'm Gary Elster and I'm here to speak in strong support of the Mayor's proposal for a roundabout, a long awaited roundabout right over here at Liloa and Piikea. Four years ago, we brought the leading, one of the leading experts in the world, Michael Wallwork, here to speak to the community and to debunk a lot of mysticism about roundabouts. I presented a copy of his letter there that's in your file but rather than to retract, let me just speak to you a little bit and summarize it. What he put on, on an hour long demonstration was the fact that these are not traffic circles. These are not the things in the East coast that everybody writes in and says, those things are awful. They are awful. But those are not roundabouts. Not modern roundabouts. Those are traffic circles and in fact in the presentation four years ago by Mr. Wallwork he showed one of the traffic circles, this huge thing that was discontinued and built in the center of it was a modern roundabout right in the same piece of property. The modern roundabout, unlike those free for all and traffic circles, is if engineered properly and it has to be by a couple of expert designers in the country not by our local engineers who have no expertise with them but by a couple consulting firms, Mr. Wallwork's firm and another one in Utah, I believe, properly designed. They are the safest traffic control structure that there is. The statistics are in there and when they put them in, in school areas and other areas that traffic statistics go from intersectional T-bone type things you know when they meet at 90 degree and sometimes death from those into zero. They've had at least as in 2003 no collision with children in properly designed roundabouts. It's really critical to understand as compared to this thing . . . (*end of tape, start 2B*) . . . it's the most dangerous thing. Stop signs are the worst. Traffic signals are only slightly more safe because people run through

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those – and yellow lights and red lights and people get killed in those. You don't get killed in a modern roundabout. It slows traffic down, it controls it. You only have one way to look and that's to your left and the traffic is all moving at a slow pace. Please understand the differences because the letters to the Editor are simply misunderstood based on experience of something that's not being talked about here. So, I strongly support this. I hope you will too. I think the Mayor understands and why she put it in her proposed budget and I hope that you will support it because it's the best thing that we can do for our traffic analysis. It's even good for energy savings because the main problem with air pollution and energy savings from cars that every time they stop and that whole line of traffic has to start again and that's where a lot of fuel is used and a lot of pollution is created. So they're great. I studied them four years ago and all the statistics are right there at least as of 2003. They're safe and they bring double the amount of traffic through an intersection that a signal does but does it much safer. So they're all over the world now. They're being put in all over --

MR. RAATZ: Three minutes.

MR. ELSTER: --New Zealand. Even there when they drive on the wrong side of the road they're very safe. If there's any questions, I'd be glad to answer them.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Any questions for the testifier? Thank you. Member Medeiros.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Thank you for your testimony. In my former life I was at Public Works, Highways, and we had several seminars we attended on roundabouts. Then we wouldn't see any successful designs. How would this roundabout design deal with buses and trucks and tractor trailers?

MR. ELSTER: I wish you could have been at this presentation because he had a slide show showing everything from fire engines to buses to trucks and how they dealt with them. Let me say I'm not an engineer but they showed exactly how it can be designed to handle it. If I come away with on issue I'd like you know they have to be properly designed. It can't be by just any engineering firm and this Michael Wallwork is the leading expert in the world but I think there's a firm in Utah as well. After that, I would be suspect of any other firm that says, oh, we can do it; we can look it up in a book. It's really critical they do it right – where they put the

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crosswalk for children, how far back from it, how they design the structure, how they . . . they even have ways to put bikes through them that really work well. It was all shown to us and they had study after study showing the before and after roundabout from a troubled intersection. Trouble before and no trouble after and I can be confident after learning all I could four years ago. This is the safest thing that we can do for our kids, for everybody on Maui and move our traffic better than what we do now.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: My second question is, because we're limited on the corridors that we have for streets and highways and so forth, the design you're talking about would take how much land in order to construct the roundabout you're talking about?

MR. ELSTER: Well, this one over here, Liloa and Piikea, is specifically talked about in here. That was looked at by Michael Wallwork and absolutely they can design one there. It doesn't work everywhere as you say. And, in fact, what not to do is up at the West end of the island there is what they call a roundabout that's awful. That's not a roundabout. It's not properly designed. They call it one but be careful of the labels. The bottom line of it is, yes, there are limits to what they can do. You can't shove one in every place. But where it is appropriate they're the best thing you can do. And this is appropriate right here – this location. As a matter of fact, South Kihei Road was the thing that was originally looked at because of that mass of multiple signals in a three-block area. And it was looked at and could be done there . . . could be done there even with our limitations, sir.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay. Thank you for your testimony.

MR. ELSTER: You're very welcome. Thank you. Thank you for your time all of you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Gary. Bud Pikrone followed by Jerrie Sheppard.

MR. PIKRONE: Aloha, Council members. Good to see you. My name is Bud Pikrone and although I'd like to be testifying tonight about parks, skate parks, dog parks, any kind of parks, I do favor all of them and I hope that you do support all the park efforts. But tonight, I'm here as a Maui County Fire and Safety Commissioner, and I am here to talk about the needs to support the Fire Department. We've all, at some time,

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experienced the necessity of the Fire Department. We've seen in the last year some examples of what they need to do, what they have to do, and what it takes for them to do their job. The Department's budget is driven by the Strategic Plan -- their goals, their strategies, their objectives, the required adequate funding to deliver the adequate service that the communities of Maui County need. Besides equipment and personnel that are necessary to maintain the proper and safe level of protection, there's also a need to obtain, as is mentioned in your budget, a designated fire investigator which we really don't have, increase community inspections which is critical as we grow as a community, and continue public education programs to help prevent fires because that is the key to stop some of the problems that we've had over the last number of years. So, I encourage the Council to please approve the budget as submitted by the Department. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Bob. Members, any questions for Mr. Pikrone. Seeing none. Thank you very much. Jerrie Sheppard followed by Todd Lawson.

MS. SHEPPARD: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen of the Council. I have some helpers here who are going to walk some 6th grade art projects past you so you can take a good look at some of the differences in our park based on a partnership between a Kalama Park Action Team citizen volunteers and the Parks Department of the past several years.

When we started the KPAC group in 2004, the park was really in atrocious condition. It was scary down there. We had homeless people camping on the tops of the pavilions with mattresses up in trees. There were liquor bottles everywhere. People drank in the park, peopled pee'd in the park, it was a scary, scary place and it was like that overnight when the park was supposed to be closed. And it was like that during the day when youth soccer and youth baseball was taking place in the park. It was very frightening. This group of people and it continued on because these people are so committed to it. This group of people started a citizens patrol that goes in frequently and just walks around and we write down what we see that may need some attention and we pass that on to Parks or we write down something that looks a little scary and we pass that on to Police. And it does start to get addressed. After a while it has started to be addressed and you can see a big difference. If you get out of here before 10 o'clock tonight please don't just drive straight up here and go on the highway and rush home. Please go down to South Kihei Road and

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drive pass Kalama Park and take a look at the whale. The whale that you can see in these pictures used to be overgrown with weeds and really quite an eye sore. It was damaged, it was an embarrassment. And because of the donations that we've had from community members of time and supplies that thing now is absolutely stunning. But why do we stop there? If you look, if you go out in the daytime, if you come down from Hana or over from Molokai and can drive that park area in the daytime you need to see some of the things that aren't taken care of. For one thing, the parking lot along the strip across from South Kihei's . . . Kihei Kalama Villages, that parking lot has giant craters in it and I challenge anybody to navigate that parking lot without scaring yourself because if you drive through there, you're going to have a tire buster, and why isn't that repaved yet, I don't know. The other parking lot got repaved but that parking lot did not. So that needs to be addressed.

The playground down there you'll see we noted three, four years ago damages to the fall surface on the playground where it splits. Little kids that run along that playground if it catches a foot in that can twist an ankle. It's not a matter of grooming. It's a matter of safety and the playground of all places should be a safe place for kids to play. Now we've done some work getting some sand in to the swing set area and Parks was good about getting swings in there but the rest of the playground is pathetic. It's really sad. And then the biggest feature of all that could be beautiful and inviting and get people into the park is another eye sore. It's a natural waterway that goes right beside the whale and it's called "Open Ditch" on the sign, which has been modified with a "B" frequently. If you look at that, what that is a harbor for shopping carts and liquor bottles and cans and trash and algae and nests. And it doesn't have to be that. If you go to any of these resorts, any golf course, they know how to aerate their water and make it a feature. And there's no reason we couldn't take the same little rock wall that they have along the rest of the park and put a little rock wall border down there, do something underneath so we don't have all the algae and grass and all that stuff growing up from it and groom that area and make it beautiful.

MR. RAATZ: Three minutes.

MS. SHEPPARD: So, I think the Parks Department needs to listen to the people, continue to listen to the people, continue to partner with the people, hear our ideas and make it happen. Make the commitment with the budget and then follow through. We did have a promise that the Parks Department was going to help design the whale trail and that was funded for design in

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2005 Budget and 2006 Budget and it was suppose to be constructed in 2007 Budget but we're still in the design stage. So, where's the accountability for Parks back to you guys who said we approved that? That's what we say you have approved in your budget. Where's the accountability back from Parks to say, oh, we didn't get it done? Or we're planning on doing it this way instead or what? If we had some kind of citizen involvement maybe there can be more accountability to the public and to the Council for what you all approved and what we all expect to get from our County budget. And I thank you very much for coming to South Kihei. Please drive by the park.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Jerrie. Members, any questions for . . . Ms. Sheppard? Seeing none. Thank you very much. Todd Lawson followed by Ray and Fran Oshiro.

MR. LAWSON: Good evening, Council members. My name is Todd Lawson and I'm here representing Akimeka, LLC. We're a native Hawaiian company in information technology company within the Tech Park. And I do want to say, Jerrie, I've been a long term Kihei resident and you guys have done a fabulous job over there at the park. So I appreciate that.

As I mentioned, I work for Akimeka. We're a native Hawaiian company. I'm here to actually offer my support for the Maui Economic Development Board. I've worked with the MEDB staff for several years. And as a growing small business within the technology realm, we work closely with the Maui Economic Development Board. Some of the things that Curt had mentioned earlier I was going to talk about a couple of those projects but actually I'm going to shift gears just a little bit and touch on some of the items that he mentioned that are really relevant to our world. We are a growing small business. We're going to have probably about 10-12 positions open within the next six months in the high tech . . . technology areas. One of the . . . couple of the problems we see . . . the good news is we're growing and we're growing on Maui. The bad news is that we can't find enough individuals to fill these positions with the qualifications. So how do you do that? We're working closely with the Maui Economic Development Board with several projects. I'm trying to establish a home grown work force in the technology area. One of the initiatives that was mentioned was Project EAST. I'm just going to mention these again. I'm not going into any detail. They've been talked about several times tonight. The introduction of girls to Engineering Day and they also support Tech Careers Day, I am the Future. These specific projects go into the grade schools – K through 12, and start introducing

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technology to the students. That's one way we can start to grow that work force and make it home grown. The other area is actually with their Kama`aina Come Home program, and what you guys mentioned earlier this evening and their holiday tech job fair. That's been a very successful tech fair and it also coincides during the holiday season to actually target the kama`aina that are home visiting on the holidays. As a hiring manager up there, we are going to continue to struggle to fill these positions so these projects help us considerable. And the Kama`aina Come Home has been working for a couple of years now, we're starting to reap those rewards and we're starting to see a lot of people that worked here that grew up here, went to college in the computer science field and left for good jobs on the mainland. We're starting to bring some of those folks home. So, I just offer my support for the Maui Economic Development Board. The last thing I hate to see is actually us recruiting on the mainland and bringing, moving people over here. Curt had mentioned some of the positions . . . I mean for me to move and relocate--

MR. RAATZ: Three minutes.

MR. LAWSON: --thank you, someone here from the mainland it's I can hire someone for 80 grand. So, you know, we're forced to, our labor rates are forced to be accelerated and then that also adds to our cost for competing for different proposals. So, it definitely behooves us to grow this internal staff here. So, thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Todd. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you very much. Ray and Fran Oshiro followed by John Andersen.

MR. OSHIRO: Good evening, Council Chair, Chairperson, Council members. I am here on behalf tonight to speak about the roundabout that has been kicked around for a few years now. The roundabout may sound great but my thing is it will impact Waipuilani and I live on Waipuilani. And being a County employee for the Highways Division I've had lot of residents that have come up with their concerns about the roundabout because they know it will impact the traffic that currently is impacting our street right now. The design that they had spoken about where they had some semis going through, they were not large semis. They were small semi. We have 40 and 60 footers that do come through our road because they cannot negotiate certain terms. Waipuilani at Piilani is a right turn only. So a lot of the construction trucks, tractor trailers, the semis they do come down through Waipuilani. We don't have any sidewalks on Waipuilani, on the

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lower half. I'm talking between Liloa and South Kihei Road. So the children after school do walk on the roadway and a lot of times you have the semis that come down and the children have no place to go. They, you know, have to walk on the side where some of the places are not really maintained. In the past, the Highways Division has gone into do some improvements because I was aware of the concerns of the children walking along side of the road, and have seen a couple of times where there was a hit and run where children were hit.

There's also talk about the North/South Collector Road between Waipuilani and Kulanihakoi. If the North/South Collector Road is not put in place and they want to go ahead with this roundabout, the impact on Waipuilani would be even greater than it is right now. Many of the . . . like I said, many of the residents have come and approached me as to why the roundabout couldn't be put somewhere else. My feeling is that the monies for this roundabout could be used elsewhere in putting in sidewalks, improving our shoulders for bike paths where they don't have the misconception that the extended shoulder is a bike path. A bike path has two different color stripes on the road – a green and a white stripe that indicates that it is a bike path. The bike paths along certain areas in South Kihei Road are not, they're just extended shoulders and those monies probably could be used to improve those things.

Monies have been appropriated for the roundabout and I think they have since lapsed and we lost the Federal monies for it. It's just a matter of time before the Federal says, you know what, we gave you folks money we're not going to give you any more. If a roundabout needs to be put in place we should try and find a different area because at Piikea and Liloa that four-way stop has been working. We . . . I think as far as I can remember there was just two minor accidents that happened there and one of them involved a drunk driver late at night that ran over the stop sign.

MR. RAATZ: Three minutes.

MR. OSHIRO: If at all possible, try reconsider where you want to implement this roundabout and, if possible, maybe we could get a developer to pay half of it somewhere else instead of the County trying to get funds and keep losing the funds from the Federal government. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Ray. Members, any questions for either Ray or Fran at this time? No questions. Thank you very much for being here. John Andersen followed by Kelly Fliar. John, go ahead.

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MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you. Good evening, part-timers. I would like to note that as the Salary Commission is sitting in front of their TV watching American Idol you are here with your finger on the pulse of our community and I thank you for that, and I'm sure this entire room thanks you for that. . . . (*applause*) . . .

My name is John Andersen. I'm the Executive Director of Na Hale O Maui, a non-profit community land trust. Our mission is to provide decent affordable housing for the residents of Maui County and we are well on our way to doing that with your help. And I'd like to thank you for the investment you made in our organization last year as we were getting started. We are well along our way and we have formed a Board of Directors' articles and corporation Bylaws, applied for our non-profit status with the IRS and we're in active discussions with developers for our first project. So we thank you for all your support. And I know I'm preaching to the choir for the need for affordable housing but I have to acknowledge what you did last year. As well as investing in us, you worked tirelessly for the Work Force Housing Policy, which is now the law of our County. You got a valid initiative on so that the citizens of this County could speak with their votes and put 2 percent of the property taxes towards affordable housing. A lot was accomplished last year and you're continuing your efforts to do that this year.

I wanted to share with you tonight, which I brought along and in your pack of papers you'll find a page that is labeled "Maui housing affordability 1990 to 2006". Our project's committee is working very diligently on putting together on the ground lease resale formula that will guarantee affordability in future generations but give a fair equity share and return to our homeowners. In order to do that formula because there is no one formula, there's been many formulas that have been used in community land trusts and they need to be customized to the community. We're running modeling using actual data of what has happened to the median income for a family of four on our island comparing it to what has happened to the median sale price of a single family home. By using actual data we're able to take these potential resale formulas and plug actual numbers into them and see how that would affect affordability in the future. And I put these numbers together and put it in a graph form and last week the president of our organization, Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez and I were invited to brief the Senate Housing Committee at the Capitol about the community land trust model. And I wanted to get their attention and these graphs got their attention big time. The top graph takes

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the Maui median sale price which is the red line going back to 1990 and shows what has happened in those 16 years. Underneath it is the green line and the green line represents what a family of four earning 100 percent of median income could afford to buy using the guidelines contained in the Work Force Housing ordinance. Actually, the green line did go up at a nice, almost steady rate. But the red line on the top while during the 1990s it actually was going down --

MR. RAATZ: Three minutes.

MR. ANDERSEN: --increasing affordability it sky rocketed in the last five years. The bottom graph takes what a family could afford to pay as a percentage of what is available in the median sale price and you can see that our affordability index, as I'm referring to this peak in 1990, and has in just a short years since 1990 gone all the way from the top to the lowest figure in 16 years. We are now, we're at the top of affordability of 86 percent and we're now down to 36 percent on the affordability index. This is why it is a crisis and this is why the Mayor has said we have to do more than just let the market take care of this. It is too extreme and we thank you for all your support, for our efforts which is a community-based effort to bring affordable housing in perpetuity to our community. We want to have sustainable affordable housing and we want to have a sustainable organization to provide that to our children and their children and all the generations to come. Thank you so much for your support.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, John. Members, any questions for the testifier? Member Baisa.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Good evening, John, and thank you for being here and thank you for this graphic description of what we have all known as going on. It's wonderful when somebody has the skill and the time to actually show us how tough things are and why we're feeling what we're feeling. And we're very excited about Na Hale O Maui and we predict much success and we look forward to working with you as partners in getting this affordable housing thing going. Thank you.

MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Any more questions, comments?

MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you very much.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, John. Kelly Fliear followed by Janice Hill.

MR. FLIEAR: Aloha, Council members, my name is Kelly Fliear. I'm here tonight to testify on behalf of not only myself but on behalf of Kihei Little League baseball. I'm currently the President of Kihei Little League baseball. I've lived on Maui for 29 years. When I moved here Kihei was probably 4,000 people, maybe five. Azeka Market and Suda Store were the two major grocery stores. Intercontinental Hotel was the only hotel. Kalama Park was a fairly new park at that time. It was a big designed to handle a lot of people especially for a town of 4,000. Now, Kihei nears 25,000 people. Kalama Park is not big enough any more. We don't have a high school. We're the largest town in the United States of America without a high school, dedicated public high school. And I'm making that statement and I believe that, that would be true. I would like to challenge anyone that could name a town with more than 25,000 people that doesn't have a dedicated public high school. But I'm here to talk about the South Maui Regional Park. And so I did a little homework and I'd like to take you on a real quick history lesson. January of 1997 in the *Pacific Business News* there was an article that read like this. Maui County is proposing to construct a \$7 million community center and swimming pool complex on nine acres in Kihei. But the community center has some Kihei Community Association members concerned who predict an allocation of 7 million will over shadow the County's previous efforts to develop a 150-acre Kihei regional park which has been on the drawing board for a couple of years. A park design consultant has been hired to come up with some the new figures and design for this community park. So if I do the math correctly, 1997 less two years is 1995. So when I went on the Internet that's where I've, that's the place where I've determined that the Maui South community park had its origin. Okay. Linda Lingle was the Mayor.

Second article, let's go to 2001. July 18, 2001, *Star Bulletin*, Honolulu. Maui County buys 50 acres for new park in Kihei. It says that Maui County has purchased 50 acres of land for a regional park south of Lokelani Intermediate School in Kihei for \$1.7 million. Mayor James "Kimo" Apana said that the County plans to hold public meetings to determine what the South Maui community wants in that park. County officials said that the land was appraised at \$6.1 million and the \$4.4 million balance was a gift from the owner, Piilani South, LLC. My open-ended question to ponder is this. If I was the seller, what would I expect if I gave a gift of \$4.4 million to the County? I think it's pretty clear that they expect that a park should be developed and built whether it has his

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name on it or not he was making a contribution to the community, therefore, the community needs to build this park.

MR. RAATZ: Three minutes.

MR. FLIEAR: Okay. Next, 2002 – County of Maui, Parks and Rec. Committee hears the Parks and Rec. Report of December 6, 2002. It says that the committee allocated and approved \$150,000 in year 2002 to fund the plan. Four hundred thousand has been appropriated in 2003 to fund the plan and design. Phase I - \$3,700,000; Phase II - \$3,300,000; Phase III - \$400,000. Total build-out cost - \$11 million. Now, two weeks ago we had a meeting over here and now the 2020 completion date with the three phases to do this park is estimated at \$40.1 million. That's \$29 million of an increase in a five-year period.

Next, we go to 2005. Here are some of the things we budgeted for that year.

MR. RAATZ: Four minutes.

MR. FLIEAR: There was a number of improvements for Kalama Park that didn't happen -- improvements to the pavilion, paving of the parking lot, relocating the back stop of the junior diamond so the sun doesn't go into the eyes of the batters. All those things totaled about 600 grand. None of them happened. None of them. \$7.5 million was appropriated by the County in 2005 to start Phase I of the South Maui County Regional Park to float a bond for \$7.5 million. That bond never floated. That bond sunk. It's probably down in Davy Jones' locker somewhere. I guess what I'm telling you is this park needs to be built.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Sir.

MR. FLIEAR: Not in three phases. It needs to be built as soon as possible. You need to float the bond for the enter amount for two reasons. Number one . . . *(end of tape, start 4A.)* . . . years now. This park should have been built by now. And number two, the cost to build in 2015, 2020 is going to be 30 percent more than it is today. And number three, build it for the kids. Build it for the youth because every minute they spend on the ball field or in the gym is one minute you don't have to worry about them. So that's my request. Thank you.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier?
Member Anderson.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: Kelly, thank you very much for giving us --

MR. FLIEAR: You're welcome.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: --a very detailed background of the appalling situation about the appropriation of funds for park use in South Maui. You said that there was a \$7.5 million bond that was supposed to be floated in what year was that -- 2005?

MR. FLIEAR: 2005. And the interesting thing in 2006 no money was allocated towards the park.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: Do you have anything in your documentation there that states that the \$7.5 million was only a phase or was that the total amount that was being allocated for the park?

MR. FLIEAR: That was to begin Phase I and then in 2007 an additional \$14 million was to be allocated for the rest of the build out based on how I understand it.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: It's very sobering and, you know, this fellow he leads Kihei Little League with over 300 kids that are down at Kalama Park two to three times a week. And we really appreciate it if anybody knows the needs for park in this park, actually for fields, for play fields in this town it's Kelly Fliear and we thank you very much for coming tonight.

MR. FLIEAR: You're welcome.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

MR. FLIEAR: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Janice Hill followed by . . . we do have some students that need to leave early so I'm going to pick up the students. As soon as Janice is done, the next testifier will be Peggy Temple along with the kids from Kihei. Janice, please.

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MS. HILL: Aloha. My name is Janice Hill. I've lived in Maui County for 38 years. I'm a retired teacher and my husband is a retired police officer. I'm testifying against increasing user fees for water, sewer and refuse disposal. The Mayor is proposing lowering property taxes while increasing user fees. We already have one of the lowest property taxes in the nation. This is because our schools are State run and don't rely on local assessments to fund them. Lowering property taxes sounds like a good idea, but not at the expense of increasing user fees. These rates are reasonable right now but if you better budgeted the budget then perhaps these fees would not need to be increased. When I see what things really cost and what you've appropriated for them it seems frivolous. You're spending needs to be necessary and realistic.

Mayor Tavares requested one million in County funds with the expectation of an additional two million in matching Federal dollars for a Kihei roundabout at the intersection of Liloa and Piikea. Is there really heavy traffic there? Many pedestrians are students from Kihei and Lokelani Schools. A former student was hit there. A traffic light should be cheaper and safer for the pedestrians who would otherwise need a crosswalk near by. Three million dollars is ridiculous. Seventeen years ago a traffic light at Lipoa and Piilani Highway cost \$150,000. As a driver, I like the idea but what about the pedestrians and the cost. I would prefer seeing it on South Kihei Road. Why do tennis courts in Kula cost \$1 million? Why \$2 million for golf? We really need a Kihei police station. The three to five million you can build a fabulous mansion for one million if the land is paid for compared to a cement island in the proposed roundabout three million for a building looks cheap. However, the budget shows by 2013 thirty-three million will be spent for the police station. Four million is appropriated for the morgue. I can't argue with the need since I've never been there, but \$4 million? Why a half a million dollars just to plan a materials recovery facility? This is where recyclables will be sorted and processed. Why two million for the Lahaina recycling center? The State should give more money for this since they are making a profit on the bottle and can deposits. I'm still in favor of mandatory recycling and curb side pick up. Then if we want to redeem the bottles and cans, we can do so at the centers.

Electricity rates have consistently risen. My husband and I purchased 20 photovoltaic solar panels to generate electricity for our home. In just four short months thanks to our new system 35,000 lbs. of CO2 did not go into the atmosphere. This system cost \$26,000. Our loan for it will be paid back in 10 years. It was worth it to reduce environmental pollution and

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lower our electric bill. When the County decides to use photovoltaic energy on some of its facilities, that will be great but it won't cost millions to do so. I am in favor of all the projects mentioned tonight and not one of them asked for a million dollars except the roundabout. Both tourists and residents alike could benefit from better parks, restrooms, roads, signage, hiking trails and recycling. You don't need to invest in recruiting more tourists to Maui. Maui sells herself.

MR. RAATZ: Three minutes.

MS. HILL: When the malahinis who buy the \$4 million condos mauka from Grand Wailea start paying property taxes there will be more revenue so you won't have to increase user fees. Five hundred and twenty five million dollars is a lot of money to budget. If less were spent on over priced bids, maybe the County could purchase more land for the County rather than leaving it for the developers to buy and sell to the millionaires. It seems that the developers are trying to build for the kama`aina or given a harder time for permits and approvals than the developers building for unlikely locals in Wailea. Making Maui a better place is possible, if we could just get more bang for our bucks.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Member Anderson has a question for you.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: Janice, could you please leave your testimony with staff so that we could get copies of it?

MS. HILL: I left one with Mike but I didn't make the 16 copies so it's a white copy that's copyable.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: Mike Molina has it?

MS. HILL: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: He'll share.

MS. HILL: Thanks.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: Thank you very much.

MS. HILL: Mahalo.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Peggy Temple, Anna Greenwood, Liz Zarro, Meg Hernandez, Hollis Williams, Ann Green, Micheala Grady, Christine Pinney, Zakry Williams.

MS. TEMPLE: The kids are going to go first in reference to the skate park.

MS. L. ZARRO: Hi, I'm Liz. And that's Hollis, Meg, Anna and Ms. Temple. And we all like to hang out at the skate park and . . .

MS. TEMPLE: Not all of us.

MS. L. ZARRO: Well, most of us. . . . (*chuckled*) . . .

AUDIENCE: . . . (*laughter*) . . .

MS. TEMPLE: I support them.

MS. L. ZARRO: And like you guys could do some things like make the park public so everyone can go in it. Like you could turn on the lights at night and take down the fences but put up like "SKATE AT YOUR OWN RISK" signs or something like that.

MS. GREENWOOD: Hi, I'm Anna. Okay, if you guys do tear down the skate park, we won't have anywhere to go. I mean, all the bikers and the skaters that do go there will end up skating and biking on the streets where we are not allowed to be anyway. So the cops will come and then we'll be kicked out. And then all these people that do bike and skate at skate parks most of them have really good talents at doing it. I've seen like half of them start biking and get so much better than like how they were before. And if you do then, then all that talents will go to waste and all that time and effort that they put into their bikes and skates are going to be totally gone to waste for nothing.

MS. HERNANDEZ: Hi, I'm Megan. I just wanted to say that if you put up "SKATE AT YOUR OWN RISK" signs everywhere where people could see then no one would sue the County for any injuries. And it would just be a better thing. People would know that it was at their own risk. And yeah, that's it.

MS. L. ZARRO: And I wanted to add something that I just found out that high schools are actually letting skateboarding and stuff be a part of gym class

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now. So on Oahu so it could like helps their fitness and stops like the growing rate of obesity and DUS. . . . (*chuckled*) . . . Thanks.

MS. TEMPLE: I'm Peggy Temple and I want to thank you for letting us have this opportunity. We are here, the students and I, on behalf of the Women of Technology. We are at Lokelani, one of the only middle schools in our State, actually in the nation, that actually has an engineering curriculum for 8th graders. Our 8th graders take it as a regular part of their course work. We cannot do this with what's budgeted for our school budget because they don't budget engineering but it's such an important and critical part of our education technology. And the Women of Technology helps us in many ways. The students have the opportunity of competing in Oahu at the University where we currently hold the first place trophy in electrical engineering. The students at Lokelani developed an electric fishing rod. We'll tell you about that some other time.

We also have . . . the girls participated in and they're going to say something about that. And the girls for Engineering Day, which is a wonderful opportunity that has them developing many more interests in engineering. The curriculum itself goes from design engineering handle civil, mechanical, aeronautic and computer technology so we go through various stages of engineering to prepare the students to see if they would like a career in this field. We also have our engineer fair that they sponsor and help judge, and they also get guest speakers for the year as well as getting us judges for the science fair. Along with that, we also have Pi day and we are the world record holders for making the most consecutive pi chains. Pi being 3.14 and we make colored links in sequential order and we made this year 35,680 links. So we are the world record holders in London and everywhere. You can read about us on the Net. So they've really sponsored us in many, many programs that the students wouldn't have an opportunity to participate in and it's really important for everybody to sponsor them. I think they're a wonderful organization. And since we've already heard from other people about the lack of engineers in our State and the lack of female engineers – 10 percent of all engineers are female. That's really a crime. There's no way that we should allow this to happen. And before I let them speak I have to say one thing . . . I'm from New England and if we ever spent all this time on a roundabout, we would just die. I just think that's . . . I can't tell you how funny that is because I grew up with roundabouts all over my state in Massachusetts so I find that very interesting.

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MS. GREENWOOD: Last year, I participated with the girls in Engineering Day, which showed me how many different types of engineering there is like that they offer cause you figure that engineering is like just one thing like you make something and then turn it in somewhere else. But it's like electrical and it's lot a of thinking and stuff. Like I made a light that like dims last year. They showed me how to make it at the electric company, and it was really cool and it was free because the Women of Technology paid for us to go there. So, yeah, that was really cool.

MS. L. ZARRO: I participated in the Women Engineering thing this year, and I went to Maui Electric and they showed me all the different like where the light posts are and how it affects everything and that inspired me a lot to be an engineer when I grow up. And I think that it's like only 10 percent of the engineers are women so that mostly inspired me. And I participated in the science fair and I went to districts. And then I made a science project but next year I'm going to be in the engineering club for my elective but it really helped me like think for my future to be an engineer.

MS. TEMPLE: So the students have been very successful with their project. This year, they developed an automatic poi pounder. Last year, Kyle Kim had . . . they know how to get out of work. Last year, Kyle Kim received many awards with the Optical Association because he developed a pair of Polaroid glasses that you do not have to wait till they do the graduated lenses. So you just flick a switch and you it to whatever lens it wants. And they were very interested in his product to patent it. We also had the flip flop computer where you would just press a button and the key board would flip up so that you could clean it and then press it back down. So the kids have been really busy inventing all different new products. This year we had the combing gel comb. We had . . . gee, what else did we have this year . . . we just had many, many new inventions and products so we just wanted to tell you that. There's some very innovative children on our island and they deserve the chance to really keep going forward. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. And hopefully some of them would work for the County.

MS. TEMPLE: I hope so. The County does support us and comes to speak to us many times.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay, thank you. And we can provide you the applications now if you want. The next testifier is Donna Hansen followed by Bunny Spalding.

MS. HANSEN: Aloha, Council members, and thank you for this opportunity. My name is Donna Hansen and I'm a resident in South Maui. And I'm also very active in a lot of different charities. I'm a realtor by profession and I am a strong believer, and trying to help those who have zero or very little, such as the mentally ill, the homeless. We definitely need a lot of different things on this island to support those in need. Mental Health is the big issue here and it is something that we have been trying very hard to deal with on a different level. I am a member of the service area board for Maui County. I'm also the Maui representative for the State. And I've worked and seen an awful lot of different things happening on the island. A lot of those very positive. What has been asked of you all is to consider \$30,000 request to the Mental Health Association. This Mental Health Association is not tied to any specific entity but they're an integral part of helping those who need help of guiding people in the right direction, not just the patient or we call them consumers those with mental health issues but also the family. Also, I think it's very important for you to be aware that suicide is a big issue. There are a lot of kids out there that are close to or do commit suicide that we do not hear about. Maui County has got a lot of problems in that area. The Mental Health Association supports the children, supports the families not just of children but of adults. We are going into a new phase of senior citizens, people that have a lot of issues as well – mental health issues, dementia and things of that sort. We're going to need this company, this volunteer with the exception of one paid staff person to guide people. The woman that's involved in this is Colleen Wallace. She's a brilliant woman; I don't know how she does it all but she's like an encyclopedia. If you call her and you ask her, you say you have an issue, she will be able to send you to tons of different associations and she'll be able to guide you as to where you can go and how you could help. So for \$30,000 it will make a difference in keeping their doors open. So I please ask you all to grant that request. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Donna. Members, any questions for the testifier? Thank you again. Bunny Spalding followed by Pamela Wolf.

MS. SPALDING: Good evening. My name is Bunny Spalding and I have a small business called Bunny Bags and Tropical Rags, and my Bunny Bags are all jean purses. They're all one of a kind. You probably seen some around. I'm a member of MEO and I'm here . . . I just want to express my

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gratitude on just how wonderful the program is. I heard about MEO in the weekly newspaper. There was an ad in there. I also went to Maui Resource Center and they directed me to MEO and I met with Jerrie Lum and I brought in samples of all my purses, and they right off the bat just really loved my product and they thought I had the potential of getting somewhere with this business. And so they suggested that I take the four core business plan course, and so I did. Susie was the teacher and she was just extremely great; a fantastic teacher. And I just learned so much about running my business properly, the legal parts, and the main thing is my organization on my whole business. From there I got a small business loan and I was able to buy a lot of my supplies with that and just get going on my way. And it was so great because MEO were basically the only people that would give me a chance and loan me a little bit of money. It wasn't much but it was just, you know, they were just so supportive of my product. In fact, at Christmastime, they were my best customers. I think every single person there bought a purse from me or three or four. I've gone to the network class afterwards and met a lot of people that possibly could help me out. And . . . let's see . . . they also gave suggestions of me selling my purses on the Internet, which I just got a computer and I'm going to be set up doing that. You know, they just are there to give me phone numbers of people that possibly could sew for me. Before I left the business course and graduated, and it was a full ceremony, and it was really great, they had told me that any time I needed help in developing a business plan or anything to . . . in the future to get a larger loan or anything to just call them and they're always there for me. And I just hope that MEO continues to support and help the small business, local people of Maui. And you know, I would like to take more classes if needed and if they offer any classes for me. So I just think they're a wonderful organization. So, thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Bunny. Members, any questions for the testifier? If not, thank you very much. Pamela Wolf followed by Sonia King.

MS. WOLF: Good evening. How are you today? Thank you for your time. I'm a proud graduate of the _____ class that the lady before me explained. And they financially gave me a scholarship for this class because I couldn't afford it and I would like other people in my situation to have that opportunity. It's an excellent class. It helps you start your own business by helping you develop a business plan, which is the most important thing to get a loan, you know, if you don't have the finances. So, Jerrie back there helped, stayed after hours to help me. The plan took about three

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months because I never did this before in my life so I really appreciate the chance to do that. Also, if you're in a poverty level that you . . . you don't have a chance you just go to daily jobs, you don't have a chance to start your own business, this gives you an opportunity to do research and . . . face-to-face, you know, people who really have their own businesses how to start one. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Pamela. Sonia King followed by Brad Quinto and the County of Maui Ocean Safety group.

MS. KING: My name is Sonia King. I'm with the Hawaii Business Research Library and I guess you're going to get all the small business organizations right now. MEO is one of the organizations we work with and we provide research services to their students. I'm the Acting Director at the library right now. We're located right up the hill in the Tech Park. The library provides essential information to help Maui County entrepreneurs evaluate both opportunities and threats in local, national and international markets. It does so both by gathering, analyzing, organizing and publishing a huge amount of information in the Maui County Data Book as well as by updating the Starting a Business in Maui County handbook. We release a monthly electronic newsletter that goes out to small businesses that has a calendar of events, trade shows, anything that . . . any event that they'd be interested in as well as news information that's State news, local news as well as national legislative issues that come up, very informative. We have over 2,700 subscribers. We maintain an extensive website of research links and publications and data that we've gathered from wherever we can find about Maui County. And most importantly, by providing customized research projects for individuals and businesses. Last year, we responded to over 1,700 questions. Easy questions are answered swiftly and more difficult questions are passed on to our researchers for customized attention. These projects are very labor intensive and require the expertise of highly trained individuals. The staff librarians have master degrees in Business and Library information science as well as many years of experience. We want you to please continue the support of the information network that we've built up over the years at the budgeted amount. We will use them to continue to upgrade the development and research of the data book and to pay for increased publishing costs as well as costs for online data bases and small business resources in print and digital formats. The budget increase will also help to pay salaries of staffers who respond to calls from Maui County citizens, businesses, nonprofits and the government agencies. If nearly all of Maui businesses being small businesses it's

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about 99 percent, I checked today, that is by the SBA standards of 500 or less employees.

We find that there are to be no stronger argument for supporting the library than the findings of a recently released report from the SBA's Office of Advocacy, which states, and that came out in February, "we find that small business establishments (BRF's) are the single largest determinant of gross state product, employment and state personal income growth. State efforts to promote small business information will be more fruitful in terms of generating economic growth than virtually any other policy option."

MR. RAATZ: Three minutes.

MS. KING: At the library, we work directly with small business owners and the results of our work are nearly immediate. That is why for every dollar invested in the Hawaii Small Business Network \$3.40 is returned to the State in new taxes. We are administratively and mission aligned with the Hawaii Small Business Development Center Network through the SBDC funds obtained from the County are leveraged with funds from the State of Hawaii and the SBA. And we thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Sonia. Members, any questions for the testifier? Member Anderson.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: Thanks, Chair. Sonia, when you have people ask you to do customized research projects, do you charge them?

MS. KING: Virtually never. The only time we might charge them is if it's an unreasonable cost . . . something that we haven't already purchased a product on . . .

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: That's wonderful.

MS. KING: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: That's a huge help to people that are trying to get . . .

MS. KING: And it's for individuals and businesses. So that means that if people that are in business or are looking to start business, nonprofits that are doing business plans. Any one who needs the number, basically.

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COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: So your funding comes through MEDB?

MS. KING: Our funding comes through . . . we're administratively run by the Hawaii Small Business Development Center Network – the SBDC, who has the Maui center. You probably know David Fisher. He's their business center director. We work closely with him in his office.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: So, you're just coming to tell us what you do. You're not needing any funding, is that right?

MS. KING: We have a line-item in the Office of Economic Development --

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: Okay.

MS. KING: --that supports the Data Book and answering all the questions that are created from that, and any kind of questions that come from the County and the citizens.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: Okay. Thank you very much.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

MS. KING: Okay.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: The next set of testifiers are Brad Quinto, Zach Edlao, Keola Brown, Kris Ivary, and Glenn Aki.

MR. EDLAO: Aloha, Council. Thank you for being here hearing the community, their needs and the changes they want to see. My name is Zach Edlao and I am an Ocean Safety Officer for the County of Maui. I know there's a lot of people waiting to speak so I'll try to make this quick. But first I like to give a big mahalo to Bob and Lisa and the KCA for all the work they did transforming the parks into actually parks. Unreal amazing job.

AUDIENCE: *(applauding)*

MR. EDLAO: But anyway, I'll start first by reading our ocean safety mission statement. It is to provide and encourage ocean safety through public education and ocean recreation, and to assist in emergencies along Maui

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coastal waters, thereby providing safer beaches for the people of Maui County and the visitors who use Maui County beach parks.

Now, our main priority right now is to get the ocean safety department out of Parks and Recreation into public safety where they belong. The people of Maui County and the visitors perceive us as public safety and our position descriptions and priority as an ocean safety officer is public safety. Here's some examples of our duties: warning people of unsafe conditions where it is posting red flags, signs to warn the people of the danger swimming out and making safety contacts, letting them know the dangers there; provide assistance to people who need help; rescue people in distress by swimming and/or using rescue equipment; recognizing people who need medical attention by providing first aid and/or CPR in the capacity of a first responder in a unified emergency medical care and delivery network; enforces ordinances, rules and regulations governing beach and ocean usage; reports in fraction and flagrant unlawful activities to various agencies, including MPD, State Harbor Division, DLNR . . . *end of tape 4A*) . . . reports that could be used in legal matters; keep certifications current which requires a vigorous physical tests as well as a written test annually, serves as a primary resource during major disasters if this should happen in areas of evacuation and in staffing designating shelters to those who are affected. We need your help to help us to better serve the community by putting us in a position of public safety to which we can serve the public better. We're the last County in the Hawaiian Islands to have merged with a public safety department. You know, Kauai is with Fire, Oahu is with EMS, and the Big Island Ocean Safety Officers will be joining the Hawaii Fire Department this July. They will be a division in the Fire Department. This is a trend that is happening all over the United States. This is where Maui County needs to step up and look what's happening around the world and look where their Maui County Ocean Safety Officers needs to be.

In the United States, open water lifeguards have worked hard to be recognized as equals to other emergency services professionals such as, police officers, fire fighters, and emergency medical technicians. This has been accomplished through a steady process of improving the quality of service provided and a constant dedication to the public safety. As a result, Americans have come to expect lifeguards on their beaches just as they have come to expect professionals, Police, Fire and emergency medical services in their communities. Lifeguarding is viewed by many as the most physically demanding job among the various emergency services. This is because unlike other emergency services which are able to rely on

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heavily on mechanized support, lifeguarding in its purest form comes down to a simple struggle against the forces of nature by one human being _____ to save the life of another.

MR. RAATZ: Three minutes.

MR. EDLAO: Even new development in motorized rescue equipment, many rescue situations depend on sheer strength, physical endurance, running ability, and swimming skills of a lifeguard. Our Aquatics Division is actually split into two – the pools and the beach. At times, it's been hard to get the proper staffing and equipment for the beaches because the budget we have is shared with the pools, which at times makes it hard to fill the needs to provide public safety.

We are also asking for six positions to properly staff eight towers that we already have to provide better service to the public. In a career ladder to create a Lieutenant position by the scope of work we do we need someone to fill in the Captain's position when they're out of district. In closing, thanks again for your time and please consider and take a deep look into what Maui County ocean safety officers do and then you'll see that they do not belong in Parks and Recreation but in Public Safety, and help create a career ladder for those ocean safety department so those who put their lives on the line to save lives of others can look forward to making a living and affording one day to buy a home with today's unaffordable prices for the people who is trying to protect and preserve life. Thanks again, and malama I kekai.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifiers? Who's next?

MR. QUINTO: Hello, Council. My name is Brad Quinto and I work for the Parks and Recreation Department Aquatic Division, Ocean Safety section. Notice that I named all those divisions, sections. We got to compete with the whole Parks and Recreation Department for funding. We've out grown Parks and Recreation. So if you can please work with us on proper funding, equipment, staffing and other needs. Thank you.

MR. IVARY: Greetings. Thank you for lending me a few minutes of your time. My name is Kris Ivary. I've been a Maui County Ocean Safety Officer for four years, almost four years. Basically stated we do not provide recreation. We do provide a safer environment and safety for those recreating in it. Safety is the key word here. The word safety is printed,

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it's stitched to our uniforms as ocean safety officer, which is also our title. It's used in our job description as "the primary responsibility of this position is public safety". On a daily basis, we work side-by-side with Fire, Police, Department of Land and Natural Resources and medical personnel, all assisting in public safety. So, why are we influenced and financed under the Department of Parks and Recreation? Shouldn't we already be recognized as public safety officials? Under Public Safety Department . . . why should we put our rescue jet ski out of service, which is already on the 911 system because the money for a new one is already set aside for costly parks maintenance and recreation supplies, which are also needed and necessary? In becoming part of public safety, grants and additional funding at least can become available for manpower, equipment and training outside of the County's budget. This is vital for us to ensure public safety as Maui beaches grow rapidly, more and more crowded. In closing, regardless the department that we fall under, we will still continue to save lives and endorse public safety. Hopefully, with our new Mayor and Administration, we can continue to work on these concerns. Thank you for your time.

MR. BROWN: Aloha, Council. I know it's getting late and I'm going to keep this real short, you know. These guys said everything that I needed to say. All I gotta say is just, yeah, just please look at what we have put before you guys and take that into consideration that it's about time that we get moved out of Parks and Rec. Mahalo.

MR. CAISERMAN: My name is Navayo. I've been at the pools for about 3 ½ - 4 years and just me and couple of us are new recruits to the beach. We're working our way towards the beach and kinda get a fresh perspective kind of what you guys might not be able to see. That's how we are right now. We're just getting into the Department and seeing what you don't really know what goes on. There's just a . . . all these guys who have been working here for a long time like this they said they've been here when it was small and when the needs were small and as it progressed the need becomes more. In the month training I've had, I've seen more stuff than what I've seen in four plus years at the pool, you know. Fortunately, there's not a lot of deaths and injuries at the pool. It's really good. Hopefully that can be the case at the beach too and a lot of it doesn't get publicized. Like Keola was saying, last year alone, 15 spinals you dealt with of maybe 9 of those people probably went home paralyzed, visitors and residents alike. A lot of the stuff they deal with is serious. I think five drownings at Kaanapali. That's just one beach, last year. Is that about right? And I think there was one two days ago, if I'm not mistaken. And

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I'm just trying to paint a picture not being gruesome but it's not Parks and Rec., it's not mowing lawns. And the funding these guys needs is we're competing with them. We shouldn't compete with them for stuff. It would be free of money, free of manpower, free of office side of it, the budget side of it. Put us in a whole separate department. We're a different division in Parks and Rec. And I think the pools are trying to stay with Parks and Rec., and they do stuff that are totally in line with these guys. They're teaching people how to swim, programs, Junior lifeguards, they are a Parks and Rec. program. But the ocean safety division, like Brad was saying, is completely outgrown Parks and Rec. And I think it would be a really smart move to separate them and get a lot more done and really what ultimately comes down to it is you're helping the people – residents and the tourists and everybody, and saving everybody money. You know what -- if you're healthy, you're going to spend money. A lot of what we do you can't really record it. You can't put it down. When you're down at the beach and you tell a family of five, why don't you guys . . . when there's big surf here there's always the beach you can send those little kids to. That little preventative stuff it's just marked on as a preventative action -- real simple, little small thing. You guys probably see the report, you go, oh, preventative action. But really what that is, those guys' dad could have had a broken neck and go home with your dad paralyzed or mom or the kid injured. And that's what lifeguards do is that's one of the main things – safety and prevention. And besides all of the stuff we deal with and bodies and all that stuff that you come across it's . . . we prevent hundreds more from happening. So it's hard to put a number on those things and the actual thing. I think by getting us out of the Parks and Rec. we could better help everybody.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Any more testifiers? If not, we have a question. Member Anderson?

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: Thank you, Chair. So, you know, my initial question from Zachary after you testified was what is the real advantage to you folks to be separate? But then I heard one guy said you could get funding that you wouldn't normally be able to get – grants and outside funding for public safety purposes. And I'm trying to figure out where you guys want to go because we have Fire and Public Safety and you want to be in with those guys or you want your own separate division?

MR. EDLAO: If it could, you know, we'd like to be a part of the Fire Department but if we could be on our own that might be a harder step but eventually all the other islands, even throughout the United States, everybody is

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merging with the Fire Department. They're role models in public safety as far as rescues and we're right along side them. The training that we have, the training that we do is crazy. We're the only, um, out of the Fire Department, Police Department, every year we have an annual testing that we need to pass within time to keep our jobs. And they don't do that. We do that. If you see the test – the swimming and running that we have to do, it's crazy.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: Who doesn't do that besides you?

MR. EDLAO: Basically we do that. Like Fire Department nobody has an annual time.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: Fire Department doesn't have to do that, and you guys do?

MR. EDLAO: Not annually. Every year we do that. Our training is unique. We're the first responders when something happens. Like the Fire Department when they get called, they know what's coming up, if they have a CPR case or first-aid. We don't know what happened. It just happens and we just have to respond and react right there and then. We don't have time to be prepped for it. Like you're talking about funding, it's true though – for us we're battling with the pools. Do they need a jet ski to save lives or do they need heaters to keep the pool warm? It's like, uh . . . which one we're going to pick? So, it's hard for us right now cause it's one budget. But if we go under Public Safety, everything would be towards public safety so we can better serve the community.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: I see. And then. . . I'm just wondering, have you talked with the new Parks Director about this yet?

MR. EDLAO: You know, we have a lot better hope now with our Parks Director.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: We do too.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(laughter)* . . .

MR. EDLAO: That's all I need to say. Things are working out but we wanted you guys to hear what we have to say. We wanted to get that thing stuck in guys head so when you guys sleep, that's all you're going to remember is this, repetition. So you dream about what we said. You wake up and you don't forget it.

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COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: Thank you, Zachary.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you for coming tonight. This is the first time I've heard of this and I'm wondering, by any chance, has this being going on for a while or is this something new that we're hearing for the first time?

MR. EDLAO: No, we've been trying this for a while and we're trying to make some noise, you know, the squeaky door gets the grease.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Very good.

MR. EDLAO: So we wanted everybody to hear. We're just trying to better our department and ourselves to where we belong, which is Public Safety.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Well, you know, I can tell you that it's water on a rock when you want something. You got to be persistent. I know how that works. The other thing is I wondered, how does the Fire Department feel about this? Have you discussed it with them?

MR. EDLAO: Yeah, our Supervisor is in the works with talking with them. There's some little things that we need to work out but they know about this also. It's from a previous year so it's in the works. So, hopefully, if we have your support in supporting us, we can make things work 'cause we're for the same thing, yeah, it's public safety.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you very much. We appreciate you putting your lives on the line for other people. Thank you.

MR. EDLAO: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Member Victorino, you had a question?

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Yeah. As we were discussing earlier, as part of the public safety we had talked about you guys going on your own and especially about the equipment, I think the question I had as far as the equipment, you know the other day when the Parks was in front of us they showed us certain statistics and you guys know that of all the jet skis you guys have only five are operational. And you guys told me one is even margin of that five. And you know, I agree with you folks, you know, to go there, get grants, be on your own Department under the Fire and Public

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Safety, I think, would be a much better advantage to you. And I think a lot of us feel that way and we'd like to work with you guys on that. So, keep up the good work, and like you say, keep the noise and the noise is being heard. Thank you.

MR. EDLAO: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Member Medeiros.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: I think you have a good idea of what you want to do, and I think it's a good match to go with the Fire Department because I used to be in the Fire Department. You folks are trained I know in first responder, right? Are you trained higher than that? Are you MICT, EMT, none of that training, right? So, first responders, right?

MR. EDLAO: Yes, same as Fire.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Well, good luck with your pursuit because I think you guys would fit well in the Fire Department, and I think you do belong some place else besides Parks. Thank you.

MR. EDLAO: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Jo Anne Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I just wanted to ask, is their a union issue for you?

MR. EDLAO: Right now . . .

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: HGEA usually and when we go through this negotiations all the time, you know, have you cleared that?

MR. EDLAO: As far as I know, our Supervisors in the works with that. So, I would have to probably double check with him, and then I'll get back to you guys.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah, because it has to be negotiated by union contract and that's been the stumbling block from before.

MR. EDLAO: Okay.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Just for your information, your new Public Works . . . Parks Department Director had put in a lot of monies in regards to equipment for your particular group here. So as far as equipment is concerned, you shouldn't be competing with dollars from the other programs that do report to Parks and Recreation. So, good news for you folks.

MR. EDLAO: With our new Director like I said, the light shines through the clouds again. You know, our other director we had what we call was ocean safety jail where we had all our equipment that we could use locked up in the back of the Central baseyard where we couldn't use it. It was up to him to say when we can use 'em. These equipment that we could use to protect and save lives was basically up to him. So, now, it was like . . . with this Director, you know things are going better for the community, for the people, so it was like hard for us, we had hard times, but now we're pulling through and it's better this year.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Oh, who has a comment?

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: We also found that they have a new organizational chart and you guys were talking about a career ladder. They have broken down Ocean Safety officers in various categories now so that there is a career ladder for you guys. Have you seen it?

MR. EDLAO: I haven't seen the chart you're talking about, but right now, all I know is the Captains we have today aren't getting paid to what some of the Captains on the other island. They're actually getting the Lieutenants pay. On the other islands, they have Lieutenants and we don't have that yet. So all there is right now is Ocean Safety officer and a Captain and that's it.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: You know, that's what I'm saying, the organizational chart I believe and don't hold me to my memory on this, but there are more steps for you guys all the way up. I think there are Captains and Lieutenants, and then the supervisor above.

MR. EDLAO: Oh, that will be good if we have it. I'll check into that.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: Yeah, ask someone to send you . . . you can call my office and we'll send you guys down a copy of the chart.

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MR. EDLAO: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Member Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thanks for coming out you guys. I've got about 20 questions for you guys, nah, just kidding. It's my first question of the night. Well, actually, more of a comment. You know, you mentioned something about the fact that the previous Parks Director had, you know, had left all of your equipment locked up and maybe deprived you of some potential access. I just want to offer to you folks, if you see any type of this kind of actions taking place, please feel free to let the Council, any Council member know about it. The former mayor has been bashing the Council saying that we meddle in their affairs. But that's our job. It's called checks and balances, yeah, the Legislative branch has the right to make some inquiries at least on behalf of the Department or at least the general public. So, if there's any type of situations like this, please don't feel inhibited and come and see any Council member. Thank you.

MR. EDLAO: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, guys. Buck Joiner followed by Alika Atay.

MR. JOINER: Aloha, ka kou. Buck Joiner, 25 year activist, South Maui. Gee, I was listening to some of the testimony tonight and we didn't use to have any complaints about the ditch besides the whale. And I guess that's because I cleaned it four times a year for 15 years . . . by myself. And then when the skateboard, half bike was finished, I turned it over to the kids, I taught them how, I gave them the tools, okay, so it didn't work. The improvements around the whale, the sidewalk, the fence, the planting, the gazebo, the benches, the lights, part of that turned it over to the County . . . down the hill. I'm the last surviving member I guess of the Kalama Park super playground. I was a part of that. And we conceptualized it, we designed it, we raised money for it, we got \$75,000 from the County. I was in charge of construction and we built that in seven days, and we turned it over to the Parks Department.

And Kamaole Point, of course you know about that one – quarter million dollars worth of improvements and turned it over to the Parks Department and everything went down hill.

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But we're to talk about money tonight, and the 800 ton gorilla in this County is the Maui Visitors Industry. Last year, the Maui Visitors Industry grossed \$3.5 billion. 3.5 billion in 2006. My question is, why are we giving them a \$4 million welfare check taken out of our pockets? That's wrong. As you know, the visitor's bureaus of all the Counties are funded from State TAT tax by a percentage defined by law. And then that is divided up and to let you know how much each island is getting – Kauai gets \$2.2 million; the Big Island gets \$2.3 million. The . . . Maui gets 3.2 and Oahu 3.4. Now, it's very interesting on these numbers. You noticed that the population of Maui and the Big Island are almost the same, and yet, we get a million dollars more. You know this is the population of Oahu is 10 times that of Maui. But they only get \$200,000 more. What that tells you is that the Maui Visitors Bureau is proportionately very well funded, actually over funded, compared to all of the other three visitors bureaus. Okay.

Now, what do the visitors bureau get from the county, each of their respective counties? Kauai - \$115,000; the Big Island - \$550,000; Oahu – zero; Maui - \$3.85 million. Let's call it \$4 million. Why? Take a look at the other islands, they're not getting that. This is absolutely, positively ridiculous. It is obscene, it is inappropriate and I'm asking you to eliminate that \$4 million from the Maui Visitors Bureau. If they need money, they can turn to the \$3.5 billion visitor industry and be funded by the people that they're supposed to be helping.

MR. RAATZ: Three minutes.

MR. JOINER: Not by us. If that doesn't work, they can do a fundraiser like all the nonprofits do. Maui Visitors Bureau should be able to do a hell of a fundraiser but not from our money. I would ask that you stop taking from the poor and giving to the rich. There's no other business on Maui that gets funding of this nature -- \$4 million. That's more than it costs to run the Planning Department, it's more than costs to do the Prosecutor. That's ridiculous. So, I ask that you take that \$4 million from the Maui Visitors Bureau and use it for these projects for the people that are in need. And specifically, I would ask the greenways and parks is where it's needed most. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Buck. Members, any questions for Mr. Joiner? Seeing none. Thank you very much. Alika Atay followed by Nancy Geist.

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MR. ATAY: Aloha, Council members. My name is Alika Atay. I was born and raised in Hana, Maui. I sleep in Kahului, I work and play in Kihei. This evening I'm here because I want to express that I live on Maui. And it's very enlightening for me to listen to all of the good programs and good agencies of service. Very empowering for me to listen to the ocean safety guys, definitely something to consider and move forward.

This evening I'm here representing the Kihei Youth Center as their Executive Director. And first off, I want to say mahalo for the County's funding and support for our programming and operational needs that we get through the grant fund system. We have other needs and we lease the current building that's located in the Kenolio recreational complex. That building there was built some 10, 11, almost 12 years ago. And as a lessee or tenant, we need help with keeping the building updated and repaired. And I noticed in the budget about three years ago there was 357,000 allocated and appropriated for the Kenolio recreational complex. And for some whatever reason a little bit of work was done, I think, they did a re-roofing of the Kenolio cafeteria. That was the old Kihei School, and a little bit of plumbing work. But I don't think that was \$357,000 worth of work from my eye ball estimate. And that building that they reroofed is being used by PALS. I think I estimated around 10 to 12 weeks out of the 52 week year. So they fixed the building that is hardly used. The question I had was, oh, that was great. Now we can finally fix our park, finally fix our buildings, but I found out that the money was returned, and it was not used. It was . . . missed I guess the deadline after two years it was returned back.

Now, I look back in here in this capital improvement plan for the Kihei-Makena area, there's \$550,000 allocated for Kenolio recreation center improvements. And a couple of things I wanted to point out if the wording "complex" could be included because our building and our park and playgrounds is in that 4.3 acre complex that we call Kenolio. And if work and help can be done with some repairs to our building, which is the flooring that needs help with and so on that can be included and earmarked in this \$550,000 appropriation in Fiscal Year 2008. It's a big need. I think it's an asset of the County, and I think a reconsideration of investment of putting more money in that direction also.

The other area I want to say "thank you" for . . . I've currently been on staff for four years.

MR. RAATZ: Three minutes.

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MR. ATAY: We have a lot of kids coming there. To date, we have 569 registered members and I want to say the big mahalo goes out to your support to MEO's youth transportation. We bring in kids from all of the Kihei schools. We're located four miles away – Lokelani, Kihei Elementary, Kamali'i, they all get bused to our program servicing. In addition to that, we also help bring in our Maui High School students over from after school practices. They've been attending the only high school away out of town, so mahalo for their support on MEO covering on that.

Once again, I want to say, support all the youth programs. Also, some of our students participate in the Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance Program – continue their support. It's great to see their involvement and civic involvement for the future. Mahalo.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Mr. Atay. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you very much. Nancy Geist. Joshua Gibbins, Maryanne Mitchell, Adam Radford, Abe Vandenburg, William Midgley, Darrell Aquino.

MR. RADFORD: Alright, we made it. . . . (*chuckled*) . . . I think we're the last group. Well, good evening, Council members, and thanks for having the opportunity to speak tonight. My name is Adam Radford and I'm the Vertebrate Operations Supervisor for the Maui Invasive Species Committee. And I oversee our work on two projects relevant to the Kihei community. One is "suppression of banana monkey top virus", a virus which prevents banana plants from producing fruit, and the other is control of Coqui frogs – a familiar topic to some of you I'm sure. So, I wanted to thank you though for your support of our work on both those projects and others as well and let you know that your support is going a long way. For example, in the places we've been working on Coqui frogs we've reduced infested acreage by two thirds and eradicated two of 13 known population centers. This is only within two years. So this also includes remarkable progress on a population, well-known population here in the Kihei community. So, things are going well. Unfortunately, we have one remaining hurdle left, the largest and most difficult population has been left relatively unchecked. But we're confident that with your support, an increased support, we can be successful there as well. Speaking of support, none of this would have been possible without my staff which is here tonight with me, and I wanted to give them the opportunity to express their opinions as well as be recognized for the hard work they've done. So, if any of you would like to say anything.

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MR. VANDENBURG: I just would like say or pass on, really, thanks from all the people and all the residents from all over Maui County that I've talked to and I'm sure we've all talked to. They're always thanking us for the work that we're doing and they're glad that we're doing this and taking kind of a preventative measure before everything gets out of control. So, I really want to say that lots of support that I see from everybody all over Maui County. So, thank you.

MR. AQUINO: Aloha, Council members, I'm Darrell and I'm actually from Keanae. I started on the Miconia project and eventually . . . *(end of tape, start 4A - 9:37 p.m.)* . . . it was a big change for me, a big challenge actually. You know, people talk to us about Coqui frog and it's hard for me to convince them that we can control the frogs on Maui. There's a lady that told me you guys will never, never, never get rid of it. Well, about two months ago, I visited her twice and I told her, what you think about it now? She just put her head down and said, I'm sorry. I'm sorry I told you folks that. So, we're doing a big difference with the Coqui frog control on Maui. It's not an easy task for us because we do it night work, and for the guys who heard Coqui frog it can be really annoying. And I'd like to thank especially the Kihei community on the two projects that we do here. They're really supportive of us being here. I mean, they offer us to come back . . . just come on their property whenever and that's what we like. We like the permission and we like community involvement. And all it takes for the community to give us a call on any kind of reports or even a suspect and we will check it out. Like tonight we're scheduled for Kihei and I guess after this we're pau hana.

AUDIENCE: . . . *(laughter)* . . .

MR. AQUINO: Nah, so thank you.

MR. MIDGLEY: Hello, my name is William Midgley. I'm the Irish member of the crew over here. And I just also wanted to add on a comment of that. I'm a graduate of MCC in Agriculture and National Resources this last May and I'm proud to use my degree everyday at work with what we do. And I just want to thank the Council members for being very supportive of our work by funding and just by word of mouth throughout the rest of the state. And just also want to thank the community of Kihei for being very open in arms with our projects down here also. They've been very supportive and, thank you guys, so much for listening to us this evening and have a wonderful night.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the members that are standing there? If not, thank you very much. Darren Quinsaat. Allan Raikes, Dave Handley, Bill Brown, David Frazier. Hey, David.

MR. FRAZIER: Here.

AUDIENCE: . . . *(laughter)* . . .

MR. FRAZIER: Aloha, Council members. Thank you for being here tonight in Kihei. It's a pleasure to be here myself. I know the night draws long but you know that's a hard act to follow what you've heard tonight. I've sat here throughout the entire meeting and I'm suddenly an even prouder member of the Kihei community. And as you can consider the budget and the Mayor's proposal, you know, we're pretty thrilled at the numbers on the face of things. You see \$11 million here that's about four times what you've seen in the past few years for . . . directed to Kihei. But I've had some opportunities to have some conversations, you know, just recently with all of the challenges that we face, not only down in Kihei, but on Maui overall. And I'd like to encourage you to just think about a few things. You've heard a lot tonight about ongoing projects – 1991 starts on corridors, 1995 starts on parks. And as a representative of the Kihei Community Association and as a community member, it's really time to think outside of the box and it's time for us to not be scared by people proclaiming that the world is flat. And when I refer to the world is flat, a proclamation I'm talking about roundabouts is an experiment to deal with our ever increasing traffic problems. You hear a lot of comments from people who are not experts. I don't profess to be an expert in roundabouts, but I do have experts that have drawn them for the Kihei Community Association that are certified and recommended by the County.

To answer a question that Mr. Medeiros had, basically, it's a donut. And the way you give the big semis around on the part of the donut on the interiors not used during normal traffic. It's a raised, slightly raised and graduated towards the middle of the roundabout so that a semi can use it if necessary. But in general, it's not used by the main traffic areas. So it basically makes the circle easier to maneuver with a 40 or 60 ft. truck. But with the knowledgeable engineers, you can make a roundabout happen.

The other thing I wanted to really strongly advocate tonight is this issue of the regional park. It's time for us to think outside of the box. We don't

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need to wait till 2020 to get this done and I'm just echoing all of the sentiments in the room tonight. We must find the money in Maui County to get these infrastructural things taken care of. You'll hear about the taxes, you'll hear about the concerns. I'm a taxpayer, I understand. And I understand the struggles of the seniors and I understand the struggles of the people that are on very tight incomes. But we must, we must figure out the way to fund the necessary infrastructure to maintain this island and that's just something that must happen and I consider you . . . I highly encourage you to think outside the box very significantly with regard to that.

And then, finally, one thing I also am very concerned about getting pushed back is the police station. I see the money there but I see it down life's road again. So I want to advocate on behalf of the KCA and as a citizen again that we don't let these things get pushed off.

MR. RAATZ: Three minutes.

MR. FRAZIER: That \$30 million police station is going to be a \$60 million police station the next time we look at it. It's not getting any better and that's why I'm encouraging you to find these infrastructural funds as soon as you possibly can. We need a police station, we need a high school. We need a regional park, we need our parks maintained, all of these things and I'm sure you're facing the same challenges with the rest of the island.

Once again, the highlight of the night for me is watching these good citizens as lifeguards and all of the people, the Richardsons, Andrew, Mark, I'm so proud of us tonight because it is true, Kihei, South Maui, we care about this. We're here to help you to better this place down here for all of our benefit. So, thank you very much. I know it's a long night. Appreciate it.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, David. Members, any questions for Mr. Frazier? Seeing none. Thanks again. Vincent Mina to be followed by Mark Simon.

MR. MINA: Aloha, everybody. My name is Vincent Mina. Who is this guy? What does he got in his cooler? I am an organic farmer and I . . . *(inaudible)* . . . *(moved and talked away from the microphone)* So, I come to you as an organic farmer just to give you a little background. My family's farm is in Wailuku. We produce 300 lbs. what you have there in your bag there a week on a thousand square feet in flats of composted soil

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that we've mineral balanced since 1993 and continue to re-use. Thankfully . . . I'm here tonight because my son manages our farm. I'm here tonight as president and founder of Maui Aloha Aina Association. You folks have helped fund us since 2001. We've held conferences on body and soil health and the CD you have in your bag there is this past year's event. It was body, soil on animal health.

I'm also here tonight as secretary of the Maui County Farm Bureau. So the community work that I do, thankfully I'm able to do, due to the fact like I said, my son who is a Hawaiian Emergent graduate of Kekaulike manages the family farm. It's really important for me that he continues to see the value of wanting to do this to keep our young men home and being able to work on especially a local farm. You know, in essence, I can talk a lot about what I feel passionate about my life with farming and how Maui truly we need to stay ecological bio-diversity . . . really strong. I would appreciate it if you would continue to support the Maui County Farm Bureau by holding them capable to employee practices and to support farmers on Maui's practices to be biological, to be environmentally friendly.

You know the difference between an organic farmer's mindset and/or not even put it in an organic framework, put it in a biological framework, the difference between the biological farmer's mindset and an industrial farmer's mindset is the industrial farmer's is economics bottom line, that's it. It's all about economics. Make as much money as you can no matter what practice you employ. A biological farmer's mindset is, yeah, economics. I make a living on our farm, but yet it's also environmental sensitivity and community sensitivity – the effects on both the environment and the community along with the economics.

So, our conferences deal with the inter-relationship between body and soil health. Our mission of Maui Aloha Aina is to promote life's nurturing practices for the body and the soil through education and outreach. So, thank you so much for continuing to support us in doing what we do. It's an uphill climb because the playing field is not level. We have a grant right now into the Maui County Farm Bureau for a video series. Last year, our conference was a week after the earthquake and we had a week of rain and so it was like pulling that conference uphill last year, and so what we came out of it was, yeah, we want to continue with the conference but we also want to do a video series on public television on body and soil health and feel --

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MR. RAATZ: Three minutes.

MR. MINA: --we can reach more people on that respect. So, this is about a 22-minute video. Maybe some day at lunch at the office I know you guys are so busy. I really appreciate the fact that you guys love what you do 'cause last night you were just in Kahului, yeah. I missed that so I came over tonight. I wanted to make sure I thanked you guys. I really appreciate all that you do and support that you give us. So thank you. Mahalo.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Vincent. Members, any questions for the testifier? Thank you, again. Mark Simon followed by Ray Hart.

MR. SIMON: Aloha. I'm Mark Simon. I'm the Director of Marketing for the Four Seasons Maui here. Thank you for all you guys do. I've been sitting here all night long. My okole is sore. But I was thinking, man, you guys have a thankless job.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Part-time.

MR. SIMON: Part time. I wanted to tell you a little about our support for the Maui Visitors Bureau. I've been in . . . I've worked in many countries. Well, first of all, it was in San Francisco. I worked in Sydney, Australia; Melbourne, Australia; Hong Kong; Tokyo; and now Maui. And in each case, and in marketing, it's always about my job has always been about attracting visitors through sales and public relations and promotions and advertising and now an electronic marketing. And in each case, I've always worked with the Visitors Bureaus and some of them are really easy to work with. Some of them are hard to work with. Some of them don't care. It's a bureaucratic job but the Visitors Bureau here on Maui is very, very good.

I guess in 2001, right after 911, the visitor industry went down in a big way and what brought that back was a lot of very consolidated efforts on the part of the hotel community, the tourism community in concert with the MVB and, of course, the Hawaii Visitors Bureau. And we all worked very hard to shape the message about why visitors should come to Maui. And you probably read the newspaper today or saw an article about how occupancy is declining now in Hawaii, and in Maui as well to a lesser degree. Well, we have been tracking this decline since September of last year, a little gradual decline but it's starting to widen, and all of the hotels that I work with as my colleagues were already working with the Maui Visitors Bureau. We have already been working with the Maui Visitors

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Bureau to ensure that this bit of down turn doesn't become something bigger because if it becomes something bigger, we're talking about unemployed people and fewer taxpayers and things like that. So, the good news is we think it's a . . . this is probably getting into too much detail but we think it's a relevancy issue where Maui or Hawaii is perhaps becoming less relevant in the eyes of the travelers because we've had five years of great growth. And now there are other destinations that are maturing, like Mexico and cruisers are cutting prices and trying to attract more visitors. Europe is really hot right now because they haven't had any social economic problems over there. No terrorism in a while. So travelers are saying, well, let's go back there. We've been going to Maui or Hawaii for years.

So, I'm saying it's a relevancy issue and it can be solved with marketing and sales and just talking to more and more customers and that's what we're all doing right now. So, it's a very concerted effort, It's very coordinated, and I just wanted to give my support for the Maui Visitor's Bureau. At the Four Seasons, we employ almost 1,500 taxpayers in the County of Maui, including our two new resorts over on Lanai. And then we also support many, many charities as do all of the hotels. Many, many charities on the island. We work with many organizations on the island and we all have very good intentions and the more visitors we can attract obviously the more taxpayers and so on. So, thank you very much for all you've done. Please do more. And I also wanted to give my support for the Maui Economic Development Board. They're fantastic. We work very closely with them as well.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Mark. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you very much for being here. Ray Hart followed by Matt Swartz.

MR. HART: Again, I'm also testifying for Maui Economic Development Board and using that keyword in there – economic. A few years ago, I got involved with the program as a teacher. I taught 40 ½ years, okay. I'm no longer a teacher. I finally got permission. But I'm still dealing with it with Maui Economic Development Board because they took an area that has been ignored, has been ignored when people went to college, they prayed to God they didn't have to take an economic course. And teachers, by nature, would never take an economic course even if it was in their field because those were the hard ones, they assumed. But the Maui Economic Development Board created an area of economic, education and

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training for teachers. And then that program would apply to students. And it's been really successful, I feel.

Just this year, I think it was February, I lost track of what month we are now – February, that I did a workshop for them along with Ward Martin who's in Hana, who is a retired university professor with a PhD in economics. And my job, as an elementary teacher, was to take what he did and put it in people word, you know, because as an elementary teacher there's another way of looking at all these terms. And we taught the class and we taught it on a Friday night and a Saturday and we taught real economics, economic theory, and we had no teacher fall asleep either on the Friday night or throughout the whole day Saturday. They were listening to economics and trying to figure out and coming up with ways to teach it in their classroom. This time, we were pushing for the social studies curriculum because how do you understand the world without an economic understanding of the world? History is important but that economic part was missing. And we're dealing with economic education and that's a little different than financial education which is something we need a great deal of – financial education but this economic education provides the base. Those graphs that you looked at, that's economics. That's not financial education; that's economic education. Economics is finding out what is in that sausage that nobody wants to know.

Economics is probably the key to your entire budget. Unfortunately, you're limited to looking at it as financial. If you could look at it from an economics standpoint, your long range plan is sitting there. You know, the future is there. The past and the present is all there. You might want to invite Ward over to talk to you some time. He's your neighbor, right? But the Maui Economic Development Board allowed this to happen. They provided the classes for the teachers. They provided the transportation cost so we could go to Oahu.

MR. RAATZ: Three minutes.

MR. HART: They provided the money to do things in our classroom and the resources in our classroom so that these kids could actually start talking in economic terms. It was so neat to see 10 year olds talking with economic principles. And if a 10-year old can do it, we can all do it, right? One of the students had got up to talk was one of my students from a long time ago, and the one that talked without the notes, you know, the tall one. She was so successful with what we were doing, you all remember the Weekly Reader magazine and there's another two or three out there, well, one of

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them got a hold of me and I passed her on to it and they did an hour and a half phone interview with her on economics for one of their issues. A 10-year old kid.

MR. RAATZ: Four minutes.

MR. HART: It's amazing. And without MEDB doing this, there's nobody else. So, please consider MEDB as our hope for an education for the future, the academic structure -- the higher level. When I went to college we had one girl, one female, in those days we could call them girls. We had one female engineering student on the entire campus. She was a strange person because she was an engineer and a girl. She got away with it because she was pretty. That's not how it should have been, right?

The second thing, real quick, my buddy Stan Franco was going to speak but he had to go back to watch his grandson, and just one quick moment on Hale Kau Kau. This year, you gave us a \$30,000 grant to help out on Hale Kau Kau and we really appreciate it, and we really need it and we need it every year. Right now, we're feeding 40,000 meals each year. It costs us about 120,000 a year to run the Hale Kau Kau Program. Out of that, we have about 35 meals that are delivered to people who were shut in. We have nothing to do with meals on wheels. We don't qualify in Kihei for meals on wheels. That's a problem but we solved our problem. We're taking care of it but don't forget Hale Kau Kau. We still need you. Trying to do it with baked sales is really a pain. So, thank you very much.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Thank you very much. Matt Swartz, followed by Daryl Dean Davis.

MR. SWARTZ: Good evening, everyone, and thanks for staying up this late. I'm glad I'm staying because I want you to know I'm so appreciative of what you have for the Maui Visitors Bureau. My name is Matt Swartz and I'm the General Manager of Outrigger at the Palms at Wailea. Mark was able to give us some ideas about the marketing aspect. I'd like to communicate a different kind of an idea. I represent 85 individually owned condominiums that are on a short-term rental market established for 15 years. Those homeowners pay as you know the highest taxes. So are we taking from the rich and giving to the poor? It kind of happens that way. You want revenue, we're giving you revenue. We got . . . that property generates \$650,000 in property taxes from the 85 units that I manage. That's nearly three-quarters of a million dollars in property taxes. Are they the taxpayers also? Shouldn't they also be heard? It's populated to

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feel that everybody is wealthy. I know every month from the checks I send after expenses are paid that the investment doesn't make any sense. They gotta want it, they gotta love it, and they have to really enjoy that purchase and hopefully they enjoy their time there because the investment doesn't make sense. I know that. Thank God I'm not a realtor, right, 'cause I couldn't sell one but I'll manage it for you. And thanks for your investment in the taxpayer who can't be heard tonight. Thanks for your investment in a huge industry. Three and a half million dollars, 3.8 . . . I know it sounds like a lot of money but you also have to remember the business angle that you will need to do and money-wise we spend marketing Maui. You can't take it for granted. There is a change. The leading indications are that -- who's to say how deep it will go? We're not nervous because Maui No Ka Oi, right? What about the other islands that might not be doing quite so well and they become much more aggressive about their marketing? The islands are going to be jockeying for more and more of those revenues, and I really hope that you remember that we just can't rest on our laurels. Thanks so much for staying up until ten and I'm glad I stayed because Buck Joiner has a passion and there's something about it that kinda makes sense, it must; but hopefully there's a business side to you too when you recognize that investment in the marketing in Maui is so important for the taxpayers. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Matt. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you very much. Daryl Davis followed by our last testifier, Kimo K.

MR. DAVIS: My name is Daryl Davis. I wanted to thank you very much for your support for the last 25 years for the Kihei Youth Center. This will only take 40 seconds. We'd like to request \$120,000 to do repairs and renovations on our building. And there's a short list for you there. The building is leased from the County. It's a solid building and it needs help with air conditioning, flooring, security, plumbing, and some of electrical needs too. Gutters and fencing also needs repairs and also the ceiling panels. And we appreciate your help in the past and this is something that preventative maintenance will keep the building lasting a long time. You have the most beautiful, closest to the ocean youth center in the United States and you helped to build it, the community helped to build it and we're really proud of you and we really appreciate your help. Thank you so much.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for Daryl? Hang on.

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COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Thank you, Chair. It's a County building lease, who does the maintenance on it now?

MR. DAVIS: We do on a very, very tiny budget. Our whole operating budget is less than \$200,000 a year. And the County very generously has helped the Lahaina Youth Center to do a restoration and also an addition on the Wailuku Youth Center. They're operated by the Boys and Girls Clubs. And we have gotten help from the County Parks Department for some things that they were able to do within their realm. And this would require \$120,000 which is probably above what they're able to contribute.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay. Thank you for the work you do for the youth.

MR. DAVIS: Oh, thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. The last testifier this evening – Kimokeo Kapahulehua. Kimo K. Is there anyone out there that want to give public testimony that hasn't given public testimony tonight, if you could see our secretary here and sign up. Go ahead, Kimo.

MR. KAPAHULEHUA: Good evening, Council members. My name is Kimokeo Kapahulehua. I'm here to come and tell you a few things. I guess a lot was said tonight but there's a few things that I'd like to bring to your attention that could help us in South Maui. First of all, what Dave Frazier spoke about the capital improvement budget of \$11 million, we thank you for that. We wish that we would have \$30 million but we know that you've made the best of that and we expect our Council member here, Michelle, to continue to push for us on South Maui to increase the budget. We here now competing for monies in the community from one district to another district, so we thank you for that.

I want to point out to you on your department line on Civil Defense. First of all, we'd like to see on South Maui a plan that would have an exit out of this area in South Maui not only on Piilani and Mokulele and get stuck here. So I'd like to see you guys look in the budget of planning, making sure there is a road in deep South Maui, in Wailea area, the middle of South Maui such as Kamali'i heading up the top of the mountain so we can get out of here in case we have a problem with tsunami or tidal wave. Not saying that it's not going to happen but it did happen in other areas as

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well as you know recently the earthquake that made some quick damage in the Big Island.

And secondly, on your environmental management, your abandoned car vehicles. Your abandoned car vehicle budget plan just started this recent year or last year so it's really a new budget line on abandoned vehicles. That budget need to increase because we have more than the abandoned vehicle . . .(end of tape, start 4B – 10:04 p.m.). . . that is hidden in Maui. And you do know that you work with the tow truck and the other programs that have found more cars and there's still more cars out there or more metal to be brought from our bush land area of Maui to do the scrap metal land, including appliances, batteries, you name it, you game it and we have it on Maui. And so that's the ugly part of Maui. And so we want to continue to work harder on that particular part and get it done.

Fire control and public safety. Recently, we had two major fires. One up in Olinda and the other up in Kauaula. In both of these things, we didn't have the proper equipment to go up there. You used helicopters. We have six wheelers in the United States of America. So I don't know if you have the six wheelers on budget with Fire Department but we need six wheelers and we need the plans of equipment to make sure that we have fire prevention breaks up there. When I was in Spain I seen fire breaks pretty wide. You could see them like checkerboards in the mountain. So I think we need to look at that kind of deal. And working with all the big landowners and not saying to put the responsibility on them because if anything affects them will affect us. So put the responsibility on all of us to come up with a program and a plan on this – what we're going to do when we have fires like Olinda again, and what are we going to do when we have fires like Kauaula.

The other one is Housing and Human Concerns, you have a budget in there for Community Work Day. Your budget is \$200,000. You show a new \$200,000 in 2008. Your Community Work Day budget should be shame on us, shame on you. The job these people do is a tremendous job on penniless budget.

MR. RAATZ: Three minutes.

MR. KAPAHULEHUA: Jan Dapitan and her crew works all over this island, including Maui, including Molokai, Lanai and so we need to look at their budget, we need to look at them and support them in a greater way of what

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we've done in the past and don't leave them back in Puunene and tuck them away and say, this is it. We need help in Community Work Day.

And the last item I have for you because my time is running out is water supply. Water is the key source to all of us on the island, especially South Maui because we don't have an Iao Valley so our water is dependent on the rules and regulations by the State Commission and the Board of Water Supply and the County about making sure that we get our own water out of our aquifer. It's very, very difficult to get water out of South Maui in the depths to dig this well. Minimum cost any well get dug in South Maui is between \$3 to \$5 million just to go down and say, hey, you know more water.

MR. RAATZ: Four minutes.

MR. KAPAHULEHUA: So we need your help on water supply making sure that we're not like a watershed in Hana, we're not a watershed in Keanae, so where are we going to get our water from and how are we going to work together as a County making sure that our people in South Maui from Maalaea to Kanaio to get water. Mahalo, for your time. I know it's really, really late and I appreciate each and every one of you, all you Members we know you have a great job and a tough job.

One last comment I want to make to you that's not on this budget. What's not on this budget what you seen tonight. What you seen tonight was the spirit of South Maui people who don't have their volunteer hours matching you. The \$11 million capital budget here we can match you with the time and effort that we put here in South Maui working not against anybody but working with partnership. The key is partnership. And we have partnership with our Kihei, our Wailea Rotary, our Kihei Sunrise Rotary, you as a County, and all the agencies, and not on the budget is the partnership. And I think our partnership in South Maui has been very, very strong and we continue to work with you as you can see this evening that our South Maui people are really aggressive and demanding. As an ohana and a family, we come to you to thank you and we come to tell you that we're here to work with you. Mahalo nui loa. Aloha.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Kimo. Members, any questions for Kimo K.? No questions.

...END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY...

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
Council of the County of Maui

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you very much. Again, the Chair and the Committee members would like to thank the community for coming out tonight and giving us your testimony and comments in regards to the Mayor's Fiscal Year 2008 Budget. So with that, good night, and this meeting is adjourned. . . .(*gavel*). . .

ADJOURN: 10:08 p.m.

APPROVED:


JOSEPH PONTANILLA, Chair
Budget and Finance Committee

bf:min:070404-Kihei:jcs

Transcribed by: Jo-Ann C. Sato