

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

April 2, 2008

Mayor Hannibal Tavares Community Center

CONVENE: 6:03 p.m.

PRESENT: VOTING MEMBERS:
Councilmember Joseph Pontanilla, Chair
Councilmember G. Riki Hokama, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Gladys C. Baisa
Councilmember Danny A. Mateo
Councilmember Bill Kauakea Medeiros
Councilmember Michael J. Molina
Councilmember Michael P. Victorino

EXCUSED: Councilmember Michelle Anderson
Councilmember Jo Anne Johnson

STAFF: David Raatz, Legislative Attorney
Pauline Martins, Substitute Committee Secretary
Ken Fukuoka, Director

Michele Yoshimura, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Pontanilla
Amanda Martin, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Baisa
Darlene Ane, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Baisa

OTHERS: Richelle Lu, Board Director, Kansha Preschool
Tori Lu, Student, Kansha Preschool
Arianna Kapoi, MEO Youth Bank
Angelito Cuaresma, MEO Youth Bank
Alex Guerrero, MEO Youth Bank
Colin Hanlon, Executive Director, Boys and Girls Club of Maui, Inc.
Kelly Pearson, Director of Operations, Boys and Girls Club of Maui, Inc.
Jasmine Davis, Boys and Girls Club of Maui, Inc.
Jamie Gomes, Boys and Girls Club of Maui, Inc.
Nicole Gomes, Boys and Girls Club of Maui, Inc.
Brian Amoral, Boys and Girls Club of Maui, Inc.
Erik Dennis, Boys and Girls Club of Maui, Inc.
Kaulana Kaili, Boys and Girls Club of Maui, Inc.

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Barry Lewis, Boys and Girls Club of Maui, Inc.
Paula Ambre, Executive Director, The Maui Farm
Darlene Matteo, The Maui Farm
Mario Matteo, The Maui Farm
Bodi Harris, The Maui Farm
Kane Harris, The Maui Farm
Isla Young, Project Manager, King Kekaulike High School, Project EAST
(Environmental and Spatial Technology), Maui Economic Development
Board (MEDB)
Emily Haines-Swatek, Facilitator, King Kekaulike High School, Project
EAST (Environmental and Spatial Technology), Maui Economic
Development Board (MEDB)
Leslee Mahoney, King Kekaulike High School, Project EAST, MEDB
Justin Barlahan, King Kekaulike High School, Project EAST, MEDB
Kaitlin Madriaga, King Kekaulike High School, Project EAST, MEDB
Peter Lanse, King Kekaulike High School, Project EAST, MEDB
Michael Javalde, King Kekaulike High School, Project EAST, MEDB
Adele Rugg, Board President, Maui Choral Arts Association
John T. Arisumi, Maui Economic Opportunity (MEO) Transportation
Mike Morris, Executive Director, Maui Family Y.M.C.A. (YMCA)
Chuck Knobel, YMCA
Dave Gleason, YMCA
David DeLeon, Board member, YMCA
Nancy Johnson, Allied Health Department Chair, Maui Community College
(MCC)
Bobbie Becker, Allied Health Department, MCC
Janelle Curnan, MEO Transportation services for dialysis patients
Shelly Kan-Hai, MEO Transportation services for dialysis patients
Didi Souza, MEO Head Start program
John Souza, MEO Core Four Business Planning course
Jim Crowe, Board officer, Kula AARP
Ellen Reeves, Board member, Kula AARP
Mabel Lopes, Secretary, Upcountry Senior Citizens Retirees Club
Alda St. James, Executive Director, Keiki Kokua
Jim St. James, Board member, Keiki Kokua
Rachelle "Paki" Lewis, Keiki Kokua
Robbie Pestana, Keiki Kokua
Paulette Yoshida, Keiki Kokua
Gary Wehe, Board member, Keiki Kokua
Rosemary Widener, Keiki Kokua
Craig Moore, Keiki Kokua
Jackie Harris, Keiki Kokua

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Mary Ann Moreirra, Keiki Kokua
Bobbie Pagan, MEO Head Start program
Miki Kapisi, Maui Arts and Cultural Center
Kalia Kapisi, Maui Arts and Cultural Center
Gail Kuba, Maui Arts and Cultural Center and Maui Nui Botanical Gardens
Randal Mitsumura, Maui Heaven-Sent Goat Farm
Rosemary Robbins, Water Oversight Advisory Committee
John “Bobby” Brooks, Board President, Maui County Farm Bureau
Clyde Murashige, Board Chairman, J. Walter Cameron Center
Susan Mastroianni, President, Maui Association of Landscape Professionals;
Maui County Farm Bureau; College of Tropical Agriculture and Human
Resources; and Maui Nui Botanical Gardens
Teya Penniman, Maui Invasive Species Committee
Scott Heintzman, Maui Invasive Species Committee
Russell Suzuki, Maui Invasive Species Committee
Michael Abrams, Board President, Maui Food Technology Center
Marion Haller, Na Hale O Maui Community Land Trust
Robert Spenser, Firefighter, Department of Fire and Public Safety
Chantal Ratte, Ka Lima O Maui
Sally Keanini, Ka Lima O Maui
Joseph Keanini, Ka Lima O Maui
Alson Higa, Ka Lima O Maui
Michael Cabral, Ka Lima O Maui
Mona Maddela, Ka Lima O Maui
Jordan Jokiel, East Maui Watershed Partnership
Leonard Hasse, Olinda Community Association
Kiope Raymond, MCC
Lisa Schattenburg-Raymond, Maui Nui Botanical Gardens
Kevin Boteilho, Maui County Farm Bureau
Jean Groden, Hui Malama Learning Center
Gerry Ross, Maui County Farm Bureau and Maui Coffee Association
Edward Smith
Melanie Padgett, Project Specialist, Good Beginnings Maui County
Sandy Ryan, Hui Malama Learning Center
Sandy Baz, Executive Director, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.
Roberta Higgins, MEO Head Start program
Michelle Nicolas, MEO Head Start program
Elena Lissone, MEO Head Start program
Kathleen Bailey, MEO Youth Services and Americorp
Kaleo Jackson, MEO B.E.S.T. (Being Empowered and Safe Together)
Reintegration Program
Keone Ball, Board member, Boys and Girls Club of Maui, Inc.

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Honey Thompson
Sherman Baisa, Sr.
Sherman Baisa, Jr.
Plus (38) other people

**ITEM NO. 1: PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009 FOR
THE COUNTY OF MAUI (C.C. No. 08-55)**

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . (*gavel*) . . . Good evening. . . Good evening, everyone. Happy to see all of you here to testify on the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget as, as proposed by Mayor Tavares. At this time, I would like to have the Upcountry Council Member to introduce the Members of the Committee that are here tonight. Member Baisa.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Good evening. I'm Gladys Baisa, the Upcountry Council Member, and I'd like to thank all of you for your support and for being here tonight. It's nice to be in my hometown this evening for a change.

I'd like to introduce you to the Council Members that are here tonight. First of all, I'd like to introduce you to our Committee Chair, this is Joseph Pontanilla and he's the Kahului person. . .

AUDIENCE: . . . (*applause*) . . .

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: . . . and he's the Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee. We also have with us our Council Chair Riki Hokama from Lanai.

AUDIENCE: . . . (*applause*) . . .

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: And sitting next to Riki we have our Council Vice-Chair Danny Mateo from Molokai.

AUDIENCE: . . . (*applause*) . . .

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: I'm just going to go down the row here. Sitting next to Joe Pontanilla, we have our Councilmember Bill Kauakea Medeiros from East Maui.

AUDIENCE: . . . (*applause*) . . .

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COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: And next to Bill is no stranger to any of you, Mike Molina, our Council Member from Makawao, Haiku, and Paia.

AUDIENCE: . . .(*applause*). . .

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: And that's the crew that's here tonight and we may have others joining us later. So, again, welcome and we thank you for coming.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Member Baisa. At this time, the Chairman would like to introduce the Staff that is supporting the Committee this evening. We do have David Raatz who is our Legislative Analyst. . .

AUDIENCE: . . .(*applause*). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . .as well as Pauline Martins, she's the Committee Secretary. To my left in the corner, the Executive Assistants for Gladys Baisa. . .

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Manning and. . .(*inaudible*). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . .manning the refreshment table, as well as my Executive Assistant that's also supporting the refreshments tonight.

AUDIENCE: . . .(*applause*). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Again, tonight is your opportunity to provide public testimony to the Budget and Finance Committee in regards to the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget as proposed by our Mayor, Mayor Charmaine Tavares. Just a few ground rules. If you all could turn off your cell phones or put it on the silent mode at this time so that the test..., the people that are testifying. . .would not be interrupted because of someone calling you. We would appreciate that. And for people that are providing testimony, you will be allotted three minutes to provide testimony with one minute to conclude. After the three minutes has gone by, Staff will let you know that your three minutes is up and then if you can conclude in one minute, the Committee would appreciate it. Tonight we have a lot of people that have signed up for public testimony. If there is no objections among the people that are here tonight, what I'd like to do is take care of the, the children to have them provide their testimony early so that they can go back home and, and study or do their homework. And they're going to have to swear to us that that's what they're going to do when they get home.

ALL: . . .(*chuckle*). . .

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: The first person to testify this evening, we do have Richelle Lu with daughter, Tori Lu.

...BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY...

MS. R. LU: Aloha, Members. My name is Richelle Lu and I'm here to testify on behalf of Kansha Preschool. I'm the parent representative on their Board of Directors. Kansha Preschool is a preschool that is associated with the Maui Adult Day Care Center, and it's located at the Nissei Veterans Center. First of all, I'd like to thank you for supporting the preschool in the, in this current Fiscal Year's Budget and I'd also like to urge you to support the Mayor's line item in her proposed Budget, and hopefully my daughter will talk. You want to talk? No?

MS. T. LU: No.

MS. R. LU: Oh, we're a little shy tonight. So. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

MS. R. LU: Thank you.

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

MS. R. LU: Are you sure you don't want to have a say?

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Bye.

MS. R. LU: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: The next set of testifiers are from MEO Youth Bank. I do have Arianna Kapoi, Angelito, and Alex Guerrero.

MS. KAPOI: Good evening, Chair Pontanilla and Members of the Budget Committee. I am Arianna Kapoi and I'm a senior at Baldwin High School. I'm here today. . .for the MEO Youth Bank. I've been in MEO for about six years, so I can say I'm the oldest member. Being in, in MEO has taught me a lot. They teach job skills which has to do with resumes, filling out job applications, and doing mock interviews. If they never taught me those skills, I would've never gotten my first job. They also teach us life skills, like first aid, CPR, and also they help us by teaching us how to make the right choices so that we stay out of trouble. We go

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out into the community and do community service, such as cleaning beaches, cleaning parks, and working with the elders, like doing the Senior Fair. We also do stuff with our land, like replanting native plants, learning about taro plants, and learning how to plant them in. . .dry land and how to pick them out of the lo`i patches. Also, we went out to Hana side to help clean out the lo`i patches so we could get the water flowing back into them so taro could be planted back into them. Right now at MEO we are doing a program called tobacco prevention. In this program we learn about the different types of tobacco products there are and how they can destroy someone. MEO also provides us with food and drinks when we have class and also when they take us out on weekends. When they take us on night outings, they buy us dinner so we don't have to go home on an empty stomach. Even. . .even when we come out to Budget hearings like this, they provide us with dinner. I would like to thank you for supporting MEO Youth Bank in the past, and I would like to ask if you could keep supporting MEO Youth Bank so that the next generation of kids can get the same opp. . . , opportunities as we did. I would also like to ask if you can keep supporting MEO Transportation because without them the MEO Youth Bank wouldn't be able to go anywhere. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(*applause*). . .

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

MR. CUARESMA: Good evening, Chairman Pontanilla and the Members of the Budget Committee. My name is Angelito Cuaresma, and I'm from Maui Waena and I'm 8th grade. I'm here to ask for you guys to support the MEO Youth Program. I would also like to thank you for funding this program in the past years, and thank you for making MEO come through for youths and volunteers. I've been here at MEO for about a year now, and for the past years I've been having fun because we explored Maui and volunteered to help like. . .go Polipoli Forest for plants, new trees because the forest got burned, and we went out to pull fireweeds, and we do this, volunteers, because we want to earn respect for the future when we needed help. And the Youth, Youth Bank has helped me by learning new things like cooking and volunteering. I enjoying being with MEO staff and learning a lot from them because they help me stay away from trouble for the past year. I went to Maui Coastal Land Trust with. . .(*inaudible*). . .to plant native Hawaiian plants, and I believe that being enrolled in this program has helped me start a better life and a better atti. . . , attitude. This program has kept me busy doing community service and funding. . .and fund raising and, most importantly, is I'm learning life skills like cooking, opening a savings account with my stipends money. Please support the funding for the MEO Youth Banks and Transportation

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for today and for the upcoming future. It had helped me and my friend be a better citizen and making good choices. Thank you for this opportunity to testify and for all you do for the people of Maui County.

AUDIENCE: . . .(*applause*). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you very much, Angelito. Members, questions for the testifier? If not, thank you very much. Alex Guerrero.

MR. GUERRERO: Okay, good evening. . .Committee Members. My name is Alex Guerrero. I'm from Maui Waena School, I'm in 8th grade. MEO. . .now I've been in MEO for like three years and it helped me and all those guys back there. We learned a lot, and we all hang out after school and stuff, it kind of like keeps us out of trouble instead of just hanging around school, you know. . .(*inaudible*). They teach us all kinds of stuff that we can use today, like help us in school with our homework. They still teach us stuff like you can use later in life. Like they teach us how to write inter. . ., or be ready for interviews, job information, we learn all that stuff so we can just be ready for it. And I'd just like to thank you guys for helping us out for all the past years I've been here and stuff, and you guys just, please, keep supporting us. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(*applause*). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you very much. Okay, Members, the next set of testifiers are from the Boys and Girls Club, Upcountry: Jasmine Davis, Erik Dennis, Kaulana Kaili, Nicole Gomes, Jamie Gomes, Brian Amoral, Barry Lewis, Colin Hanlon, and Keone Ball. Good evening.

MS. DAVIS: Good evening. Good evening, County Council Members. I am the new Unit Director for the Boys and Girls Club, Upcountry. My name is Jasmine Davis. I've been working with the organization for just two months now. Though new, I'd like to tell you my experience with the organization with fresh eyes. Tonight I would like to talk to you about pride.

In just a few short months I've been here, I have to say I've been impressed by the magnitude and work the organization does. From small moments like a child shaking hands with another after a fight, to a young man talking story to staff about a meth-addicted parent and getting the support to leave the situation. Our Upcountry Club has also had success with our Title V, In-School Suspension, helping some of the Kalama Intermediate suspended students receive A's on homework in their classes with homework help. Our Title V has a structured day

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with community service, smart moves and other leadership decision-making programs, as well as speakers from Maui PD, juvenile, we also have kupuna and other inspirational adults that come speak to them. Our monthly dances provide dance recreation which the youth enjoy greatly. Some nights we get up to a thousand youth. It also has been a proud moment to see clubs like Torch Club inspire our youth to perform community service at Kalakupua Park and cleanup at the clubhouse. Successes are being accomplished everyday at our club in small and large ways. Tonight I'm so proud to be associated with the club, the organization and its continuing work. I'm proud of the Upcountry youth which attend the club who are so full of spirit and talent and potential. We have youth and adults and parents and staff who have stories both big and small to share, all important and all of full of pride. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(*applause*). . .

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

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Jasmine, thank you for being here tonight. You know, I've heard it twice now and I'm interested. You mentioned that you help with students that are suspended from school. Do you have a lot of those students?

MS. DAVIS: It varies. Some. . .in the beginning of the, beginning of the program, before I was there, I heard there was about 12, somedays we have 4 or 5, somedays we have 2 depending on, you know, the length of the suspension and, and (*inaudible*). So some days it can be quite busy there and it, it varies.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: And these students when they're suspended are not offered any kind of activities by the DOE, so they're just left hanging?

MS. DAVIS: I think typically they just go home, but this is a . . .kind of a pilot program and Colin Hanlon can tell you more about it. But from what I've read and learned so far, it's a pilot program, it's the only one in the whole State that provides, you know, in-school suspension. So in the Boys and Girls Club they're actually doing community service, they're doing homework, we project learn, doing education games, smart moves programs, and we also have inspirational adults. Even adults that, you know, were smokers, we're going to try to get them to come in and talk about their story 'cause some of them have various reasons why they're in there.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: I think it's very important. A few nights ago we listened to a couple of kids in the Youth Bank who said they were suspended and, you know, it concerns me that we don't do anything for our suspended youth unless

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our programs, like yours and Youth Bank, are doing them; otherwise, the kids have nothing to do but get into trouble, and we want them to stay good so that they go back to school and finish their education. So, again, it's really important and thank you very much for doing that.

MS. DAVIS: Oh, thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any more questions for the testifier? Seeing none, next testifier, please?

MR. GOMES: Hi, my name is Jamie Gomes and I'm here to talk about how great the Boys and Girls Club is in Makawao. I come to the Boys Club, Boys and Girls Club everyday to talk to. . .and it helps me a lot by doing my homework 'cause if it wasn't for that, I would not be doing my homework. I've been coming there almost about a year. I like the activities and especially staff. Arts and crafts is fun because I like it because people can express not only themselves but their feelings. I want to thank the County of Maui for giving money for the club. I really appreciate all the help and everything they put into the need. I also want to thank the MEO bus for picking me up because it wasn't, if it wasn't for the MEO bus, I wouldn't be able to go to the Boys and Girls Club. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? If not, next testifier?

MS. GOMES: Hello, my name is Nicole Gomes. I go to Kalama Intermediate School. I have been attending the Boys and Girls Club for at least 2 years, 2 ½ years. I like hanging out at the Boys and Girls Club because it keeps you entertained through the whole day. If I had the day off from school, I would rather go to the Boys Club because all my friends come and it's fun. Everyone at this club all gets along in their own different ways. We appreciate what this club is doing to help us and is trying to do to help us in the future. The whole staff and the Unit Director always think of the kids before they think of themselves. It's a great place to get away from problems from family and friends. I love this place. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you. Next testifier?

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MR. AMORAL: Hi, my name is Brian Amoral, I am 13 years old and I go to Kalama Intermediate School. I've been coming here for more than two years. Some of the programs I like to do here are weightlifting classes which is run by a staff member named Nathan. Then after, then after I do that, I am a Torch Club member. The sports activities that this club runs are fun. Some of the sports that we play are dodge ball and football. Also, our computer room could use a little more space. I appreciate the Boys and Girls Club. Thank you for everything.

AUDIENCE: . . .(*applause*). . .

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

MR. DENNIS: Hello, my name is Erik Dennis and I am a 14-year old student that goes to King Kekaulike. I love the Boys and Girls Club. I've been going there for four years. . .about now. It is such a great place. I have all my friends that go there, and I have made a lot of new friends by going there, too. The favorite thing about the Boys and Girls Club is the activities. I get really worked out by them with all the sports--dodge ball, basketball, football. It's really, really fun. It really helps me out with my homework, which makes it really good because I wouldn't be a 4.0 student if. . .because of it. I am actually a fellow rider of the Boys, of the MEO bus. Without it I would probably never get to the Boys and Girls Club. I'd probably be on my couch watching TV. There is like maybe a couple of things wrong with the Boys and Girls and the MEO thing, just only a couple. Like I don't think we should change the MEO sticker every single year, maybe just one sticker. And I think that we should lower the prices in foods that they sell at the Boys and Girls Club, and that's about it. Thank you very much, County Council.

AUDIENCE: . . .(*applause*). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you very much for being so honest.

ALL: . . .(*chuckle*). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Members, any questions for the testifier. . .(*chuckle*). . . If not, thank you very much.

MR. KAILI: Hello, Council Members. My name is Kaulana Kaili and I am 13 year, years old and I go to Kalama Intermediate School. I go to the Upcountry Boys and Girls Club. I appreciate, I appreciate the club a lot. Having a place to go after school is really important to me. If I didn't come here everyday, I'd

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probably be at home wasting my. . .wasting my day on the couch. Thank you, County Council for. . .of Maui, for the Boys and Girls Club, Upcountry.

AUDIENCE: . . .(*applause*). . .

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

MR. LEWIS: I guess he's taller than I am. . . (*chuckle*). . .

AUDIENCE: . . .(*chuckle*). . .

MR. LEWIS: I want to thank the County board for hearing me tonight. I come in front of you not as an employee or not as a Park Ranger and a representative of the National Park Service, but as a father of three children here in Maui County and as an employee of the National Park Service. Jasmine asked me just a few days ago, the Director of the Upcountry Boys and Girls Club, if I'd speak tonight, and public speaking is not really my forte. However, I felt very compelled to come in front of you tonight and I come directly from work, and that's why I'm in uniform. They are--I want to share with you my point of view of the Boys and Girls Club, and from my point of view the Boys and Girls Club has saved lives. And I'm speaking specifically not of the children, which I'm sure is the case for some of them, but for me as a provider of emergency services as a United States Park Ranger, as a Federal. . .(*inaudible*). . .officer and as also a provider of advanced life care, life support care during EMS events, whether it's a motor vehicle accident or somebody that's hurt inside the Crater, I'm not able to do my job if I'm having to leave my job to take care of my kids at, right after school. And so the Boys and Girls Club has provided that for me and also for the, the protection of the visitors and also of the resources of the National Park. And I have a dual love in my life, both for my children and then also for my career, and for providing these important services that, that I do at work. So for me the Boys and Girls Club saves lives. It's not just a place for the kids to go to, it's not just a place for them to be safe and for, for activities to be provided for them, which is all true, but I do think it's, it's an incredibly important place for me and so that I can do my job and so I can protect the resources of Haleakala National Park, which is obviously inside Maui County, and also the visitors that come to it. Yeah. I did write down some things and let me just look at them briefly, but I thought that was probably the most important thing that I can come here tonight to convey to you besides the obvious. . . .The, the fee that we're charged as parents, the \$5, you know, is remarkable the, the fact that it's so reasonable, and I wanted to thank specifically the County of Maui for their support. It's very obvious to me that the type of services that are being provided cost much, much more than what

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the parents are being charged for. I think Jasmine's an incredible person. I think she, I think that this County and this program is very lucky to have her. She's very educated and very motivated, and it's clear to me that this program is going to continue to move in a positive direction. I'm excited to know that my kids have such a great place to go to. Are there any questions that I could answer?

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. If you can state your name, please?

MR. LEWIS: Sure, my name is Barry Lewis.

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

MR. LEWIS: Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(*applause*). . .

MR. HANLON: Budget Chair Pontanilla and Council Members, my name is Colin Hanlon. I'm the Chief Professional Officer with the Boys and Girls Club, and I will keep my comments really brief tonight for you. Gladys, the, the Title V program that we do offer Upcountry, we do that as a collaboration with the Maui Police Department and the Department of Education at Kalama School, and we did go through an entire process to identify which school district has the most kids suspended for the longest periods of time before we decided where to, where to place the pilot program. It is a huge success, we're in the second year of that funding. We are funded through the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention for that program, and we are currently in negotiations to try to get a third year funding for that, and we are looking to expand it into other communities. But it can't be done without the collaboration with Maui Police Department and with the Department of Education. If you don't have that relationship, the program can't work. So, I wanted to make sure you knew that. And also, I'd be remiss if I didn't say, once again, that we're looking for you to add \$200,000 to the youth center pot because although we are bringing in outside funds to help each and every one of the programs, we will be asking for an additional monies for each one of our programs. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Colin. Members, questions? Member Baisa?

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Mr. Hanlon, that Office of Juvenile Justice, is that Federal?

MR. HANLON: Yes, it is.

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COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you.

MR. HANLON: We, we actually receive OJJDP monies for Paukukalo, which is a Hawaiian Home Lands Club. We receive that, another separate grant for. . .to run a program over at Kahekili Terrace, and then we receive this grant to help out with the Title V kids.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Is this something that's a formula or just a competitive one-shot deal?

MR. HANLON: Two of them are actually straight pass-throughs to the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, and one of them is. . .they, they fund collaborative prevention programs, but you have to have a, an action team inside of a community like the one we created.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Yeah, 'cause I'm worried about continuity, you know how that is. You never know if you have money for one year, two years or ten.

MR. HANLON: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you very much. . .

MR. HANLON: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: . . .and it's a great program.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any more questions for the testifier? If not, thank you. . .Members, the next set of testifiers are from The Maui Farm. We do have Paula Ambre, Darlene Mehu [*sic*]. . .

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER (from the audience): Matteo.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . .Mario--oh, Matteo--and Mario Matteo.

MS. AMBRE: There should be five of our names. There should be five people--Bodi Harris and Kane Harris. Thank you. Aloha, Budget Committee Chair Pontanilla, Council Chair Hokama, and Council Members. My name is Paula Ambre and I am Executive Director of The Maui Farm. I'm here tonight to ask for your support for the continued operation of our residential family

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strengthening program in Fiscal Year 2009 through a line item allocation grant. The Maui Farm has been included in the Administration's Budget with a line item through the Department of Housing and Human Concerns in the amount of \$280,000 to support continuation of this program serving homeless families in transition to self-sufficient living. Our family strengthening program provides short-term housing and support services for whole families who are referred through our community-based partner agencies, Women Helping Women and the Family Life Center. The Maui Farm services, together with the services provided by our partners, strengthens the continuum of care for families in transition by providing a 6- to 12-month short-term housing and family strengthening component after emergency shelter services have been maximized and before the family's transition to affordable housing programs in the community. This program empowers families to develop the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary for healthy family functioning and self-sufficient living. An array of life skills training is provided with a focus on parenting training, healthy ohana living, education and employment, being a responsible tenant, and growing food for the family. The Maui Farm has existing facilities that are being used for this program and the expertise to deliver quality services, including our ohana model of family style service delivery and our farm based experiential activities approach. In addition, The Maui Farm coordinates service planning between the three-partner agencies, and working together this partnership prevents the duplication of services and supports families in achieving and maintaining positive outcomes. We ask for your support for the family strengthening program by supporting continuation of the line item allocation. And instead of hearing just from me, I have asked some members of the families that we are serving to join me here this evening and to give their testimony as to how the program has benefited their families.

Two related comments in closing. As we all know, the issue of homelessness is a complex one and it impacts families in our community at many levels. With this in mind, The Maui Farm requests your support and consideration for expansion of transportation and housing programs that support self-sufficient living. As the County considers expansion of the Maui Bus system, we recommend a bus stop at Ike Drive in Makawao to serve the many individuals and families who participate in programs located at the former Maunaolu College area. Also, as the County develops affordable housing opportunities, we recommend that affordable rentals in the Upcountry area be kept in mind to provide families served in Upcountry programs with a chance to transition to an Upcountry location without disruption to employment, school attendance, and et cetera.

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We thank the Maui County Council for your continued support for The Maui Farm for our programs and services and will appreciate your support for, the continued support for a line item allocation. Thank you very much.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Paula. Can you leave your testimony with our Secretary?

MS. AMBRE: I could e-mail it to you tomorrow. . . .*(chuckle)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Please.

MS. AMBRE: Thank you very much.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Members, any questions for the testifier? . . .*(end of tape, start 1B at 6:30 p.m.)*. . . Seeing none, thank you.

MS. AMBRE: Thank you. Darlene.

MS. MATTEO: Good evening, Maui County Council. Hello, my name is Darlene Matteo. I am currently participating in the family strengthening program at The Maui Farm. I entered into the program last July with the . . .last July from the family, referred from the Family Life Center. Before that, me and my kids were homeless living out of our van. When I arrived at The Maui Farm last year, I had four kids and I was six months pregnant with my fifth child. At first I was a little scared and when I first started the family strengthening program, it seemed a little overwhelming. But as the weeks went by I found that me and my kids were learning many new tools to prepare us for a healthy living. While living at The Maui Farm I've attended many classes that have either taught me good parenting techniques, life skills, our hands-on gardening which has taught me and my kids how to care for the `aina as well as how to grow our own food. As of now I feel it is very important, it is a very important program, not only for me and my kids, but for other families as well. Without the support I've received from The Maui Farm and their partners, the Family Life Center and Women, Women Helping Women, I don't believe I would have been able to sign up for and to be accepted to the certified nurses assistance course at MCC. The Maui Farm's family strengthening program has helped me gain the confidence I need to do this. You see, it has always been my dream of mine to become a nurse and now I've. . .been given the opportunity to do it. I've also gained the confidence to see it through. Me and my family are doing more for ourselves and feeling safer which I know will help us make my dream of becoming self-sufficient come through. We received a great deal of knowledge and hands-on experience through our group sessions as well as our own one-on-one sessions. The Maui Farm has, has. . .have a lot to

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offer families who want a new and strong beginning that includes a bright future. So please continue supporting their programs which it turns support, which in turns supports our hopes and dreams. The Maui Farm's family strengthening program is working for me. . .for my family, so I know it will work for other families, too. I also want to take this time to express my gratitude to you for supporting them which gives my family an opportunity for a better and healthier future.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you again.

MR. MATTEO: Hi, name is Mario Matteo and I live at The Maui Farm with my mom and three brothers and one sister. Living at The Maui Farm has taught me the values of being a family. We feed animals such as pig, goats, rabbits, chickens, and ducks which teaches responsibility and the importance of caring for others. In, in the garden we plant flower, fruits, and vegetables so that we know how to grow our own food. Another thing we do every week is after school activities with the kids that live there. We learn how to make and do many new things, and at the same time we are learning cooperation and other Hawaiian values. I personally feel that being in this program has brought our family closer together and made us stronger than ever, and I believe that as long as this program is still running it will help many more families in the future. The lessons that I have learned while living here. . .I will carry with me for the rest of my life.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you again.

MS. B. HARRIS: Hi, my name is Bodi Harris. I, I have two children. I came to The Maui Farm from Women Helping Women, the domestic violent shelter, and they let you stay there for 90 days and then you have no place to go, and I was fortunate enough to come to The Maui Farm. . . *(baby crying)*. . . Sorry. I am, I'm still currently unemployed, but I have a bachelors in mathematics and I have worked in the food and beverage industry for almost 15 years. Before the farm, like I said, I was in an abusive relationship and went to Women Helping Women. . . *(baby crying)*. . . Can you hold her? . . .When I went to the farm, I was in a living and nurturing environment. We, I still had my very much real life ups and downs, but I had access to support. Oh, my goodness. Sorry. I became more active when I was there. Before I went to the farm I was really depressed. I came really active. We had a lot of animals and the garden. This is Kalla(?). I guess the one question that I asked is why would, why would you guys support a whole entire facility to help families? And the answer I came up with is it doesn't just help me, it helps my kids and their kids and to get out of. . .and to get out of the,

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the cycle that I've, that I've been in for the last couple of years 'cause I currently--we are the first family that has graduated the Maui family strengthening program and we have our own place and doing our own thing and paying our own bills, and it's still just nice everyday to have. . .in my mind have the support still of an entire staff and a community, and it's helped out a lot. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Next testifier?

MR. HARRIS: Hello, my name is Kane Harris and we currently live down in Wailuku, but just recently we were living at The Maui Farm. And I just want to thank you guys for supporting that because it's been an awesome experience. Me and my mom when we were there since we've. . .we had a little bit of trouble cooperating before we moved there, so it really helped us 'cause we can cooperate better and we--before my mom was working two jobs, so I barely saw her before we moved to the farm. So this really helped us to get more and all the people there were supporting us, and when I had trouble at school or I was having trouble with somebody, they would help me out. And every week we do after, after school activities and we can work on the farm, and Uncle Jeff, he works on the farm and he's. . .me and him have had many experiences. He's taught me how to do a whole bunch of work and I've actually never had a man in my life that, even though he's not related to me, but he loves me and he said he did like a son. So this has just been a great experience and I want to thank you for supporting it.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you again. Members, the next set of testifiers are from the King Kekaulike EAST. We do have Emily Haines-Swatek, Michael Javalde, Peter Lanse, Leslee Mahoney, Kaitlin Madriaga, Justin Barlahan, and Isla Young.

MS. YOUNG: Oh, it's actually Isla.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Oh, sorry.

MS. YOUNG: That's a tough act to follow, let me tell you. My name is Isla Young. I work for the Maui Economic Development Board's Women In Technology and I also serve as the Statewide Coordinator for the Project EAST program, and I'm actually not going to take much time, but I just wanted to introduce them, a wonderful group of young adults here attending King Kekaulike. They are one of

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the top labs in the country actually. We just returned from our national conference in the Mainland, and they were one of the top 10 schools out of the country with over 200 schools competing at the national conference and over 2,000 students. So needless to say they did a wonderful job. They truly use their technology to make a difference in the community, and I hope that you'll continue to support the EAST program because it's truly making a difference with our youth, and they are entering into the workforce with some really wonderful skill sets. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, okay.

MS. HAINES-SWATEK: Good evening. My name is Emily Haines-Swatek and I'm the Facilitator of the King Kekaulike EAST Lab, it's our seventh year with an EAST Lab. . . .Let me raise this up a little bit. And as Isla said, Project EAST is a nationwide program and with your support every year our students get to go to Arkansas, have that experience of networking with other students in other states and seeing what they're doing in their communities and being able to bring it back and, and really impact their own community. This experience of going to conference, these 5 students was the team I took this year and. . .but they represent 80 students that I have--and EAST stands for Environmental and Spatial Technology, and it's an elective course that students can take at the high school level. So, I have many other students who get to use the technology and help their community, but these are the five students that were able to travel to Arkansas. So I just wanted, I would like you to hear from them 'cause, of course, they have much better, much better things to say than I do.

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

MS. MAHONEY: Aloha, my name's Leslee Mahoney and I'm a junior at King Kekaulike High School. This is my second year at EAST, and I attended the National EAST Conference in Arkansas two times. I've learned so much and experienced so many things through EAST and through the conference. At the 2007 EAST Conference me and my partner entered our project called Jungle Gym Safety Video into the 2007 National Hot Springs Documentary Film Contest and we actually received second place, which was pretty surprising since this was our first time actually using any kind of technology to impact the community. At this year's conference, like Isla said, we entered the Founders Award which is the most prestigious award offered by Program EAST, and we were one of the top ten schools selected. I strongly believe that EAST helps everyone, even the. . .and the community. It teaches kids critical thinking skills, problem solving, and communication skills. So thank you for your ongoing support, I really appreciate it. You've impacted my future.

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AUDIENCE: . . .(*applause*). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Next testifier?

MR. BARLAHAN: Hi, my name is Justin Barlahan and I'm a sophomore at King Kekaulike High School. This is my second year at EAST and I'm planning to take EAST for the rest of my high school years. This year I got the chance to go to Arkansas to the 2008 National EAST Conference thanks to your support, and I . . .when we went there, I just seen all the projects some students did to help their community and that inspired me to start a new project which is mapping different evacuation routes for our school, such as if a propane tank was to blow up, like I'd have to figure out the radius of that explosion and how far we'd have to evacuate. Another . . .thanks to EAST I got a chance to tour the campus of University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and that has inspired me to work harder in high school to, if I want to take my education to the next level. EAST has changed my life a lot. It has made me a self-directed learner and if I get stuck on one problem, I'll just sit there and figure it out. And I'd just like to say mahalo nui loa for your guys ongoing support.

AUDIENCE: . . .(*applause*). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Next testifier?

MS. MADRIAGA: Hi, my name is Kaitlin Madriaga and I'm a junior at King Kekaulike High School, and this is my second year in EAST and EAST has impacted my life . . .so much during these past years I've been in it. It helped my self-confidence and improved my public speaking skills a lot through the opportunities that it's given me. This year I attended the National EAST Conference and me and two other students entered the Program Impact Assessment and we got superior ratings, which is the highest ratings you could get. And . . .this year we also worked with the community and me and another group, another student, we worked with the AYSO VIP Director, which is a program that helps special needs kids learn the basics of soccer, and we worked with her and we created a website and to inform other parents. And EAST has just impacted my life a lot this year, and thank you for your support.

AUDIENCE: . . .(*applause*). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Next testifier?

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MR. LANSE: Hi, my name is Peter Lanse and I'm a junior in King Kekaulike. I'm 17 years old. I've been in EAST for three years now and I was able to go to Arkansas to the EAST Conference. It . . .being able to go to the conference has helped me with my presentation skills, even though they're still not that good. . .*(chuckle)*. . .and it just was able to show me how technology can help anyone of any age. There are schools, there are even grade schools there with EAST projects and they're like. . .one grade school was making park benches for one of their local parks that didn't have much stuff--I don't know--yeah. It was really cool being able to see so many different people from so many different backgrounds interested in the same kind of stuff that I am and just. . .yeah. Thank you for supporting us and without you I know we wouldn't have been able to go. Thanks.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Peter. You did a good job. Next testifier?

MR. JAVALDE: Hello, my name is Michael Javalde and I'm a junior at King Kekaulike High School. Though this is my first year of EAST, EAST has helped me to grow to be a better person. It has given me the confidence I need to use in everyday life. For example, right now without our great EAST Facilitator, Ms. Haines, and all the other people that have helped us to go to Arkansas, I wouldn't be here like talking to you because I wouldn't have the courage to talk to you guys right now. This year I was fortunate enough to be chosen to go to the EAST Conference in Arkansas. It was a really great experience for me as well as the others who had went. I have learned many things and have met new people. EAST has, EAST has not only helped us but our community to improve it through our, through using technology. And last, I'd like to thank you for supporting our EAST Lab as well as our. . .*(chuckle)*. . .lastly, I'd like to thank you for supporting our EAST Lab as well as the other EAST labs on Maui County.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifiers?
Member Victorino?

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: I was very interested--I think it was Kaitlin--on your impact assessment. Could you explain that just a little bit? I was just curious what impact assessment meant?

MS. MADRIAGA: Oh, every year each school has to do a Program Impact Assessment on their EAST Lab and you have to show how much you've, how much you've grown and how your EAST program impacts the community, and you make a

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PowerPoint presentation to a panel of judges and they judge what your EAST Lab has done.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Okay. Thank you. And then, Jesse, I think it was Jesse--

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Justin?

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Oh, okay. So my, my writing is terrible.

AUDIENCE: . . .(*chuckle*). . .

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: You had an evacuation plan--

MR. BARLAHAN: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: --with you. Tell me a little bit about that.

MR. BARLAHAN: I'm just starting it, but like I was going to map the school and then put different like scenarios and like I'd have to collaborate with the Maui Fire Department and stuff, and we just see like where we would have to evacuate the school if anything bad does happen.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: So it would be an evacuation plan for King Kekaulike?

MR. BARLAHAN: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Oh, okay. Thank you. Nope, that was it. Thank you very much. Thank you, Chair.

AUDIENCE: . . .(*applause*). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Mr. Victorino. Thank you for testifying this evening. Adele Rugg. . .followed by John Arisumi.

MS. RUGG: Good evening and aloha again, Council Members. My name is Adele Rugg, President of the Board of the Maui Choral Arts Association. First again, let me thank each of you for always the incredible and thankless job you do for all of us here in Maui County. In the Mayor's Budget in the Department of Housing and Human Concerns on page 10-24, Maui Choral Arts Association has received a first ever line item of \$25,000. We are so very grateful to be included

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in the Mayor's Budget and I am here this evening to ask you to keep this line item in the Budget. I've had the pleasure of seeing you at all of the Budget meetings around the island, so again no more pens, no more flyers. But I'm here this evening to let you know, again, that we are humbling asking for you to keep the \$25,000 line item in the Budget, and just a reminder for the concert this coming Sunday, April 6th at 2:00 at the Arts and Cultural Center. It's just going to be a fabulous event with theater members of the Honolulu Symphony coming over and a 50-member concert chorus. So it's a labor of love for all of our volunteer choristers to put on this annual concert. And again, with an additional \$25,000 we will be able to bring more wonderful music to our community and to the youth in our schools. Again, thank you in advance for your kokua to the Maui Choral Arts Association. Mahalo.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Adele.

MS. RUGG: You're welcome.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Members, questions for Adele? Thank you for being here.

MS. RUGG: You're welcome.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: John Arisumi.

MR. ARISUMI: Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify tonight. I wrote my testimony and as age creeps up with me, I left it on my table.

AUDIENCE: . . .(*chuckle*). . .

MR. ARISUMI: So, I don't have a written testimony, but I think my mind is pretty good yet. First of all, I want to thank all of you for being here tonight giving us an opportunity to speak. And tonight I'm speaking on, I'm speaking for Maui Economic Opportunity, MEO. Being a senior citizen, I've joined the Senior Citizen Planning and Coordinating Council and I have learned so much about what MEO does. And it's not because Gladys Baisa is here I'm saying this, but it took a lady like her to build MEO up to what it is today, and this is what we all appreciated, whether we senior citizens or whether we have all, have all this young children come over here and testify, you know, asking for help. And I can, I can understand everybody wants help. Now, you know, MEO is involved in, you know, all kind stuff, legal help, training of working people, part-time people and providing them with a . . .putting them in a job, helping the . . .you know, all this, all this help they provide. It's hard to believe how they put all this thing together, you know, and I, and I'm very appreciative of all this. And now that I

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belong to a senior citizen club, that I attend the. . .Senior Citizen club, Planning and Coordinating Council once a month and, to be very honest with you, I don't even remember how many years ago I, I went into this. It must be 10, 10 or more years because I'm retired 18 years now. Okay. That's how I figure, figured it out.

AUDIENCE: . . .(*chuckle*). . .

MR. ARISUMI: But anyway, anyway. . .seriously speaking, you know, the economic situation is very bad and I, I think you folks going to get a hell of a time meeting all this request and all the money that the people want to run whatever they are doing. But MEO Transportation is one of the basic things that I think we should push. First of all, we had a lot of young children come over here and speak, you know. They must, you know, they, they're looking for some. . .favors from. . .from the County.

MR. RAATZ: Three minutes.

MR. ARISUMI: Give me two more minutes.

ALL: . . .(*chuckle*). . .

MR. ARISUMI: Anyway, the MEO Transportation, now they building up this new. . .they, they're trying to put up a new building to put all these buses in and whatever and, and, you know, MEO Transportation provides transportation for everybody, not only the senior citizen, for the guys, young youths, canoe club people, Maui Youth Center--all these people utilizes the, this service and, of course, the senior citizen. You go to Kaiser Clinic you see the bus come over there, you know, every now and then to pick up the passengers and take 'em to wherever they want. The dialysis service, that's one of the things that they are so prompt and they do everything they can to take care of these dialysis, dialysis patients. So thinking about all of these things, I would really appreciate whatever you folks can do to help MEO, you know, and of course I say Transportation Department. Thank you very much.

AUDIENCE: . . .(*applause*). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, John. Members, questions for Mr. Arisumi? Member Baisa? Hey, John, come back, please. Mr. Arisumi, question.

MR. ARISUMI (from the audience): How come you guys ask questions?

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COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Oh, I'll keep it really nice, Johnny. I just want to thank you for coming tonight. But I do want to tell you that I've been gone from MEO now for almost 2 ½ years and I hope everybody knows the current MEO Executive Director, Sandy Baz, who's here. Sandy, wave your hand.

AUDIENCE: . . .(*applause*). . .

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: You know, you can start something, but when you retire and you go away from it, somebody's gotta carry it on. And I just want to make sure that everybody like you, Johnny, is resting assured that Sandy is on the job. Thank you for all the help.

MR. ARISUMI: Well, you know, Gladys, whether you were there and even Sandy is there, you know, when you folks provide us, give us an opportunity to serve, I mean to participate in the Senior Fair, you know, we make enough money to run our club, plus whatever we can we donate to MEO. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(*applause*). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, John. Members, the next four testifiers will be testifying on behalf of the Maui Family YMCA. They are Chuck Knobel, Dave DeLeon, Dave Gleason, and Mike Morris. Chuck.

MR. KNOBEL: Well, I am indeed Chuck Knobel. I'm a retiree. I'm proud to say that. I'm proud to tell you I don't have a cell phone, so I don't have to turn that off.

AUDIENCE: . . .(*chuckle*). . .

MR. KNOBEL: I'm also proud to tell you that I have been a member of YMCAs for probably 90 percent or more of my life, and being over 70, that's a lot of years. But I started out as a kid going to the Berkeley YMCA during World War II days and after, and in those days some of you may remember that the work week was a six day work week, and so my dad would take me and drop me off at the Y. He worked in the building that was right across the street. Well, you know, for a young kid being sent to the Y for the day was like sending a rabbit into the briar patch, you know, you're going to have a good time. So, you know, I got some real life skills, I learned how to play basketball, and how to swim, and how to shoot pool, and how to play ping pong, and how to go to summer camp and have a good time. But as the years wore on I think, I don't know how many Ys I belonged to, but it started with the Berkeley Y, the Embarcadero Y, and Y in San Francisco, then came to Hawaii, it was the Central Y, and then came here and. . .to Maui Family YMCA. I want to, I want to talk to you very quickly about the

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importance in the word “family” in their title. It’s anecdotal, but yesterday I happen to go, usually I go to the Y in the morning to workout and, you know, I’m on the road with the rest of the retirees between 10:00 and 4:00 in the daytime, but for some reason I had to go in the afternoon. And so it was a different, you know, different people there. But I wanted to share with you who was there because it, it makes you feel good about being a Y member. There are kids coming over from Baldwin High School using the aerobic equipment and the, and the weight equipment, a couple of them are playing racquetball, there was the Special Olympics group was using the weight room and the swimming pool working out for their Special Olympics coming up, the daycare center was busy. And I, I don’t pretend to know the demographics of the Y that well today, but my guess is that it reflects our community and so that we have a lot of, we have a lot of members that are single parents, young children and I, for one, have no objection to seeing my dues that I pay to the Y on an annual basis being used to support those people. And the only thing I can tell you is it’s getting tougher simply because we’re all, all in denial about an inflationary economy (*inaudible*) or a recession or in both, and it’s starting to have an impact on the amount of money that we can give out of our pocket beyond our dues just to support the Y’s capital fund drives, their current support campaigns, and those things.

So it’s important for my judgment that if you folks believe as I do that the YMCA, the Family YMCA--

MR. RAATZ: Three minutes.

MR. KNOBEL: --provides an important part of your infrastructure, that you would continue to support that. And finally, I would say, you know, the Y has this wonderful location down adjacent to the park and it’s a blessing and it’s a curse in disguise, if you will, because when you’re that close to the ocean the cost to maintaining buildings in that environment, it’s a very hostile environment and it’s very difficult, it’s very expensive. We built steel buildings back when we built them and we would prefer, had preferred not to, but, you know, you go with the money you have and that’s what we could afford to do at the time. But the experience, of course, is that there’s a real maintenance tag to that. So I know this Y has grown and it hopefully will continue to grow with your support, and simply would direct, if you have any questions to me, direct them to Mike Morris. He’s a, he’s a lot sharper than I am. . . .(*chuckle*). . . Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Chuck. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you. They’ll save the questions for Mr. Morris.

AUDIENCE: . . .(*applause*). . .

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Dave DeLeon.

MR. DeLEON: Good evening. Aloha. Thank you for being here. I know you guys are on quite a quest here with this Budget. I'm Dave DeLeon. I'm here to speak on behalf of the Maui Family YMCA. The Y is. . .Y is one of those institutions that every healthy, functioning American community seems to have. It's kind of an intangible thing. You can't really say why that is. It's almost like the programs are somewhat intangible as well, but it is a program and a. . .*(end of tape, start 2A at 7:00 p.m.)*. . .need to function well. There's a lot of misimpressions about the Y. I mean a lot of people think it's just a gym. Well, it provides a variety, wide variety of services and if we grow, we may have more space, we can provide more services for the community on the different levels and not just physical activity. Some folks have the misimpression that the YMCA is for. . .it's an upper-class institution and which would kind of be, sound kind of funny in the Mainland and you said the, the Y is an upper-class institution. But just a lot of people do have that impression here. And I can tell you from my experience that it's really a facility for the young and old, the rich and the poor, and the whole community, the whole community mixes in that one, that one building day in and day out, and it's really a family institution and it's really a family atmosphere. The "C" in the, the name implies it is a religious institution, but I can tell you that no religious message is being pushed at the YMCA, but the Christian values of respect, responsibility, caring and decency are promoted. The Maui Family YMCA is one of the largest providers of child care, of school-aged child care in Maui County. But just like our population is growing our. . .or the population to people who needs these services is also growing. So we now have kids, you know, most of the time spend their time in tents out on the lawn because the facility won't provide no space for 'em. We need to provide a good facility for the kids and the major part, the primary part of the plan is to provide that space for the kids. My personal thing at the Y is I go to spin, and that's a, a real intense hourlong program led by an instructor on specialized stationary bikes. It really gets your ticker going and that's what I need personally, but it's also gotten very popular. So now we have too many bikes jammed into too small of a space and, and if you don't sign up on time, you're not going to get in the class because the spaces are all taken. This is a problem for us because we're running out of space, we're running out of the building to provide these services that the community needs. And it's really time for the YMCA either to expand or it's directing Maui residents away. So that's why we're here in front of you today is to, to ask for your continued support of our, our campaign.

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Now I know the Mayor and some Members of the Council have said that this is the time to be investing in our infrastructure while the economy is sliding and you get better bids and you get an opportunity to grow on the facilities you need.

MR. RAATZ: Three minutes.

MR. DeLEON: I'm here to ask you that you provide that, look at the Maui YMCA as an important part of our community's infrastructure and to continue your investment. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Mr. DeLeon. Members, questions for the testifier at this time? Seeing none, thank you very much.

MR. DeLEON: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Dave Gleason.

MR. GLEASON: Aloha. Thank you all for being here and thank you again for all the support you've given to the YMCA over the past years. All of you, I think, had been supportive in the last Budget and we certainly would hope you would, would be supportive in this year's or upcoming Budget. The YMCA you've heard so much about; I don't need to go into the details of it. I've been a Board member for about six years now. In those six years we have grown from a membership perspective, we've grown from servicing outside facilities, and we've grown from A+ programs right across the island. So we aren't just a Kahului facility now. We really are an island facility. We, we obviously have our home base there in Kahului, but we are spread around. So we. . .we can appreciate your support. We have a good Board of Directors, we have an operating budget that matches our expenses, so we aren't asking for operational dollars. We have never, never come to you for operational dollars and, as you know, last year was the first time in a long time we've come to you in regard to a capital campaign budget number, and we are appreciative of that support. Thank you very much.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Mr. Gleason. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you very much. Mike Morris. . .followed by Nancy Johnson.

MR. MORRIS: Thank you, Council Members. Again, you've heard about the Y--I'm Mike Morris, the Executive Director of the YMCA. You've heard a lot about our programs over the last couple of nights and, and I'd like to say that we probably are the best kept secret in Maui, the YMCA is. I'd also like to congratulate Dave DeLeon, since January he's lost 25 pounds.

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AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

MR. MORRIS: And that's what. . .one of the programs you haven't heard about is our newest initiative that we'd launched nationally and Maui, the Maui Family YMCA is a part of that initiative and it's called Activate America, and it's about addressing the obesity issue in our country. And it is not just an issue, it's an epidemic. In 2003, obesity attributed medical expenses in Hawaii, Hawaii alone, was \$290 million. It is truly an epidemic and it's spreading quickly and has been for several years. We address that in several different programs. We've been doing water aerobics right across the street here in the, in the County pool for the last 15 years. We've also for the last two years did physical education programs at Makawao Elementary School free of charge to those schools through a Federal grant that we received. We also have started our newest program Upcountry at King or, yeah, King [sic] Kamehameha School where we'll be doing water aerobics for them, too. So. . .Kamehameha Schools, I'm sorry. This expansion will help us in tremendous impact during this epidemic. And it's. . .again, what really hit home for me when, when we said we're willing to be involved in Activate America was, I read an article from the *Center for Disease Control* and it said this, that the young child. . ., the kids that were here today, for the first time in modern history will not outlive our generation. They will not outlive our generation because of the obesity issue. And our tag line for, for this Activate America is, if not us, who and if not now, when? So this expansion will not only help with the many programs that we do in Kahului, in Upcountry, in Keanae, and Kihei and other parts of the island, it will also help us address this national epidemic of obesity in the country. So, I appreciate your support last year and look forward to working again with you guys this year.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you very much, Mr. Morris. Members, questions for the testifier? Question?

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you, Mr. Morris, always a pleasure to see you.

MR. MORRIS: Good to see you.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: There's been a lot of talk about needing money, but nobody's been very specific.

MR. MORRIS: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Can you tell us what it is that you're seeking this year?

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MR. MORRIS: What, what we're seeking from the County overall is 2 million of our \$10 million capital campaign. Last year we received \$500,000, this year we're looking at \$750,000 with hopes of another \$750,000 next year.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Okay. I mean it's very important that we know specifically. Thank you.

MR. MORRIS: Thank you.

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

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Nancy Johnson. . .followed by Janelle Curnan.

MS. JOHNSON: Good evening, Council Members. I'm Nancy Johnson. I'm the Director of the Allied Health Department at Maui Community College, and I'm happy to introduce one of our soon to be nursing graduates, Bobbie Becker. Last time I saw you, which was a few days ago, Councilmember Baisa asked me a question. She asked me are there still jobs for nurses? So, I brought you a little bit of information. Maui Memorial Hospital in the 12, in the last 12 months has spent \$3,400,000 for traveling nurses. Thirty-five percent of this money is a premium that they have to, that they pay for travelers over and above what it would cost to, for Maui nurses. So that's \$1.2 million that's wasted. The whole \$3.4 million goes to nurses who don't live on Maui permanently, so they take the money back with them. Now even if we had enough nurses to fill all those jobs, it's about 40 jobs a month--35 at Maui Memorial, 4 at Kula, and 2 at Lanai--even if we had enough Maui nurses, there would always be a need for maybe 5 or 10 specialty trained nurses to come and be travelers. But we could. . .if we had, can expand the nursing program, we'll be able to fill those other positions with Maui people, Maui young people will have sustainable careers. But I--so, I answer your question, there are still jobs. So, I brought Bobbie to tell you a little bit about her experience.

MS. BECKER: Hello, good evening. Thank you for letting me address you this evening. I'm Bobbie Becker. I moved here in the year 2000 from Arizona, and in Arizona I had a career for 20 years, but when I got here I found that that career that I had with a medical device company was not transferable. So for several years I worked in the health and fitness industry in Wailea, but I live in Olinda. And I thought, you know, I need a career that will last me for the rest of my life and because of my background in the health sciences, I had chose to enter the nursing

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program. I did, I worked part time while I did all of the prerequisites and then had to stop working in order to do the nursing program. It is, as you've heard, very intense, very time consuming, and we've learned so much. So we have another six weeks until I'll be a graduate and I am hoping--it was my lifelong dream to move to Maui. I have a home, I am here, and I'm so looking forward to working at Maui Memorial Medical Center. As you know, we get exposure to the hospital floors as a part of our training, and the one thing I've noticed when I go every time we're there, which is the most two days every week, is that the floors are full, that the place is absolutely busy, the need is there, and so I am very much looking forward to being a part of their health care team.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifiers? Seeing none, thank you very much for being here tonight.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Janelle Curnan, followed by Shelly Kan-Hai.

MS. CURNAN: Good evening, Council Members. My name is Janelle Curnan, and I would like to read a testimony on behalf of Helen Purdy. Unfortunately, Helen couldn't be here tonight because of having to receive dialysis treatment today, so I would just like to read this for her, on her behalf.

To whom it may concern, my name is Helen Purdy. I am a client of your MEO Transportation due to being a dialysis client patient. Thank God for MEO Transportation servicing all dialysis patients not being able to drive and living in all areas of Maui, before and after our treatments, three times a week. I'm so fortunate living in Kula and having the very patient, kind, and helpful bus drivers pick us up and return us home after treatment. MEO also services people needing to go shopping, to attend doctor's appointments, therapy appointments and other needs. What an excellent service for citizens unable to get out and about. I humbly ask you to continue the funding of the MEO Transportation which is a much needed service for the disabled elderly and dialysis patients of Maui, Maui County. Without your funding, what will happen to all these much needy citizens? Please fund MEO Transportation. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you. . .

MS. CURNAN: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . .for your testimony.

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AUDIENCE: . . .(*applause*). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Shelly Kan-Hai, followed by Didi Souza.

MS. KAN-HAI: Good evening, Council Members. My name is Shelly Kan-Hai. I'm here to read a testimonial letter for Loretta Silva. She's a dialysis client and couldn't be here due to her treatments today.

I am a dialysis patient going on four years now, and I have been riding the MEO bus system since I started my treatment. When I first started my dialysis, I was on a wheelchair and if not for the MEO bus service which deals with the handicap, there was no way that I could have gotten to dialysis from my residence on my wheelchair. Since then, I am now ambulatory, but I still catch the bus because it is my only transportation to dialysis and also all my medical appointments since I can no longer drive. Thanks to the MEO system people on dialysis as well as others who are disabled or have special needs have a way of transportation. If not for the MEO system, I as well as many others will not be able to get the treatment they need to live. I am very thankful to MEO system and all the staff of MEO for their wonderful services for the island of Maui. Again, I cannot express how much this service on the island is needed and appreciated. Mahalo.

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

AUDIENCE: . . .(*applause*). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Didi Souza, followed by John Souza.

MS. SOUZA: Hi, Budget Chair and Members of the Council. My name is Didi Souza. My son Josiah is currently enrolled in the MEO Head Start program at the Makawao A location. My daughter Kelsi attended this program at the same site last year. Our children has greatly benefited from this program. The staff does an excellent job with all of the children. They keep us updated and well informed on upcoming events, parent classes, and meetings. I personally enjoy the parent-teacher conferences where I sit with the head teacher, Ms. Melissa or Ms. Colleen from the DOE and go over our child's progress as well as the plan of action that we will be taking for further enhancement towards early education and kindergarten preparation. As our Makawao family A members, a family. . .as our Makawao A family and teachers know, my husband and I hardly get a chance to attend these meetings, the monthly meetings that they have; however, this is our opportunity for us to show our gratitude towards this hardworking, very dedicated

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staff. We appreciate all the work and effort put forth from the MEO program directors and employees alike. Without your funding these programs would not be available; therefore, our children would be missing out on this very important early education which they have received and are receiving now. In closing, please continue your financial support towards this and all other programs that MEO has to offer our community. Thank you.

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

MS. SOUZA: Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: John Souza.

MR. SOUZA: Hi. I'm talking on behalf of BDC. I'm a small business owner at Pacific Auto. I bought the business in 2006, the ending, and I was having a hard time, yeah, because I had only one lift and no equipment. And I was really having bad times and nobody would help me with getting a lift and stuff that I needed, yeah. So, I went to the BDD, the BDC guys and they helped me get my lathe and another lift, so my productivity went up. And but things wasn't really looking real good until we attended their classes, yeah. And when we attended their classes, it helped me to juggle my papers around and do the things in a right manner, yeah, so I not losing money and, and because there are differences in sole proprietor and LLC and all that kind of stuff, yeah. So it really helped me and now we're kind of looking upwards, yeah. So things is in the yellow, going in the green hopefully, yeah. So, yeah. . . .(chuckle) . . . So that's all, right on.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier at this time. Seeing none. . .

MR. SOUZA: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . .thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Kaleo Jackson. Kaleo Jackson?

MR. BAZ (from the audience): Kaleo's an MEO Best client and he had to go home and take care of his family. So. . .

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, the Chair is going to call for a ten minute recess. We'll reconvene at 7:30. So this meeting is in recess. . . .(*gavel*). . .

RECESS: 7:15 p.m.

RECONVENE: 7:34 p.m.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . (*gavel*) . . . The Budget and Finance Committee meeting is now reconvened. The next set of testifiers are Jim Crowe and Mabel Lopes, followed by Keiki Kokua.

MR. CROWE: I'm inviting several of the seniors from the Kula AARP to come stand up here, too. My name is James Crowe and I'm representing the Kula AARP to ask for your continued support for our MEO Transportation, continued service for seniors, and increase in one of the programs I'm going to mention. Okay. I am formerly a member of the staff at MEO, and I am presently an officer in the Kula AARP. This gives me a little special perspective on how valuable and how precious the transportation for seniors is. I'm honored to be . . . following John Arisumi. . . .(*chuckle*). . . And we know the Mayor is putting some money towards the facility improving area, but we know that's far short of what is needed, so we hope the Council was going to consider also participating in that. We know the Mayor is doing level funding for the excursions, which is the seniors get, get together and get on the MEO bus and go see another part of the island and have a nice day together. That's what I understand that's going to be level funding so they can get the three excursions per year the way it has been for quite some time. But there's one that hasn't been talked about that I'm so aware of the need, and that is for seniors who cannot drive anymore, seniors who for some reason or another have their licenses taken away and, and soon learn how difficult that is. It's, it's close to tragic for the seniors when that happens. It's just overwhelming. And the ones that I've talked to are being very (*inaudible*) and saying we don't want to put anybody out or I don't want, you know. . . So what happens, my perspective is, some of them don't sit in committee meetings. Now there's a real correlation between youth services and senior services. When I say the first part, I think you'll get the second part. Like the Youth Bank and the Boys and Girls Club, we put money in the programs so the kids who otherwise might not get out and get about and meet new friends and get together with old friends and see other parts of the island, kids that can do this are going to grow up a little bit better than they would have otherwise. I think you already know the correlation. Seniors are best off when they can be active, and the ones I've talked to who have lost their licenses, there's senior members like this that come to

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meetings and do things in the community. So, I put it this way and I say. . .oh, uncle. . .*(inaudible)*. . .now that you've got time, get out and do things in the community, help the rest of the community and, and go with your friends and see other parts of the island--except oh, I no more my driver's license because I gotta cut it up. So--

MR. RAATZ: Three minutes.

MR. CROWE: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . And it's, it's really devastating for them. So, I want to ask you that the County Council will consider. . .will adjust the level funding for this kind of a program so that MEO is able to respond to these requests for seniors. And, of course, this is different than the bus, the County bus which is on direct main routes. This service is wonderful for the seniors, I'll tell you that, they come right to their house. I just heard one more senior ask, I talked to somebody that was sitting in the club whose, I guess, mother went through this, and. . .*(inaudible)*. . .just walked out of the house to go to the grocery store and because of her age she, she got disoriented and couldn't get her way back.

So the point is MEO has really precious services and it means *so much* to these seniors, and I appreciate what you've done. . .*(inaudible)*. . .and I hope you're able to help increase what the Mayor has put out there.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Jim. Members, questions for the testifier at this time? Seeing none, thank you. Mabel?

MR. CROWE: Second the motion.

MS. REEVES: I would like to second his plea. We really need it. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any--

MR. CROWE: Here comes Mabel.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Oh, here is Mabel.

MS. LOPES: Good evening. Thank you, Council people, for being here and giving us this opportunity to testify and let you know what we want. . . .*(chuckle)*. . . Okay. I thank you for your help and--I'm representing the senior citizens, okay, and I'm testifying for MEO bus service, like Jim Crowe just did. But I'm asking for additional buses internally in the Kokomo, Makawao, and Pukalani area. Internal bus service means those that goes house to house and pick up the people. Okay. And I understood MEO puts monies into this service, and then but their

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Department of Transportation needs to put it back in. This bus service is the lifeline for seniors Upcountry. Most of them don't have access to the Maui Bus stops. They need to get to the doctor, to shopping, to senior programs, like the MEO Pensioners Club and the nutrition programs. Without these buses they are stuck, more so in their '80s and '90s and don't drive. Without this service they become shut-ins and eventually they deteriorate. The people in Lahaina, Kihei, Wailuku have all the services they need, and I think the Upcountry people deserve as much. Thank you for your time.

AUDIENCE: . . .(*applause*). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Mabel. Members, questions for the testifier at this time? Seeing none, thank you for your testimony. Members, the next set of testifiers are from the Keiki Kokua. We do have Jim St. James, Rosemary Widener, Robbie Pestana, Pat Mondello, Gary Wehe, Jackie Harris, Craig Moore, Paulette Yoshida, Mary Ann Moreirra, Paki Lewis. Go ahead, Jim.

MR. ST. JAMES: Good evening, Council Members. I'm going to go last because some of the foster parents have to leave right away. So we're going to go a little out of order. Is that okay?

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Go ahead.

MR. ST. JAMES: Okay. This is Paki.

MS. LEWIS: Okay. I'm kind of nervous, but. . .aloha, my name is Rachelle Lewis, and I'm here to support Keiki Kua, Keiki Kokua for their wonderful efforts in supporting the children of Maui. Here's a little of my history and the background. I was placed in foster care at age 6 and continued through 18. Over the years I've been mistreated and abused and, ultimately, angry. I was placed in a lot of institutes and trouble. By age 17 I decided to actually move to Maui to attend foster care to change my life around, and I was placed into the foster home with Jim St. James and Alda St. James, and they have introduced me to a whole new settings of Keiki Kokua where I could interact with other students and children who had needed help and who have had similar backgrounds as us, as the rest of us foster children. And I just wanted to support them because they have helped me get to a higher education, such as going to MCC, getting the money I need to be supported in daily lives and helping me grow up to be a stronger individual. They've also helped me with job placements and doing things on my own. I just want to thank you and I support them fully, and aloha.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? If not, thank you very much.

MS. PESTANA: Aloha, I'm Roberta Pestana, Robbie Pestana on the paper, and this is my daughter Andrea whom I adopted about nine years ago. And in these past years there's been many questions, you know, and I'm sure there's going to be a lot more questions, but I'm here to support Keiki Kokua, Jim and Alda, because with my questions they've always been there for me. They've always been willing to spend time with me on the phone and, you know, answer me and lead me in the right places. They know the resources that I need to get through some of the things that come up with adoption and, you know, I just really feel that they, they really care about the children here in Maui. They're really caring and loving and they know what's best. And I've just been close with them and they've just always supported me in my adoption here with Andrea, and I just want to say--I don't want to miss anything--I just believe that they, they are meeting a great need here in Maui, they are. They're meeting the need that's here, foster kids, kids that don't have homes and, you know, kids that do need assistance. And thank you for supporting them and I hope for your support in the future here. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you for being here. Next testifier?

MS. YOSHIDA: Aloha, Council, Council Members. My name is Paulette Yoshida. I'm a foster parent, I'm a parent, and I'm an adoptive parent also. I adopted my little girl about 10 years ago, and I've been a foster parent for 11 years. And I just want to say Keiki Kokua has *always* been there for us for all the needs we have, all the questions we have. . . 'cause it's really tough. I have a house full of foster teenagers right now, five right now and it's tough. My husband and I are retired and this is a full-time job for us, but we still, you know, we still need help a lot and Keiki Kokua was always there to answer whatever or to support us in everyway we needed. You know, when the boys come to us, it's like they come with clothes in rubbish can, you know, garbage bags and stuff. So with Keiki Kokua they have a program now that the kids can have suitcases and, and bags, you know, comfortable things to, to have instead of garbage bags, you know. So, I just want to say that Alda and Jim are, you know, they're. . . we need them, we as foster parents need them, and, and they're such a blessing for everybody. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Question?

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COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Mr. Chairman. And good evening and aloha, Paulette.

MS. YOSHIDA: Hi.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: I wanted to ask you a question because we, we've had the Keiki Kokua program testifying in front of us in other districts, but because I've known you pretty much my whole life. . .*(chuckle)*. . .

MS. YOSHIDA: . . .*(chuckle)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: . . .and know that the kind of person you are, and for you and your husband to give up your careers and going to foster care is admirable. The children are placed with you through the court system?

MS. YOSHIDA: Through CPS, Child Welfare Service, and the court system also.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: I see. And I know there's a misconception that people go into foster care for the money. Is it for the money?

MS. YOSHIDA: What money? Yeah, what money? No, we'll have to use a lot of our own money, but it's, you know, for helping the kids. And like I said, I tell a lot of people what we do is I've had people that age out of my house and I mean the kids that age out, they go on, they get married and they have children now. So they always come back and thank us because, you know, what we used to tell them before, you know, they're not going to listen at that time, you know, they always think they know better at that time. But then now they say, thank you, Auntie and Uncle, for doing what you did because without you we wouldn't be here today with our children, going to church and, you know, bringing them up in the right way.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Thank you, Paulette, and we miss you at Tasty Crust. . . .*(end of tape, start 2B at 7:50 p.m.)*. . .

MS. YOSHIDA: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Next testifier?

MR. WEHE: Aloha, Council Members. My name is Gary Wehe. I'm a Makawao resident for the past 30 years. I've just recently become a Board member for Keiki Kokua. My childhood was spent in foster care as well, and I can certainly

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appreciate everything that they do for...to support the children, the foster children and the adopted children here. Today's demands on foster children and their providers is vastly different from what it was when I was in foster care some 60 years ago. ...*(chuckle)*... Both the keiki and their providers need the support, need the support of the entire community to assure that our foster and adopted keiki receive loving and supportive care to help integrate them into society in later life. Those who donate their time and effort through a group such as Keiki Kokua work hard to provide their support. We ask for your support to help Keiki Kokua continue to be a lifeline for those in need so that these children can become productive citizens. After all, they are the future of Maui County. Mahalo.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, next testifier, please?

MS. WIDENER: Thank you, Council. I'm Rosemary Widener and I've been on Maui only for ten years, but I have grown to really appreciate the island here and all of the help that they do, that a lot of people do give particularly. Keiki Kokua hasn't been getting as much help yet and we hope that she will or they will get the help necessary. I'm also from foster. I was in a foster home for two years and I was adopted by the most wonderful parents anybody could ever have. So, I've gone through that, the scenario and now I can see how much the need is to help these parents and the children that they're rearing. It's not something that's easy anymore. I can't even fathom raising a child in this time of life. It's like all the things that are around them, the, the fears the parents have, how do we handle this situation, how do I do this, how does the child...going to get through this? And that's what Keiki Kokua is all about. That's what it means, helping children. So we need a line item...*(chuckle)*...they really need a line item for the next Budget. So please consider it very carefully. Thank you very much.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, next testifier?

MR. MOORE: Hi, my name's Craig Moore. I'm a professional cowboy in Kula for the last 31 years. In 2005 to 2007, I was in New Zealand working in the race horse industry when my dad passed away, and to my shock I found that I had some inheritance and I looked, wow, what I going do with my life now? And I went, wow, I could open up my own bar and I went, ooh, bad idea, dude, you know. . .

AUDIENCE: ...*(chuckle)*...

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MR. MOORE: And I said, okay, what's going to bring the best smile of life, in my face, you know, and I know that helping other people is, is the best thing for me to do. So, I decided I'd go back to my home neighborhood here in Kula and try to help foster care, and the biggest need in foster care was to provide a home to keep big families together, like a family of four or five boys 'cause once they're split up in the system, very rarely they ever get back together and the family is dissolved. So, I contacted the foster care people here and the State contract is given. . .for foster care is given to a business management group in California. I'm not sure if anybody really understands the dire position that the foster care in Hawaii is in right now. It, it's unbelievable, it's the most ridiculous thing that I know of in the world at this time. Keiki Kokua helps people get certified. So, I began jumping through the hoops that these people asked me to do, and I did everything that they wanted, I provided them all the information. I jumped in more hoops. I got hoop rash worse than a circus poodle, you know.

ALL: . . .*(chuckle)*. . .

MR. MOORE: And so. . .and. . .but a long story short, I don't want to talk bad about somebody, but in order to see the need that these people, Keiki Kokua, do, we have to understand what bad shape it is and how hard it is to get certified. I'm quite an outspoken person and I speak straight from the heart, you know, and, and I got in a little bit of trouble at first with these people 'cause I noticed they were, their State foster care program were demanding different things at different people, and I was wondering well, what is the right rule, nobody seems to really know what the right thing to do was. And come to find out the, the State contractor, State contract in California, those guys keep about half the money for doing what, I don't know, but they send about half back to Hawaii to professionals here to run it that don't seem to be overseeing or anything, and so nobody really knows what the heck is going on. So I, I made a comment to one woman one day, I said shouldn't I be saving my patience for the kids instead of dealing with you guys? Well, I didn't know that she was a high maka woman in a situation and pretty soon they started picking on me pretty good, and I had a pre-inspection inspection and all these other things that people didn't even have a regular inspection, and I jumped through all the hoops. I had the hands with the crease in 'em and everything, I had it all down. Man, I was doing everything they said. They said to go rent the big farm house first, and I said, well, shouldn't I get certified first before I go rent a big--they said, no you have to have the house first. Okay, so I rented me a house, \$3,000 a month. And when Jim and Alda St. James ran, they had a State contract, they average three months from the phone call to the child placement in the house. Well, after 11 months of going through this certification process, I started opening my mouth a little bit. And the lady one day said, the professional interviewer came over for the dreaded home interview,

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which I passed--I mean all of my door tops were cleaned, everything, I had it down. Man, I mean I was. . .as my whole life was dedicated to this thing, you know, it's what I decided to do--

MR. RAATZ: Three minutes.

MR. MOORE: And, okay, but I appreciate your guy's time. These guys have helped me through this process quite a bit. After 11 months of me opening my mouth here, in the last month they disqualified me due to a medical problem that they had known about the 11 months earlier as they watched me spend the \$70,000 from my pocket and a year in my life to try to get certified, but I was definitely--and before I came up here, I just gave 100 bucks to Keiki Kokua because it's all I can do at this point. I don't need a receipt, I don't need a tax right-off. I know that those people going do the best that they can with the money, and I appreciate what you guys can do, too. Aloha.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Thank you. Next testifier?

MS. J. HARRIS: Good evening, Council, Council Members. I am Jackie Harris, and I put it on here in case I got up here and got nervous and forgot it. I'm a foster mom to three wonderful boys and I've known Alda and Jim through the church for quite a few years seeing them, not having a lot to, you know, talk about. But all of sudden I did have a lot to talk about. And even though these children are related to me, they're my grandchildren, they still have a lot of insecurities. They don't show it, but I know that underneath, you know, they, they want to know. They don't want people to know they're in foster care and, you know, I'm grandma. So they don't have to tell their friends oh, I'm not living with my mother, even though they're not, and it hurts them. And Alda and Jim have helped me through that quite a bit. One of the things that wasn't mentioned this evening is that they have things for the children to do along with the foster parents. They had a beach party last summer where the kids had just a wonderful time, and they provided a great pizza dinner and they provided games and, and face painting and a magician, and it was, the kids had such a good time and they were with other foster children, so they didn't have to say oh, you know, where's your mom? Well, doesn't matter, my foster mom's here. And another thing that they did was have a teen Christmas party. My teen didn't want to go. He said, I don't want to be with foster kids, I'm not a foster kid. I said, well, you already promised that you'd go and they're picking you up, so you go. He came back and said, hey, that was fun. He had a good time. He was with kids in a non-

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threatening situation that just gave him a lot of self-confidence. And they also. . .this, this luggage thing, I went into foster care at the age of 7 ½ and I took what I owned. I didn't have a nice black garbage bag, I had a paper sack rolled up, everything I owned was in there, and I went in to live in a foster home. Nowadays they come, if they have anything--a lot of them come with nothing--if they have anything, it's usually in a black garbage bag. If everything you owned was in a garbage bag, wouldn't you kind of feel like garbage too, especially going into a strange home where there were other kids, nice clothes, toys, books, everything, and yours was all in a garbage bag. That's the way I felt, although I didn't have very much in that paper sack. Gosh. . .you know, you write notes and then you forget 'em. Alda and Jim have this program where they provide suitcases, backpacks, bags for the kids, and the kids can go. . .if they're going to go and visit their parents or their home or their relatives, they can put all their little goodies in a suitcase and walk out like a real important person, not carrying a garbage bag. These kids carry enough garbage with 'em on their backs. *Please*, add a line item for Jim and Alda's Keiki Kokua because you'll help the children to have self-esteem. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you again. Jim?

MR. ST. JAMES: Thank you, Council Members. First of all, I want to really clarify. Keiki Kokua is not just Jim and Alda St. James. We're a collaboration of many foster parents helping each other and businesses in the community helping also. We have many good volunteers and we have a great working Board. So it's not just us, but thanks for the credit but, you know, there's a lot of us working here. And also on the money thing, foster parents for Department of Human Services gets \$529 per month, and that includes all the food, you know, toothpaste, toilet paper, everything, clothes. . .everything else is extra, there's a little stipend for clothes for a year, but basically that \$529 pays for everything that you do for the child. And, and when we have teenagers, that doesn't go much past the food, you know, or it doesn't even get there. So with that said, I just wanted to mention one thing. We are asking for a line item for \$35,000. We do want to expand our services to Lanai and Molokai. We will be having a website that they'll be able to access and we do have our Kokua line that they can call. But we want to extend, you know, extend over there not only the luggage, but also the, the social events and the getting the actual parents together talking, 'cause that's what it's about when they, when people help each other, you know, because we can't be everywhere. And when some, one foster parent learns something, they have a solution, they can pass that to another foster parent easily and that's what we're really about. We're going to be the voice of foster parents.

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What I wanted to say tonight is in April, Keiki Kokua was asked to speak at the, at the Annual Prevent Child Abuse Conference at the Blaisdell, Blaisdell Theater, Blaisdell Center in Honolulu. The event coordinators saw what we were doing, liked what we were doing, thought we were a really good new source of information on how to prevent the cycle of child abuse and neglect. So we're going to be presenting on. . .to guardian ad litem, to social workers, to attorneys, health care workers, anybody working in the social field, how to prevent the cycle of child abuse by helping and supporting foster parents through services like we have. We're real honored to do that and we'll be going their next week actually. What we really want to do is be the voice of foster parents, not only in Maui County, but we really would like to grow and be an example.

So we're asking you to kind of give us the seed to do that throughout Hawaii. And. . .and that's what we're asking for and please help us with that support. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you for being here again tonight.

MR. ST. JAMES: Okay. You're going to say anything? We have one more foster parent, but she doesn't want to come up. . . .*(chuckle)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . .*(chuckle)*. . .

MR. ST. JAMES: Okay. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Roberta Higgins, followed by Michelle Nicolas, followed by Kalia and Miki Kapisi. . .and Gail Kuba.

MS. HIGGINS: Good evening, Council Members. I'm here to read a letter from a parent who could not be here tonight. It says, as a parent with low income, Head Start has benefit my family in many ways. My child now knows how to interact with other kids and is confident about himself. The teachers and staff teach the children through interactive play and activities. It helps my child absorb in the information he is being taught in a fun, educational manner. His mind is growing everyday, and with Head Start it will show him how to use his imagination and mind as a tool. Learning and interacting with other kids is important to young children. Head Start provides the help you need to prepare your child for kindergarten. Head Start is a great program and should keep supporting those

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parents who can't afford to put their child or children in preschool. Think of our children, they are our future. Much mahalo, Kristine Griengo.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? If not, thank you very much.

MS. HIGGINS: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Michelle.

MS. NICHOLAS: Good evening, Council Members. My name is Michelle Nicholas. I'm the mother of a child at the Makawao B Head Start. Last year, my family was forced to move twice within a three-month period. . . .*(inaudible)*. . . I was trying to potty train my son. In January of this year an opening at the Makawao site became available. I was concerned that my son would not be accepted because he was not completely potty trained. Ms. C. J. and the rest of the staff worked with my son. Within a day my son was potty trained. Before going to Head Start, my son had little interest in writing. I can see his face glow when he colors now. The interaction with other children has improved his speech greatly. Clearly Head Start has met tremendous growth for my son and our family. Thank you so much for this service. Head Start provides support, child care, stability, education for children, and opportunity for families to better themselves. Please continue to fund Head Start. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? If not, thank you. Kalia?

MS. PAGAN: No, I'm not Kalia, but I came up anyway with Roberta because I have two kids, three kids at home that I have to put to bed. So. . .my name is Bobbie Pagan and I'm here to testify--first of all, I want to thank you for allowing me to testify. It's an honor to be here listening to everybody. Can I lift this up a little bit?

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Oh, yeah.

MS. PAGAN: Yeah? Okay, thanks. Thank you. It's an honor to be here and listening to everybody I realize that, you know, the need is so great here and I know you have such a big job, but I thank you anyway. We adopted our three grandchildren about two years ago. We fostered them first. And when I heard about the different programs they had in the, in the community, I just couldn't believe. If we weren't in the program, the foster care program first, I wouldn't have known about all of these programs, you know, I, I wouldn't have known, and I realized--and, and we work with people that are just great, I mean great people. I

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had no problem, everything went by smoothly, you know, everything, and then we adopted the kids. And then before we adopted, you know, we heard about the Head Start program through the, the workers, yeah, from the different departments. And so I applied for my grandson, and he is now four years old. He's in Makawao A, he's doing great and, you know, it's, it's just a great program. And, you know, I just, I just want to see the program continue because the teachers there, you know, they're trained to do this type of job and I want to see them continue to do the work that they were trained to do. You know, my grandson comes home, he just shares everything with us. He's a happy boy, you know, and he, he's. . .you know, I mean they teach him the arts, educational, you know, physical. They bring speakers for our meetings and, you know, we learn all kinds of things, you know, we have learned a lot from this program. And now I have my. . .his sister, my granddaughter--now she's more needy. She is. . .going to be three years old next month, but she has speech problems, and she doesn't talk the way a three year old will talk, but she's coming a long way with all the help we get from everybody in different departments. And so I'm hoping that she can get in. I applied anyway. I know it's. . .you know, it's a long shot, but, you know, I'm hoping she can get in because I know that with our program I think we have like five--if I'm not mistaken, Roberta--five teachers in that class and then sometimes parents come and help and stuff. And so the teacher ratio thing with the kids is really great. And I really believe that if she can get into that program, somebody like her, and I believe that there's probably other kids like her, too, that. . .I mean there's so much hope for her that she can go into kindergarten and be in a regular classroom with, you know, children, you know, her age. So, I'm looking forward to that and I'm hoping that this program continues and that she can get in. But I just want to thank you, and I just want to thank Roberta Higgins and her staff, you know, Jocelyn Dela Cruz and--

MR. RAATZ: Three minutes.

MS. PAGAN: Yeah. Oh, I'm sorry. Okay. I want to just thank them because they're just so efficient and we, we are always well informed about everything. And I, I always spread the word to everybody I know. People don't know about this program. I just talked to a lady, she didn't know about Head Start, and she needs help for her children, she's a single mom. And so I just want to thank you, you know, and I hope this program, you know, can be funded, if the County can continue to fund this program. It's just a great program. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you very much. Kalia, Miki Kapisi and Gail Kuba.

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MS. M. KAPISI: Hi, I'm Miki Kapisi. I'd like to testify in support of the MACC. I'm a teacher and a parent of six children. Being able to take classes from top instructors in the arts and then implement those techniques really brings my classroom and my own kid's classrooms alive. There is nothing that compares to using the arts to teach. Please continue to support the MACC and the arts because it's working.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you.

MS. K. KAPISI: Hello, everybody. My name is Kalia Kapisi. I am seven years old and a second grader at Pukalani Elementary School. I am here tonight to tell you that when my teachers use the arts, it makes learning easier and exciting. Please keep supporting them with funds so that they can keep learning. I love how they teach after their classes. I also enjoy CanDo Days at Maui Arts and Cultural Center. It was a day that I got to do drama, dance, and arts. Every kid should get to learn like this even if they are poor. Please try to help the Cultural Center by giving them money from all the mom's and dad's taxes so that all the kids can get learning with the arts. Thank you for listening.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Kalia. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you.

MS. KUBA: Aloha, Chairman Pontanilla and the Council Members. My name is Gail Kuba and I'm a teacher of 256 K-5 students in science. My students and I have benefited greatly from the Maui Arts and Cultural Center professional development workshops and summer institutes for the teachers. The students can make connections to the real world by using the arts like drama, music, visual arts, and movement and dance. And this infused with the lessons that we learn, we can benefit our teaching and the kid's concepts of. . .in language arts and math and science, and other disciplines. I also. . .they're learning. . .right now I just came off of a workshop during the summer break, the spring break by Sean and Melanie Layne from the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and I'm using it right now as soon as the kids came back to school, utilizing it right away in them being able to control their body, their voice, their imagination, being able to focus and develop that muscle of concentration and cooperation with each other, and it really helped in their self-management of themselves and being ready to learn concepts through the arts.

I'm also speaking on behalf of the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens with its five acres of rare and native plant collections. The opportunities that they have. . .for that I've learned how to propagate and help my own plants to grow in my own yard

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that I can utilize, I'm, I'm learning kapa making and the process of growing the wauke and learning how to make dyes from the native plants. And I'm growing it in my yard so that at least I can have my supply instead of trampling through the forest or whatever, and also being able to share that with other people. So their workshops as well as having the venues for networking with other plant and agricultural people really helps the community, and also having tours for our students to come to the gardens and see in real life the things that we talked about in our books. So thank you very much and continue your support for the Maui Arts and Cultural Center and the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you for being here.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

MS. KUBA: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Randal Mitsumura. Randal?

MR. MITSUMURA: Good evening, Council Members. I am here to thank MEO, the Business Corporation that helps people with small business loans. I made a business loan in 2003. I'm a single, I was, I'm a single parent and I raised my daughter since she was four months old. And I got married and then I got this loan from MEO and started a goat farm. And then I got divorced and my wife went with the goats, I guess, and everything went downhill. But thank God MEO stood, stick by my side. I had to file bankruptcy and I, I. . .there was nobody else that was going to help me. So, I just I. . .pleaded and I just kept asking them, giving me a chance to just make small payments, and it's been years, but they've been patient and I finally made my last payment tonight. And. . .

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

MR. MITSUMURA: . . .and, and I'm looking forward to trying to get another loan and trying to do something different involving my 13-year old daughter. But MEO is really, really valuable for the community as well because a lot of people that don't have the means in collateral and, and the resources to get a loan or whatever, that MEO helps. If MEO wasn't there, you know, those people would be out dealing drugs or robbing people or whatever, and that's why I'm here tonight. And my. . .(inaudible). . .said, if you go there and be. . .sign up early so you can go in there and get out. Well, I ended up being, I think, the last person, which made me learn a little bit more patience. Well, I'm really grateful and I'm glad that I came tonight. And I just ask that you folks support MEO with this. . .helping people

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with the small business loans and whatever else that MEO provides for their people of Maui. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you for being here.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Rosemary Robbins, followed by John Brooks.

MS. ROBBINS: Hello again. Nice to see you on my turf up here tonight. Are we blessed or what with all these wonderful people who are in this community who are doing all these wonderful things? And I must say that when you folks are in your office, I get a chance to deal with a lot of these people out in the community, and you're only hearing just a smidge of the great stuff that's going on. So enjoy that when you're driving tonight. . .*(chuckle)*. . .under our starlit skies to go back home, just please feel good about all of this.

I'm here right now to speak in support of the \$200,000 grant to Department of Water for the Upcountry Maui Lead Project that is in the, in the Budget here. And last week--I just need to remind us, though--last week after the Council asked the people from the Water Department when we were down there in the Council area if money ever went by the Board because the Department of Water didn't quite get its part of the work done, and confronted with that yes or no question, the woman from the Department of Water said yes, that sometimes grant money that was available didn't get used because the staff at the Department of Water, whoever they would be at the time, hadn't done their part of the work. So after that meeting I went and spoke with the Deputy Director who has been marshaling the Upcountry contaminated water grant that I've been working on as a volunteer for the last four years, and he told me that that grant had not yet been applied for. So, please, somehow that gets checked, let's not--I mean after we had just heard that sometimes we lose out on those, he told me that. So, I mean I went right to his office when I heard that. So please checkup on that.

Something else that's in the Budget--and thank you, I did go down early this morning and picked that up, thank you--speaks about the management section for the Water Department, and DWS is saying that they want to have, schedule \$53,709,000. . . \$53,700,928 scheduled for that. I think that's wonderful. The bad news is that there is a need for that kind of improvement expenditure, but the Boyle Engineering Department that the Department of Water in the previous Administration hired in order to address this issue up here for contaminated water, they themselves came out with saying, yes, there is a need for management

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improvement, and the EPA echoed that last month. So this has been going on for a long time. In '94 there were--

MR. RAATZ: Three minutes.

MS. ROBBINS: --thank you--there was a statement put out by the Department of Water. So we all got it, those of us in our homes. Some of us managed to keep hold of some of those in it. And I just want to quote in here, "Led builds up in the body over many years and can cause damage to the brain". . . .*(end of tape, start 3A at 8:18 p.m.)*. . . These are the people that I was testifying for last night and the Maui Long Term Care Partnership work, those folks--'94 to now--and this was written in '94, so the problems were earlier than that. We, we just. . . all this great stuff that we're hearing tonight, we have to make sure that that underlying deal about water being the support, basic support system and that to make sure that that goes on. Then in '95 we had another one from the Water Department, "If water is inadequately treated, microbiological contaminants in that water may cause disease". This is not just a rash. We, we're talking about visceral organs as having been really compromised about this. So, I'm asking you anything that you can do to make sure that there is high accountability--make sure the money gets appropriated--and then to please--

MR. RAATZ: Four minutes.

MS. ROBBINS: --make sure that the accountability is something that is very ongoing, tightly observed, heaps of transparency. So. . . and, and you've got a whole popu. . . , population up here who's happy to support you on that, so please feel comfortable about it.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier this evening? Seeing none, thank you very much, Rosemary. John Brooks, followed by Clyde Murashige.

MR. BROOKS: Good evening, Chairman Pontanilla and Members of the Committee. My name is Bobby Brooks, and I'm currently the President of the Maui County Farm Bureau. I know it says John, but I'm really Bobby. . . .*(chuckle)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: See, you all looked one time. Yeah? . . .*(chuckle)*. . .

MR. BROOKS: I'd like to thank you for providing us the opportunity to deliver testimony this evening. And I would also like to thank you and the Committee for your past support of the Farm Bureau and its individual members and affiliated ag groups that our County grants support. I'm here tonight to ask you, once again, to

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show your support for local agriculture by approving our grant, grant request for Fiscal Year '08-'09. The funds given to the Farm Bureau have always been used for the benefit of Maui's agricultural community, and the need for the services and programs funded have never been greater. The funds requested cover programs that the Farm Bureau spearheads as well as a request from our ag organizations that are part of the Farm Bureau family. It is our hope. . .and you will hear tonight testimony from other ag groups that are affiliated with us--Maui Association of Landscape Professionals, Maui Onion Growers Association, Maui Aloha Aina, Maui Cattle Association, and Maui Coffee Association--some of the representatives are here tonight and will be addressing their specific needs. I would like to talk a little bit about some Farm Bureau programs that we have going.

First and foremost is our Grown On Maui program. We have a terrible need here to develop market for our farmers so that we can try and keep our product on island, if possible, in State if nothing else works. We need to work with our, with our product growers, our product buyers, and we're developing these programs to get them to understand what we offer and what our farmers and local producers offer. We're looking at food safety programs that are coming down the pike that could be devastating to our farming community. We, we don't have farmers who can go out there and put a lot of money into developing the facilities they would need. We're going to be working with them and with the County of Maui to try and do some work, hopefully at the Kula Vacuum Plant, to be able to facilitate a cooperative effort that would allow a processing facility to be built.

Secondly is our communication, community education programs and foremost in that is our Ag in the Classroom program. The Maui County Farm Bureau has the most aggressive Ag in the Classroom program of any of the counties in the State of Hawaii. The gentleman that runs it, Gerry Ross, will be speaking to you later on for the County, for the Coffee Growers Association. Please ask him questions about Ag in the Classroom. We're also going to be working with the County this year in developing a program called, Educating the Educator. It's amazing what our teachers don't know about agriculture, and we certainly want to provide them an opportunity to, to know more. We continue to work supporting community-based events: the Upcountry Fair, the East Maui Taro. . .Festival, Maui Onion Festival and, and anything else that we can be involved in to get agriculture out there in the forefront for people to see, as well as our newsletters that we are now sending out to our community as well as to our farmers.

MR. RAATZ: Three minutes.

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MR. BROOKS: These are just some of the programs that the Maui County Farm Bureau is working on. We certainly appreciate all of the help you've been able to give us in the past and look forward to being able to move forward, you know, get this thing going again and get our farming and agriculture community strong. Thank you very much.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Mr. Brooks. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you for being here.

MR. BROOKS: Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Clyde Murashige, followed by Susan Mastro..., Mastroianni.

MS. MASTROIANNI (from the audience): That's good. Fine.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Gees. Just as long as my last name. . . .*(chuckle)*. . .

AUDIENCE: . . .*(chuckle)*. . .

MR. MURASHIGE: Good evening, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee. My name is Clyde Murashige and I am here tonight on behalf of the Board of Directors of the J. Walter Cameron Center, and we're here to support the Department of Human, Housing and Human Concerns' Budget under their Capital Program for the repair of the earthquake damages at the Cameron Center that occurred in 2006. During the earthquake our balcony that's attached to the auditorium and meeting rooms was severely damaged. We did temporary repair, but the majority of our capital funds were tied up in an expansion of the Center in which we were able to accommodate six relocated and new public and nonprofit agencies. Realizing that we did have to do the temporary repairs, which when we looked at the situation again, we need a permanent repair. This facility for us is a very, very important facility for the community. It actually facilitated over 200 groups in terms of meetings last year, and that translated to over 1,100--I'm sorry--200 groups and that translated to 1,100 meetings just for last year, and the repairs would help us really continue with this facility for, for Central Maui and the rest of the island. So we do ask for your support on this appropriation. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you for being here tonight.

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AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Susan, followed by Teya Penniman.

MS. MASTROIANNI: Hi, good evening, Council Members. Thank you for the opportunity to present to you this evening. I am the current President of the Maui Association of Landscape Professionals, and we are fortunate to get grant money from the Maui County Farm Bureau, and we have done so for several years, and we are supporting their grant for monies to support ag. Upcountry is ag and ag is food and, you know, Kula onions and sweet corn and, you know, Kula greens and, you know, we all love to eat, and without the hardworking farmers, you know, and, and as the years go on farmers are growing less and less. Children don't want to be farmers anymore. So we really do need to support ag so that we can have fresh produce that in turn is sold by the tourism industry, which is the greatest industry, you know, the largest industry you have, and you go to any of the restaurants and they're advertising fresh Kula greens or fresh steak from Haleakala Ranch or something. So, you know, it's kind of all linked together. So any chef will tell you that, you know, something that's coming from 20 miles away is better than coming from Chile, and who knows what they put on the food there. But from the Maui Association of Landscape Professionals, although it kind of. . .you don't think of it as part of ag, we're one of the largest sectors of ag outside of, I guess, sugar cane and, and pineapple because there's a lot of employees in the industry, the organization has about 90 members, it goes from landscape architects, to maintenance people, to irrigation, to plant propagators. So there's a large variety of people. Most of you have yards of your own and if you don't look after it, you more than likely would employ somebody that belongs to our industry. The landscape organization. . .we provide bimonthly meetings, educational meetings for our members and for the community. It's a volunteer organization, and so we bring members, you know, bring people in from, from U.H. or other educated people to educate our members on good horticultural practices and, you know, the use of non-invasive plant material. While it would be wonderful if we could use more native plants, Maui's. . .the reason why so many people to come to Maui apart from the natural beauty is the fact that you get a lei grown by the flower growers, you go to the hotels with beautiful landscapes. I mean paradise is not always. . .it, it's created sometimes and its members of our organization that do that creation. So we have a work day coming up this Saturday. Members of our group are going to prune the, the juvenile trees along Haleakala Highway from, from Haleakala Highway through to Kmart on Hana Highway. I think it's--

MR. RAATZ: Three minutes.

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MS. MASTROIANNI: --it's part of the Department of Transportation, but they, they're kind of sorely neglected. So our organization has, you know, got volunteers together. And so if you drive past that section of the road on Saturday, hoot 'cause, 'cause we're working there and trying to give the trees a head start. We have membership directories, we have a web page that tries to connect landscape professionals to the community, and I get about at least three or four e-mails every week now of people trying to find plant suppliers, et cetera.

And just quickly in summation, I'm also supporting the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens as a source for, you know, native and endemic plant material in its next venue. We have our Lawn and Garden Fair with them that we paired up with last year where they grow a thousand trees for the Arbor Day tree giveaway. And so at that fair we then have educational speakers come and our vendors come, and so it's kind of like a one-stop shop for the gardening community to kind of get connected and talk about wise use of water, non-invasive plants, and good horticultural practice. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Susan, can you pronounce your last name, please?
Thank you.

MS. MASTROIANNI: Mastroianni.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. . . .(*chuckle*). . .

AUDIENCE: . . .(*applause*). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Teya Penniman, followed by Scott Heintzman.

MS. PENNIMAN: Aloha, Council Members. I am Teya Penniman, Manager of the Maui Invasive Species Committee. Thank you, once again, for being here and I'll try to be brief tonight. I like to come to the different venues, not only to hear the stories, but also because Maui Invasive Species Committee really works across the island, and we have different target species in different areas. Upcountry Maui, one of our main targets is pampas grass, which is a bunched grass if left unchecked would fuel wildfires and also invade our native forest. It actually is invading our native forest in both East and West Maui. I had intended to bring along some big pictures to kind of, you know, change the, the format than just being the talking head, but the power outage precluded that. But I think better than that, actually I have two staff members with me tonight who today were working on pampas grass in the Upcountry area, Crater Road near Polipoli and I, I think their eyes are probably about getting to be like yours must be by now in terms of, you know, wishing they had toothpicks to help keep them open after,

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after a full day in the field. But that's all I want to say other than thank you for all of your support, requesting your continued support, and then turn it over to Scott Heintzman and Russ Suzuki. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Scott Heintzman, followed by Russell Suzuki.

MR. HEINTZMAN: Hi, how you guys doing tonight? My name is Scott Heintzman. I was born and raised on Maui. I've been working for Maui Invasive Species Committee for about 2 ½ years. It's really important for me to go out into the environment and protect Hawaii, especially Maui, 'cause Maui has the biggest native rain forest of all the islands and it's important to be on the front lines protecting the weeds that are going to invade these rain forest. And MISC not only creates positive jobs for people, but as well as having a positive impact on the environment and it creates a lot of jobs. Thank you, I want to thank you again for all your continued support on supporting us and continue funding for us to help us hire more people and to get our job done better. That's about it. . . .(chuckle) . . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Scott. Members, any questions for the testifier? Thank you. Russell Suzuki, followed by Mike Abrams.

MR. SUZUKI: Hi. Thank you. My name is Russ Suzuki and I was born and raised here, and I've been with MISC for about eight years now. I started shortly after they started the program. Over the years probably a lot of you--I don't know you, but you look about my age--

COUNCIL MEMBERS: . . .(chuckle) . . .

MR. SUZUKI: --you've seen a lot of changes and there are going to be more, and so far the State or the Federal entities haven't been much help in keeping invasive species out of here. But the more people that move here, the more invasive species we're going to come across, and they're coming from all over, you know, as far away as South America or Japan, China, and they seem to all be thriving here very well. Pampas grass is one of the biggest ones that we face up in the country because it's in our watershed, and we have acres and acres of that stuff. And we, till this date, only work on it and when it seeds, when we can find it. . .because it looks similar to another native grass. We really need the funding to get in there during off times and get on the ground and do it. We already spent weeks in the watershed. We get flown in on helicopters and stay there for a week, and it's dirty, wet work and you stay wet for five days, but we put up with it knowing in the long term if we don't, we're going to run out of water, we're going

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to ruin our coastline, we're going to ruin our beaches. So, I appreciate what you've done for us in the past and I hope you can help us some more. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Question.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Russell, question.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you, Russell. I'm curious. You know, I've lived Upcountry all my life and I wouldn't know pampas grass if I saw it. What does it look like?

MR. SUZUKI: It comes in couple varieties. We've got a short one about like this and then a little one that's maybe about 12-feet tall. They've got--

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Is it like a cane or--

MR. SUZUKI: It looks like cane grass and it's got the big seed heads on top of it, several million seeds on it and they can blow up to 20 miles on a good day when we have lots of wind here, so it really helps spread it.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: And is it in the populated areas like Makawao or Kula?

MR. SUZUKI: It's, it's mostly in Makawao and Upper Kula that we find a lot of it cultivated by individuals, and one variety doesn't really spread too much, but the other one is pretty bad. And it's really hard to tell them apart, so we're trying to get all of it just to cover all the basis, but that takes time. We're working on the same houses that we worked on eight years ago when I started, and we still go back and find plants. So we really don't know what the life expectancy of the seeds are, but it's past eight years now and that's what we're up against.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you very much for coming tonight. And, Teya, when you have time, I would love to see a picture. You know, I would like. . .it's kind of sad when you don't even know what you're talking about.

MS. THOMPSON (from the audience): Can I ask a question? Is that allowed? Can I ask him a question?

CHAIR PONTANILLA: No.

MS. THOMPSON (from the audience): Okay.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: You can, you know, out there, though, if you want to ask him the question. Mike Abrams, followed by Marion Haller.

MR. ABRAMS: Hello, Council Members. Thank you so much for supporting us this evening and thanks all of you. It's been a very interesting night. I'm Mike Abrams and I'm the founder of Maui Food Technology Center. We began about three years ago and we've been planning, planning, planning for three to four years until finally we have our new Maui Food Technology Center at the Haiku Town Center at 810 Kokomo Road in Haiku, and I would like to personally invite all of you members to come in and roll up your sleeves and help us create the next generation of Maui food companies using products from our Maui farmers and farmers throughout the State. Now, I realize I could talk forever and I'm not good at this, to, to kind of focus down. So, I'm going to try to focus really quick on what we do and give you an idea in another minute of some of our successes we've had already. What we're all about is connecting students, and I mean high school students, Maui. . .and especially the Maui culinary students, farmers and food companies and food entrepreneurs on Maui to try to forge closer links among these three sectors of our economy. Now we're trying to make high school students aware of careers in the food industry. We're trying to help Maui culinary students understand more about creating just a recipe. We're trying to teach them the fundamentals of food science and technology by measuring the physical, chemical and sensory parameters of food products. I, myself, have a degree in food science, as this is what I studied many years ago at Ohio State University. We're helping. . .we want to, we want to help our farmers create new demand for Hawaiian grown agriculture, and that's really the core of it right there. We want to keep their ingredients in our lab to formulate with. We want to make them aware that we need their ingredients. We also want to involve our existing food companies and food entrepreneurs by providing research and development in product food development services. An example might be to provide a nutritional statement or to provide sensory. Now I realize my time is running down, so I would like to give you guys--and we've only, we've only opened up the center in Haiku in January, but we already have four companies that we're already working with under contract, and I can't identify them by name because I'm not allowed to, they would kill me. But the first company is a small Maui food company that we're working with that's going to help increase the demand of Maui grown sugar, Maui brand sugar. The second company is a, is a Maui beverage company and we're doing the same thing there, we'll be definitely using our Maui grown sugar for them.

MR. RAATZ: Three minutes.

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MR. ABRAMS: Thank you. Our third company is a . . .it's a Maui County, I'll just say, coffee company and we are helping them to increase the demand for more grown, more of their grown coffee and we'll also along the way using Hawaiian grown vanilla beans from the Big Island to help them get a better vanilla flavored coffee. We're also creating for them, and I can't identify yet, but a brand new Maui coffee extract, a concentrate that will be used as an ingredient for two of, actually for uses in an ingredient for one ice cream company and one beverage company, also, that I'm not allowed to name tonight. We're also working for a Big Island macadamia nut company, thereby increasing a new demand for Maui grown sugar for Maui onions and also, of course, macadamia nuts growing on the Big Island.

MR. RAATZ: Four minutes.

MR. ABRAMS: Okay. We have. . .I just want to say we have--I won't go through the whole list--but we have potential clients, we have a list of potential clients that includes companies from Kauai and Oahu, and we have a lot of people calling. So, I think we're still a little. . .I, I heard someone say tonight a best kept secret. We want to. . .we're, we're just starting to grow now and we thank you for your support and we, we don't want you guys, we want you guys to know what we're doing. So please call us, come on down, see what we're doing to create more demand for our Hawaiian grown agriculture. And yes, I support the Maui Farm Bureau big time and the Maui Coffee Association big time. Coffee is going to become a real giant here. We're in the beginnings. It's, it's gonna, it's a small Kona waiting to grow quick.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. . . .(*chuckle*). . .

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Ask him if he'll leave his testimony.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Yeah. Do you have a testimony, written testimony that you can leave with us?

MR. ABRAMS: I have some, yes. . .I have, I have--

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Either a yes or a no.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: . . .(*chuckle*). . .

MR. ABRAMS: Yes. I can, I can leave these two items--

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Please give it to the Secretary on the left, on my left. Thank you.

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MR. ABRAMS: --with you. This, this shows our. . .pretty much what we're all about in a nutshell.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Thank you, Mike. Marion Haller, followed by Robert Spencer.

MS. HALLER: Good evening, Council Members. My name is Marion Haller and I just need to start by saying I'm so impressed and humbled by this evening. I, I. . .it's gotta be incredible to sit there and listen to all of this night after night and hear what this County is all about. I just so. . .I, I couldn't sit there 'cause I'd give everybody more money. It would just be too hard. . . .*(chuckle)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: . . .*(chuckle)*. . .

MS. HALLER: Anyway, that said, I'm here to talk about Na Hale O Maui. We're the community land trust for affordable housing. And I want to, first of all, thank you for your support in the past. It's been instrumental in helping get us started. I've been involved from the very beginning. I've put in hundreds of hours of volunteer time myself and the more I do, the more I'm convinced that this is really such an important element in trying to address our affordable housing issue. To not have a mechanism that allows the affordable housing that we do develop to be that in perpetuity is just. . .sending money down the drain as far as I'm concerned. So I'm, I'm just so convinced. I also want to see it as a solution for some of the employment problems we have in the County. You know, I'm on the Board of Water Supply and I can't stand it when we hear that we are missing five engineers. We still haven't filled that, those positions, years and years we don't do that. If we could offer them housing, which you can do through the land trust, you can make that a criteria, this could all work. So I'm, I'm going to hang in there. . .*(chuckle)*. . .I'm going to have this happen.

I also want to tell you we went to, I went to the National Conference of Land Trust back in October. I used my miles and stayed with family, it was great. It was fascinating. There were over a hundred land trust represented there, and the majority of them received funding from their municipalities. I found that very interesting. And the land trust, I have little sentence here, actually they do work best when they work in partnership, yeah, with either for-profit, nonprofit and the municipality partnerships. That's what really makes the whole thing work well. So, I think you're probably aware, but we've raised over \$200,000 from private donors. So we have our offices, we have our executive director. We're working to help finalize those. . .the administrative rules for the Workforce Housing Ordinance so we can get that out there working for us, and we are negotiating

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with several entities for up to 320 units of affordable housing in various areas of Maui. They approached us and asked us to provide proposals. We've also been approached by the Hana Ranch to give them a proposal for the 100 acres that they've donated to the community. So it's just so exciting and I thank you for your support, and I ask you to kindly support us again in the future. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Thank you very much for being here tonight. Robert Spenser.

MR. SPENSER: Good evening, Committee Members, and thanks for hanging in there with all of us. As you might have guessed, I'm here as represent..., representative of the Maui Fire Department. My name's Robbie Spenser. I've been in the Department 16 years, all of which have been Engine 2 in Paia. I've been a driver there for two years and no one's been there longer than me, so they asked me to come as a representative to speak about new fire trucks we'd like to get there in Paia. As you may be aware our district, we cover from Stable Road all the way out to Honomanu Bay, it's just about to Keanae, and then halfway up into Haiku. That's a very rural district. The truck we have right now is like your standard fire truck, 1,500 gallon pumper. The two vehicles they're asking for, I guess I'll speak about first, is, is called a mini-pumper or mini-truck, utility truck. That's a truck that'll allow us to get to areas that the larger truck cannot get into. It's listed in the Budget as a replacement for an existing mini-truck, and that's interesting to me because the truck we're replacing is a 1978 Dodge that we got from Wailuku a couple of years ago when they got their new trucks, so it's kind of a hand-me-down. And the last two years, I have to say it's probably spent more time in the shop than actually at the Paia Fire Station. Anyway, all of you, you know, been on Maui longer than I have. I mean we've all seen what the growth has happened on Maui. I think the growth in our district has kind of been the secret growth, you know, everybody knows about Kihei and Wailuku and the west side and all that. When I first came to Paia, it was known as the slowest station on Maui. Now we're the second or the third busiest station on Maui. I would guess, and you would probably know better, but I'm guessing the population in our district has probably doubled in the last eight or ten years, but you don't notice it and it's because of the larger size lots, larger acreage, the makai side of Hana Highway out in Haiku there's all these roads. And you go down some of these narrow dirt roads and, to your surprise, there's a million dollar house or actually now it's probably a \$5 million house hidden away in the bushes, you know. I've been there 16 years and I would say at least a few times a month I come across a road that I've never been down before. It, it always surprises me.

So basically, the mini-truck will allow us to get closer to these places, fires into gulches, closer to some of the hidden coastline areas where we have to go down to

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pineapple field roads where the big truck can't go or the big truck might get stuck. This would be a four-wheel drive vehicle, basically, you know, a mini-fire truck, a smaller pump, a smaller water tank, but it will still carry minimum equipment for medical, for rescue, ocean rescue, things like that. A very valuable piece of equipment.

MR. RAATZ: Three minutes.

MR. SPENSER: Thanks. The other item is a new 1,500 gallon per minute pumper which is basically your standard fire truck, it'll be a larger truck. The one we currently use is a 1995 model. You know, I, I've been there with that truck since we've gotten it and now that I'm a driver, I mean personally I'm *very* attached to the truck, you know, it's like my truck. But it is 13 years older, so it does tend to go into the shop a little more often than it used to. The new vehicle we'd like to get would be four-wheel drive model which will be very valuable, again, because of the rural nature of our district, lot of dirt roads, lot of long driveways, you know. We've had a rash of car fires and trash fires way out in pineapple fields that have been let go recently with, you know, the declination of the pineapple industry.

MR. RAATZ: Four minutes.

MR. SPENSER: Thanks. So anyway, that's. . .if you have any questions, you know, it's just basically replacing equipment that would be really valuable for us to do our. . .*(end of tape, start 3B at 8:50 p.m.)*. . .job.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Mr. Spenser. Question.

MR. SPENSER: Yeah.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: The trucks that you mention just now. . .

MR. SPENSER: Uh-huh.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . .are those trucks on the list for replacement on the 2009 Budget for the Department?

MR. SPENSER: I believe so. You know, I was just asked to come and, and speak about my experience with the vehicles and. . .yeah, you know, I'm not sure if it's a 2008 or 2009. I believe it's a '08-'09 Fiscal.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Okay.

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MR. SPENSER: Yeah.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: We'll take a look at that.

MR. SPENSER: Yeah.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

MR. SPENSER: Okay.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Members, any more questions for the . . . Mr. Spencer here, Firefighter III? Question by Member Medeiros.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Mr. Chairman. And, Mr. Spencer, thank you for staying. . .

MR. SPENSER: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: . . .this late with us and giving your testimony. Yeah. I think Chairman Pontanilla asked a good question whether it's on the Budget from the, through the Mayor right now through the Executive Budget, and we'll have to look at that. But I, I just want to say that I'm glad to see the Department going back to mini-pumpers. At one time they had mini-pumpers, then they did away with them and now they're going back, and that's because areas like Paia and Hana, rural areas really need these trucks, you know. And, you know, I was stationed at Paia at one time, that was one of my stations, and it's a long run. We used to take runs all the way to almost Keanae, you know, for rescue and so forth. So the mini-pumper can get there very quickly compared to the engine. So that's good that the Department's doing that and we'll, we'll look at the Budget to see if it's in there or not from the Department. But thank you for your testimony.

MR. SPENSER: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(*applause*) . . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Members, the next set of testifiers are from Ka Lima, Ka Lima O Maui. We do have Chantal Ratte, Sally Keanini. . . Joe Keanini, Michael Cabral, Alson Higa.

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MS. RATTE: Good evening. Thank you for the opportunity and hanging in there. I'm Chantal Ratte, I'm the Executive Director with Ka Lima O Maui. We're here to request your support for our 5 percent increase request for contracts that we have with the Parks Department, Police station, Fire station, and Public Works. These contracts basically provide employment for over 40 adults with disabilities. And I'd like to, you know--but I don't want to go into all the details of the contracts--I'd like to just focus for a minute on the impact of a paycheck. You know, I think many of us take for granted what a paycheck does. It provides independence, self-reliance, it gives you control of your, of your purchases, of your choices, and I have been privileged to witness the first time an adult with disability, with a disability receives a paycheck and it is magnificent. It's . . .payday at Ka Lima O Maui is not an ordinary day, it's a celebrated day. And so, I'm going to let some individuals speak for themselves, but I'd just wanted to share that with you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, also included in the group is Mona Maddela.

MS. KEANINI: Hi, my name is Sally Keanini. I work for the, help Ka Lima O Maui to provide the County of Maui to clean the parks and for keep the parks clean and for. . .*(inaudible)*. . .everybody to take care the parks. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Next testifier?

MR. KEANINI: My name is Joe, Joseph Keanini. We work very hard for doing. . .for clean the parks, we try our best. And I hope this can keep up our job and stay to it. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Michael Cabral.

MR. HIGA: My name's Alson Higa.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Oh, Alson Higa.

MR. HIGA: And I work at, I work at the parks doing grounds, ground service. I have been working with Ka Lima O Maui for almost ten years. Please support our contract with the Maui County, County of Maui. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Michael Cabral.

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MR. CABRAL: My name is Michael Cabral and I work at the Police station doing their grounds service. I have been working at Ka Lima O Maui for 14 years. Please support our contracts with the County of Maui.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Mona Maddela.

MS. MADDELA: Aloha ahiahi, everyone.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aloha.

MS. MADDELA: First of all, I'd like to thank you for being given the opportunity to come here and speak, and to thank you for all you have been doing to continue to support us at Ka Lima. I have been part of the Ka Lima family for 11 years, and our mission and our goal is to . . .enhance the special people to be self-reliant, and self-reliance for us at Ka Lima is not only teaching them how to work in custodial or grounds, it also. . .for us it also teaches them to become. . .individuals who gains confidence in themselves, self-esteem, and it also, we also provide social camaraderie amongst each other. For me, I have been blessed. I think I have been placed at Ka Lima for a reason. Not only I have been given the opportunity to teach them, but they in turn have also taught me to become a better individual. You know, through them I have appreciated my family more and I am so grateful that, you know, with the children and my grandchildren that I have. And I ask you humbly to continue to support us so that we may continue to make their lives more valuable. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Mahalo for all of your testimony this evening. Maybe I can ask you, Ms., Mrs. Maddela or Ms. Ratte, did, does your group also currently do some kind of contracting work with our Solid Waste Division at our landfill?

MS. MADDELA: Yes, we do. We, we have a group of people that does the litter control up there everyday, Monday through Friday.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: So you have a crew that goes there everyday, Monday through Friday--

MS. MADDELA: That's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: --to do that?

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MS. MADDELA: That's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: About how many hours of work do they do on a daily basis?

MS. MADDELA: They provide six hours or more everyday.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay, and about what size crew goes up there, about how many individuals?

MS. MADDELA: One supervisor and five to six clients.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay. Mahalo for your testimony.

MS. MADDELA: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. I just want to convey my thank you for the work that you do. . .for the County of Maui.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you very much. Jordan Jokiel, followed by Kathleen Bailey.

MR. JOKIEL: Aloha and good evening. My name is Jordan Jokiel and I'm the Coordinator for the East Maui Watershed Partnership, and I just really quickly wanted to thank you on behalf of all the five watershed partnerships in Maui County--there's three on this island, one on Molokai, and one on Lanai--just to thank you for your, your support in the past and for your continued support and commitment to our programs in Fiscal Year, FY '08 and, and '09.

By supporting watershed partnerships and protection you do a number of things, you're protecting our water supply which we all depend on every single day. It's, it's. . .next to air, it's probably the second most important thing in all of our lives. You also are protecting native forest 'cause that's, that's what we do. By protecting the watershed, we're protecting native forest and that's important, I think, to the plants and animals that are unique to Hawaii, but I think it's also really, really important to the culture that exist in Hawaii because there's nothing else like, like the culture that we have here. And Hawaiian culture, and I'm not an expert on that, but I've traveled a little bit and you really see how, how it's, how cultures are shaped by their environment, and I think it's really important to

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preserve the things here that make, make our lives here so special. And by supporting the partnerships you are supporting that. Also, just the work we do helps stabilize upland areas and this helps to protect downslope areas where most of our communities are, as well as our, our reefs and our nearshore areas. And you can see where, where watersheds and forests don't exist on, on some of our landscapes, like it's, it's really tough out in Kaupo side on this island, as with Kamalo on Molokai, Napali Coast on Kauai. Those places that don't have a lot of forest anymore, you see what happens when it rains really hard 'cause all of that stuff washes out into the ocean. And I know that this is the year of the reef and it's really important. I, I support the work that you're doing to protect the reefs and it's really important for us to link the mauka protection and management with some of that makai work as well. Also through our PR programs, which you guys are very strong supporters of, we've been able to instill a strong conserve..., conservation ethic in our youth, in our community. You know, I grew up. . .when I went to school, we didn't learn conservation in school. It was something, you know, you, you didn't know about, we didn't really recycle. And, and I'm really honestly amazed by, by when we lead kids out in guided hikes and in classrooms. . .you know, they're pretty sharp with conservation issues, the basics, the fundamentals are something that they learn now, just like math, just like history, just like science and, and that's I think credit to support from, from you guys here in Maui County.

And, and the last thing in, in a lot of ways to me, this is, this is one of the more important things, is I think by supporting watershed protection you've helped to build community by providing employment and work opportunities in what I think is a very noble profession, very honest, very hard work. And, and what I've seen. . . 'cause most of the guys I work with, most of my crew, it's a crew of seven other people--they're, they're all local, local boys and, and girls--and they have this sense of pride and ownership in the work that they do, and, and they've really developed a sense of professionalism that, that, you know, makes me proud these guys are, for the most part, younger than me. So and--

MR. RAATZ: Three minutes.

MR. JOKIEL: --and I'm glad to see that. Also, Councilmember Baisa, you did, you did say figures are really important to you, on numbers. You, between the Office of Economic Development and the Department of Water Supply, currently fund us at each partnership of \$200,000 a year. I'm not going to ask for any more than that because I think that's *very* generous, more generous and progressive than any other County in Hawaii. So thank you very much. I welcome any opportunity to talk story with you guys or take you into the woods on a hike. Thank you.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Member Victorino?

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Thank you for that testimony. Jonathan--

MR. JOKIEL: Jordan.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: I'm sorry?

MR. JOKIEL: Jordan.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Oh, Jordan. Oh, excuse me. Okay. You know it's late, you know, I'm writing--

MR. JOKIEL: No. Yeah, yeah. It's okay.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: --and I'm trying to do all this at the same time. Jordan, sorry. How many acres approximately is this East Maui, approximately how large an area?

MR. JOKIEL: The East Maui Watershed is about 100,000 acres. We intensively manage about 12,000 acres of that, and each year we try to bite off a little bit more. But then we support other programs, like MISC who spoke here earlier. . .

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Uh-huh.

MR. JOKIEL: . . .with some of their work as well as Division of Forestry and Wildlife.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: And that 7 people take care that 12,000 plus acres and whatever else?

MR. JOKIEL: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Wow, that's a heck of a job. Thank you very much--

MR. JOKIEL: Thank you very much.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: --Jordan.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. One more question. Member Medeiros?

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COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Jokiel, for your testimony and being here. I'm interested in asking you questions on the East Maui Watershed. Are you folks currently the ones that doing the control and management of miconia?

MR. JOKIEL: Oh, we're not doing any miconia control directly, but we do support the Maui Invasive Species--

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay.

MR. JOKIEL: --Committee.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay. So you're not in the partnership with them as far as the miconia?

MR. JOKIEL: Not, not in terms of labor, but we do fund them through State money.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: I see. And so where is this mostly up in the higher elevations in the watershed area?

MR. JOKIEL: Yeah. The mauka area is about 3,600 feet.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Right. So you don't, do you find up at that altitude African tulips?

MR. JOKIEL: You know, we do in Koolau Gap, we see it pretty high up in Keanae Valley and then we're starting to see it east of there, above Wailuanui, pretty, pretty high up, and one person did see a seedling blow in onto his lap at 5,000 feet above Hanawi.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay. So do you know if between you and the MISC they're looking into probably working on the African tulip, you know, as an invasive species?

MR. JOKIEL: You know, I think, I think at low elevations it's going to be really hard 'cause there's so much of it. But at high elevations where we work it's something, it's really high on my list 'cause it's not that bad above 3,000 feet and it, it is a, a big target for me.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Right. Okay. Thank you so much for your testimony.

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MR. JOKIEL: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Next testifier, Kathleen Bailey. Leonard Hasse.

MR. HASSE: Good evening. I'm Leonard Hasse, I live on Piiholo Road. I wanted to personally thank each and every one of you for the support you've given to the Olinda community in the interim repair of Piiholo and Olinda Roads and the other road networks that tie into it. Without your three years of appropriation--taken a lot of heat on it--we would not have been able to get the road repaired. Unfortunately, with the cost of construction increasing significantly, we were unable to get the upper areas of Piiholo and Olinda Roads repaired. We would ask that you support the Public Works Department in a road maintenance program so that they can hopefully take care of spot repairs of the road bumps that we have up above for the pine trees on the roads that go through State property. We'd also ask your support of the Water Department's initiatives for a new reservoir in hopes that the additional reservoir will free up water for the Olinda Treatment Plant that will, will enable those of us at the higher elevations to get a water meter after ten years of waiting on their list, and for the improvements of the substandard distribution lines. We have a couple miles of road up there that have no fire protection because of the substandard lines. Thank you again and looking forward to supporting you all in the years to come. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Good evening, Leonard, and thank you so much for waiting so patiently. I wanted to thank you for your efforts. As the Olinda Community Association President, you helped to galvanize the community to come out and testify before us over the last three years. And I do want to say to the members, you know, we get a lot of thank yous from the community, but Mr. Hasse went the extra mile and wrote a *very nice* letter in *The Maui News* in the letters to the editor section, and, you know, as one Council Member we're, you know, I really certainly appreciate the compliments 'cause, you know, a lot of people in the community sometimes spend their energies writing negative stuff about the Council in the paper. So I just wanted to *really* thank you for taking the extra time to do that for us, and thank you for *all* your work in the Olinda community as well. Thank you.

MR. HASSE: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Mr. Hasse.

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AUDIENCE: . . .(*applause*). . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Kaipō, Kiope Raymond.

MR. RAYMOND: Chairman Pontanilla, Members of the Council who were able to come out tonight, good evening. My name is Kiope Raymond and I'm very happy to be able to speak to you this evening. Thank you for the opportunity. I raise my voice like speakers before me. . .thanking all of you. It really has been an uplifting evening listening to the success stories of our community. And I'm here tonight to testify and attest to another success story, and that is the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. Now, I should share a disclaimer for those of you who may not know, that the Executive Director of the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens is my wife, and while on a personal level I can. . .praise her for the rest of the night if you'd like to stay. . .

COUNCIL MEMBERS: . . .(*chuckle*). . .

MR. RAYMOND: . . .I'm going to come from as I signed in or registered this evening from the perspective of the senior faculty in Hawaiian studies at Maui Community College. And from that professional perspective, I, too, want to say thank you to all of you because it is your direct support to the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens that allows the students of Maui Nui Botanical, Maui Community College to take advantage of the opportunities at the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. The gamut from Hawaiian ethnobotany to biology students visit, do internships, do service learning, do tours at the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens, and so from the culture to the sciences are all benefiting directly. And so I wanted to say thank you for that.

In addition, I'd just like to share personally that Maui Community College applied for and received a United States Department of Agriculture Alaska Native- and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions Grant which allows for the creation of an Associate in Applied Science in Natural and Cultural Resource Management. And the reason I'm bringing that up is because the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens provides a very unique site where students can do further internships preparing them for baccalaureate and bachelor's sciences in the NREM program out of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Hilo, or in State and other places like that. So we're an inter. . . , intermediary. We know that the Department of Education has different tracks, and one of those is resource conservation, and the baccalaureate programs exist, and we are looking forward to building our program and we will not have that program if we did not have access really, honestly, to laboratory, field work that can be undertaken at the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. So thank you all for your support of the gardens.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Kiope. Members, any questions for the testifier?
Seeing none, thank you again.

MR. RAYMOND: Mahalo.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Next testifier is his wife, Lisa Schattenburg-Raymond.

MS. SCHATTENBURG-RAYMOND: Aloha, everybody. Thanks for being so patient
with us tonight, and it's getting to be really intimate now, isn't it? . . .*(chuckle)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: . . .*(chuckle)*. . .

MS. SCHATTENBURG-RAYMOND: My name is Lisa Schattenburg-Raymond, I'm the
Director of the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. We have been working in
partnership with the County for more than seven years on the restoration and
expansion of the botanical garden. The garden is unique in the State in that it's
located in a coastal dune system. So for conservation purposes, you know, we can
do things that many other gardens can't. So we're focusing on coastal and dry
forest species. So . . .but tonight I'd like to share some of the projects that we are
doing and that, you know, your support has made possible. Late last year we got
a call from the Hawaii Community Foundation saying that we were going to
receive the Lennox Botanical Research Grant. This is not a grant we applied for.
They just heard about our work and were so impressed that they decided to give
us some money. The funding is to support conservation programs. So now we
were able to take that money directly and apply it in another partnership with the
State that is for their plant extinction prevention program. So that's something
that we just were able to get right into, and, and we're very excited about that.
We continue to expand our collection on the rare taro and banana varieties among
others, and we provide material and information for researchers and we also share
this material throughout the State. So from Kauai to Big Island we have been
distributing some of these rare varieties.

We are currently busy preparing for our Earth Day event, which is April 19th, and
I dropped a flyer off at your offices yesterday, so I hope you folks can come. We
bring together over 30 conservation organizations, some are the East and West
Maui Watershed Partnership, Maui Invasive Species Committee, among a few.
And a lot of times, you know, we're out in the field and doing our work and
everything. This is the only time we really get together during the year and we
get to, you know, talk about partnering and, and meet each other and support each
other, and it's a really great environmental community building event. So, I hope
you folks can come.

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And then last November, for the first time we partnered with the Maui Association of Landscape Professionals. Susie spoke about that earlier. They did a Lawn and Garden Fair, we did our Thousand Tree Arbor Day Giveaway. We said, you know what, let's pull our limited resources and we expanded the event, it's much more educational, it was a huge success. We had over 1,500 people attend that and I think that's going to just increase every year. So I'm on the Board of the, the Maui Association of Landscape Professionals, and one of the things that we are working towards is educating the . . . landscape community about invasive species and about pampas grass which is very ornamental, you know, people think the African tulip trees are just lovely, you know. But Australian tree fern is another one that's very common in landscaping. So we're working with that community to educate them on what's good to plant and what's not good to plant. And also, we're promoting our partnership with the Water Department, we promote xeriscaping or water conservation landscaping. So that was a, a really great partnership.

Last year we were recognized by Scenic Hawaii and we received the Betty Crocker Landscape Award of Excellence for a community garden--

MR. RAATZ: Three minutes.

MS. SCHATTENBURG-RAYMOND: --which is kind of nice because, you know, that was a Honolulu organization and we're getting recognized for our work on Maui. Our newsletter, you know, we have the Maui Invasive Species Committee often do articles and, and this is a resource that we get a lot of educational information out to the community. We have plant sales, we support other growers, and we do a lot of tours and things like that. So this is a few of our programs and I wish we had more time. But I also want to acknowledge my staff who is absolutely amazing. They are the hardest working people I know. I have a wonderful Board and we have many, many volunteers that, that without which. . . we, we couldn't do what we do, and I thank you for your support.

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

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Mahalo, Mr. Chairman, and aloha and mahalo--

MS. SCHATTENBURG-RAYMOND: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: --for your testimony this evening. I was going to ask Kumu Kiope a question, but I think he would have deferred it to you. It has to do with the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. And you did mention about the kalo. . .

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MS. SCHATTENBURG-RAYMOND: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: . . .and, you know, statewide that's a big concern right now. And my understanding is you're trying to grow as many of the Hawaiian varieties as possible, especially the rare ones. And are you growing them in more than one per variety?

MS. SCHATTENBURG-RAYMOND: We usually have at least a dozen individuals. We have them in the, in the ground. We also back them up in our nursery. We have about close to 70 Hawaiian varieties, and we are working statewide to network throughout the State with other private collections and botanical gardens to back each other's collections up and, and make sure that who's missing, which ones, we, we get them to the people who have them. We're, our goal is to have at least two complete collections on each island. Many of them have been wiped out overnight by pigs or floods and things like that. So this is a really important resource that is still, you know, on shaky ground. When we did our August plant sale, we had over 500 individual taro plants for sale representing about 34 varieties, it all went in two hours, all that was gone. The community is so eager for, you know, this resource. So it's something that we are really working hard on.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: So are you a resource for farmers to get varieties that they may not have, that they would like to propagate?

MS. SCHATTENBURG-RAYMOND: Yes, 'cause, you know, not very many. . .there aren't very many resources out there that have the variety that we have, and so, you know, certain ones are certainly in demand. We can only sell a few, you know, at a time, but again, you know, the more resources we have, the more we get back out into the community.

COUNCILMEMBER MEDEIROS: Okay. I, I want to thank you for, you know, what you do at the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens and for the success that you've had. Mahalo.

MS. SCHATTENBURG-RAYMOND: Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Any more questions, Members? Seeing none, thank you. Kevin Boteilho. . .followed by Jean Groden.

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MR. BOTEILHO: Aloha, Members. Kevin Boteilho, member, Board member of the Maui County Farm Bureau. And I do mahalo your support for present and past support of the Maui County Farm Bureau. The Farm Bureau consists of several organizations, a few would be the Maui Cattle Association; the Vegetable Growers; Maui Onion Growers Association; the Flower Growers; we also have Maui Association of Landscape Professionals; the Maui Coffee Association; and the Maui Aina, Aloha Aina Association. All these organizations put outreach towards the community as far as dealing with ag. We do ask for your support in the 2009 Budget that Mayor Tavares has put in, the line item. We also realize that grown on Maui is very important linked with sustainability. And as everybody eats, we all know that farming is very important, that our next meal actually comes from somebody that grows it. So, I just ask for, mahalo for your support presently and also for any future support.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Kevin. Members, any questions for the testifier this evening? Thank you very much--

MR. BOTEILHO: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --for being here. Jean Groden.

MS. GRODEN: Good evening. I'm Jean Groden. I'm here on behalf of Hui Malama Learning Center. I am a teacher there and I have been there for the last eight months, starting back in August '07, and I just wanted to share some of these stories that I've come across with the students since I've been there. We have kids come in--I teach the GED program--and I've had kids come in from just about every range and walk of life that you see here on Maui. We've had kids come in who have been home-schooled, who have not been in public school systems, and they're getting their GED right before they go to college. I've had kids come in who have been in private schools that maybe didn't continue on through the high school years, and they've come through the Hui Malama to get their GED to go right on into college. I've had kids who come in out of the Maui public schools for many reasons. Some of them decided they were bored, they didn't want to go anymore, you know, lots of reasons. Some of them may have been asked to leave for a variety of reasons. But all of these students together, they are getting their GED and through Hui Malama, and a lot of them are going on to MCC here. The thing that we are really dealing with is the crisis of the drop-out rates. Nationwide and here in Hawaii, too, statistics are kind of scary, you know, we're talking between 65 and 75 percent of high school students graduating, and that's not good. It's a direct correlation of drop-outs that are going to affect the entire community in many areas. It's going to be a much higher expense in social services, insurance, they're going to earn much less

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money, it's going to require more money from the County to make up for that. And what we provide, through the Hui Malama Learning Center, is the chance for a lot of these kids to go ahead, you know, succeed in their education, get their GED, and. . .*(end of tape, start 4A at 9:20 p.m.)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Members, any questions for the testifier? Thank you, again. Gerry Ross, followed by Edward Smith.

MR. ROSS: Aloha, Councilors of Maui County. My name is Gerry Ross, and with my wife Janet we farm four acres of organic fruit, vegetables, and coffee in Lower Kula. I'm speaking to you today as an organic farmer, a founding member of the Maui Coffee Association, and member of the Board of Directors of the Maui County Farm Bureau, and Chair of the Agriculture in the Classroom program of the Maui County Farm Bureau. County funds help support all of these activities, and I encourage you to approve our budget request for this coming year. Where does this money go? Yesterday, I spent most of the day at Kamalii Elementary School in Kihei talking to second graders about seeds, agriculture, and food. Part of the Farm Bureau budget request goes to support our ongoing program to educate children about agriculture, which this year will reach 740 second graders on Maui. On April 20th, the Maui Coffee Association will be hosting a half-day workshop at Kula Community Center on growing and processing coffee. This is an educational workshop to help establish growers as well as new growers. We are very optimistic about the future of coffee as an agricultural crop on Maui. Later this year, the Maui Coffee Association will be hosting Dr. Jean Nicholas Wintgens, a world expert in coffee production, who will be presenting a two-day workshop on sustainable coffee production that incorporates organic practices, shade trees, compost, and more into the production of coffee. Funds to support these workshops come from Maui County and are helping to improve the quality of Maui coffee and expand our production, particularly from the community of small growers.

Finally, as an organic grower I benefit tremendously from the workshops and conferences put on by Maui Aloha Aina Association that brings speakers of international stature to Maui to help local farmers. These are all activities that are within the umbrella of the Maui County Farm Bureau, and I encourage you to approve our budget request as money well invested in keeping Maui green and healthy. Mahalo.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you again for being here tonight.

MR. ROSS: Thank you.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: Edward Smith. . .followed by Melanie Padgett

MR. SMITH: Good evening, everybody. I get little bit lung problems, so I'll make it short. I'd like to thank everybody that's helping us get the 300 million gallon reservoir Upcountry. We, we appreciate it very much. There is only one thing that I'm concerned about in regards to that reservoir. As we all know, HC&S was responsible for taking care of the flume that's supposed to be feeding our Piiholo Reservoir. They have goofed off for over two years. I think it's time we, we break loose, we shake loose from those guys by condemnation process for easement rights. . .possibly--what they call?--da kine, da kine lateral or one side, the old flume, the County go in and we put in our own piping system with cleanouts on, on those lines so we maintain our own. All of this going cost a great deal of money. The reservoir itself going cost us a great deal of money. It going come, be coming from the taxpayers. We need the, we need a new waterline in there. We cannot be fooling around, putting a, putting one reservoir like that and have one flume falling apart on us and nobody showing up to have it repaired. This is more than important. And because of the cost. . .I, I'd like to take you guys to another area called the Wailuku, the Wailuku Water Company where I don't know how they got hold of their. . .like what it's called, not rainforest, the watershed area--I don't know how they got a hold of that because we all know almost all watershed areas are controlled by the State of Hawaii under the State jurisdiction. Now because Wailuku Sugar, like our man here says, they don't need it, they're out. Now they're telling us for the taxpayers to give them \$27 million to buy all of that. I say, no, we condemn that also, we condemn whatever we can up there, take it over, whatever money we can save on that, that \$27 million can go, can be used to put in this new waterline for the Piiholo 300 million gallon reservoir. We don't have to play around. The County can go in and condemn this property and whatever is needed that will save us the money. This is big bucks. I'm looking at possibly, possibly close to \$100 million or more just to get this Upcountry da kine problem, da kine squared away. We cannot be throwing money, \$27 million to a bunch of real estate. . .da kine people out there that like play real estate with our tax money. I say no, we condemn. . .and I think he would go for it. Okay? So, I appreciate you guys can think about it. . .along those lines.

Again, I thank you for helping us to bring this reservoir closer to reality because there's really lives out here. There's children that need the water. . .clean, safe water. Because whatever money we can save on this--there's another, there's another. . .*(inaudible)*. . .I'm looking at. We need ground wells, but to be put in. . .*(inaudible)*. . .not to be used, maybe turned over to our, to our local national guard to be in control of, so somebody don't get funny and go pumping up

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condemned water to us anymore. Put it under the Civil Defense or under the Army National Guard only for. . .they call that disaster.

I don't know if you guys remember this when Hannibal Tavares was Mayor. I was, I was standing in my front yard one day, it was on a Saturday, I looked up in the sky and two Russian missiles flying over my head--

MR. RAATZ: Three minutes.

MR. SMITH: --right over Haleakala Crater. One of these days going be one missile from Pakistan or China, we going need the ground wells to survive on, not to play with. Thank you.

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

MR. SMITH: You're welcome.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Melanie Padgett.

MS. PADGETT: Thank you. I'll be quick so we can all go home. Okay. Thank you for this opportunity to speak in favor of funding the Maui County Child Care Subsidy as recommended in the Mayor's 2009 Budget. One of my duties as Project Specialist with Good Beginnings Maui County is to manage this subsidy which provides financial assistance to working families who do not qualify for any other type of help usually because they're slightly over income, maybe even only a few dollars. And anyway, they need help to provide quality child care for their young children. Thanks to this program so far this year 23 families in Maui County, and this includes Lanai and Molokai who are making between 80 to 90 percent of the State gross median income, received assistance with their child care cost. Some of the recipients are single parents struggling to pay high rents on one income, others are couples working three or more jobs between them to make ends meet. Some are grandparents overwhelmed by the unexpected challenge of raising their grandchildren, and for them I think they're especially staggered by the high cost of, of child care which ranges from 450 to \$500 per month for licensed family child care or a licensed preschool, to even 800 or \$900 a month for infants and toddlers at a center. So that's quite a huge chunk of, of any young family's income or, or grandparents who haven't prepared for this in their budgets. So unfortunately, we didn't have enough funds to help all the families who were eligible this year. Six families are on a waiting list in case one of the current families no longer needs the help and another 53 are on a mailing list for applications for next year, and this list grows daily because. . .cost on Maui just

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keeps growing. Every family who calls our office. . .every family calls our office desperate for help because even though they make too much money to qualify for other subsidy programs, such as child care connection, the sky-high cost of living on Maui makes it impossible for them to afford quality licensed family child care or preschool for their children.

These families are very grateful that the County Council and Administration have responded to their need by funding the Maui County Child Care Subsidy in the past, and I ask you to include money for this very worthwhile program in this coming year's Budget. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you for being here. Elena Lissone? Elena Lissone? Bobbie Baker [*sic*]? Sandy Ryan.

MS. RYAN: Aloha, Chairman Pontanilla, Council Members. Let's see if I can get this to--I may have the distinction of talking last tonight. Sorry for the lateness of the hour. I'm here tonight privileged to speak on behalf of Hui Malama Learning Center. I've just come on to the agency as a Board of Direct..., member of their Board of Directors in December, and I know that we have a request for continued funding before the Council this year. And as you know, as you heard earlier, the agency is providing educational alternatives that are very important for our community. It's just another example, as you've heard tonight, of a nonprofit that's doing so much with so little. It's led by a bright and creative Director who's just been with the agency for about a year and a half--I know you've all met Pua Enos--and a great staff who's, you know, sacrificing so much to put all their effort and energy toward programs. We are leveraging the County's investment and have a pretty diverse funding base with a number of different funding opportunities. The Board has been charged with seeking different areas of unrestrictive funding to come into the agency. As the Chair, most recently as the Chair of our Board Development Committee, I've been responsible for recruiting new Board members. We've just recently undergone the MEO board training led by Sandy Baz, which was wonderful.

And just to give you a couple of examples of how you're, we're leveraging your investment and how that's playing out in our community. I also am a parent and my eight-year old son is one of these kids for whom, you know, the educational system just one size does not fit all. He's an eighth grader and he's. . .this past school year has been enrolled in Hui Malama's Hawaii program, which is the Hawaii outdoor education, it's at Hawaiian Canoe Club Hale, and it's a hands-on curriculum that's culturally and science based. And so we were really grateful to

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have that opportunity to have a, a choice for him this year as an eighth grader. Let's see. . .what else?

We wanted to let you know that in addition to supporting the Hawaii program, there's also tutoring, and our important GED programs that we're going to be using the County's investment to help expand those programs. I think that's all I had on Hui Malama.

Also, before I take my parent hat off, I do have a junior who's attending King Kekaulike High School and is a member of the Focus Maui Nui Youth Alliance. So mahalo for your continued support of that important activity as well. She's been. . .this is her third year in the Youth Alliance and it's just been so neat to see them take leadership roles and really get more engaged in the community. Unfortunately they're busy, you know, and it was hard to get them to come with me to talk themselves, but thank you again for your continued support.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier. Thank you for being here this late in the evening. . . *(chuckle)*. . .

MS. RYAN: You're welcome. Good night.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Sandy Baz. . . We're almost there.

MR. BAZ: Aloha, Chair Pontanilla and, and Committee Members. My name is Sandy Baz, I'm the Executive Director of Maui Economic Opportunity. And while I will be testifying to you next week at, when you review the Department of Housing and Human Concerns' Budget regarding MEO's specific funding, I did want to bring up a concern. . .something that may not even be on the radar screen as far as the County's Office on Aging is concerned. As most of you know, John Tomoso, the Executive on Aging, is, is leaving the County. He has been supportive of the County's, Maui County's Senior Fair for the many years that he's been there, and MEO, he actually had asked MEO to take over operations of that about five or six years ago. We operate that on a \$10,000 grant, I suppose, from the Office on Aging. It is a requirement of the Federal Title IV monies that they have a senior fair, you know, that have the information fair to provide to the community. However, I have a feeling that it may slip through the cracks now that John Tomoso's leaving. So I, I don't have the detailed Office on Aging Budget which you may have, if you could look that up for me and find out if that \$10,000 is in there and if it's not, if we could make sure that it gets funded. The Maui County Senior Fair is something that is the longest running senior fair in the State, and many, many seniors--as you all have attended the senior fair--know they, they come to it, they get information, they socialize, and they also have an

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opportunity to sell things from their own different clubs, too. So, I encourage you to support that as well. Thank you.

...END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY...


CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Sandy. Members, any questions for the testifier? Sandy was the last person to be here that signed up to testify. . . .*(chuckle)*. . . Is there anyone out there that hasn't test..., signed up to, to provide testimony that would like to provide testimony at this time? Seeing none coming up, again. . . Upcountry community, thank you for being here this late in the evening. The Committee appreciates your involvement in the Budget process.

So with that, Members, this meeting is adjourned. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.

ADJOURN: 9:40 p.m.

APPROVED:


JOSEPH PONTANILLA, Chair
Budget and Finance Committee

bf:min:080402-Pukalani

Transcribed by: Tammy M. Frias