

## PUBLIC HEARING

JUNE 15, 2022

A public hearing of the Council of the County of Kaua‘i was called to order by Arryl Kaneshiro, Chair, Committee of the Whole, June 15, 2022, at 8:36 a.m., at the Council Chambers, 4396 Rice Street, Suite 201, Historic County Building, Līhu‘e, and the presence of the following was noted:

Honorable Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.  
Honorable Mason K. Chock  
Honorable Felicia Cowden  
Honorable Bill DeCosta  
Honorable Luke A. Evslin  
Honorable KipuKai Kualī‘i (*via remote technology*)  
Honorable Arryl Kaneshiro

The Clerk read the notices of the public hearing on the following:

“Bill No. 2863 – A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT FOR BARGAINING UNIT 2 BETWEEN JULY 1, 2021 AND JUNE 30, 2025,” and

“Bill No. 2864 – A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT FOR BARGAINING UNIT 3 BETWEEN JULY 1, 2021 AND JUNE 30, 2025,” and

“Bill No. 2865 – A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT FOR BARGAINING UNIT 4 BETWEEN JULY 1, 2021 AND JUNE 30, 2025,” and

“Bill No. 2866 – A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT FOR BARGAINING UNIT 11 BETWEEN JULY 1, 2021 AND JUNE 30, 2025,” and

“Bill No. 2867 – A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT FOR BARGAINING UNIT 13 BETWEEN JULY 1, 2021 AND JUNE 30, 2025,”

which were passed on first reading and ordered to print by the Council of the County of Kaua‘i on May 18, 2022, and published in The Garden Island newspaper on May 26, 2022.

The following communication was received for the record:

1. Hawai‘i Fire Fighters Association, dated June 15, 2022 (Bill No. 2866)

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Is there anyone in the audience or on Zoom wishing to testify on any of the collective bargaining bills for Units 2, 3, 4, 11, or 13? Lonnie.

LONNIE SYKOS: For the record, Lonnie Sykos. The ever-increasing percentage of our budget that goes to manpower has been an issue with the County Council since the first meeting I attended when the Council was down at Nāwiliwili and this building was being renovated. What I would ask of you is an agenda item about this issue in the future, because there is not going to have time today to address what I am going to say, but going back to when Jay Furfaro was Council Chair, we regularly saw graphs that demonstrated what the rate of growth was. My concern is not about these particular contracts, because you folks have no control over what happens in arbitration. What I am concerned about though, is the overall escalation of costs, because we have to be planning today for the money to pay for both the retirees and the people on payroll, and the cost of that escalates both with pay raises and the reality of inflation, so when I was the Council Chair Kaneshiro's age, roughly I am guessing, the prime interest rate was fourteen percent (14%). This was the direct result of the Vietnam War, having been controlled by wage in price controls, which the public mostly does not remember, but during the Vietnam War, you could not raise the price of anything without the government's permission, so we are in the same position in that we are having a big evolution in the global economy and it is going to affect us, and it is going to affect our ability to pay our bills. What the public needs to know is, what does the growth of expense look like, so that we can match the growth of income—that is the reality of managing us, so we need to know how fast these expenses are escalating, so we can match our income. Thank you very much.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Thank you, Lonnie. Do you have a clarifying question?

Councilmember DeCosta: Yes.

Mr. Sykos: Billy.

Councilmember DeCosta: I am going to try and phrase it. You just spoke about a lot of important information about what our County is all about when we provide services, and we have to pay for these services out of the General Fund and the escalating costs, and we need to be sure we have the revenue to do it, because every income taxpayer on Kaua'i deserves it. My clarifying question would be, how important is it to have those revenues in our General Fund and having the ability for the Administration to use those to provide these payments for our service employees from the union like Fire, Police, et cetera?

Mr. Sykos: This is the historic tension between me, the taxpayer who wants to pay less taxes, and the reality of the government as it grows because the population grows for no other reason. I am not "dogging" the government for growing, it is reality. It is no different than my personal economy if my business

economy, you need to forecast to the best of your ability on what is going to happen, so you can plan for it.

Councilmember DeCosta: I like that "forecast and planning". Thank you, Lonnie.

Mr. Sykos: Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Is there anyone on Zoom wishing to testify? Seeing none.

There being no further testimony on this matter, the public hearing adjourned at 8:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



SCOTT K. SATO  
Deputy County Clerk

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