

The Deliberation and Preliminary Decision-Making reconvened on Friday, May 12, 2017 at 9:35 a.m., and proceeded as follows:

Honorable Arthur Brun  
Honorable Mason K. Chock  
Honorable Ross Kagawa (*present at 9:50 a.m.*)  
Honorable Derek S.K. Kawakami  
Honorable Mel Rapozo  
Honorable JoAnn A. Yukimura  
Honorable Arryl Kaneshiro

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Good morning everyone. I would like to call back to order the Budget & Finance Committee and the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Budget Decision-Making session. Let the record reflect that we do have a quorum; Councilmember Kagawa is running a little bit late. As we do each morning, we will take public testimony. Jade, do we have anyone signed up?

JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA, County Clerk: We have one (1) registered speaker, Ana Mohamad DesMarais.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Basically, you can talk about the budget. You have three (3) minutes and an additional three (3) minutes, if you need.

There being no objections, the rules were suspended to take public testimony.

ANA MOHAMAD DESMARAIS: For the record, my name is Ana Mohamad DesMarais. I love to see all of you laughing together; it is really sweet. What I do not appreciate is that your backs are against the wall, and we all feel it also. The two (2) decisions that you have of either slashing the budget or raising the taxes, I feel, is unfair and unjust. I feel there should be a third option to those that are responsible to be held accountable, and for the opportunity for the parties involved to step forward and offer help out of their own free will and goodness of their heart. It is also good Public Relations (PR). I also feel that when walking in the door, the egos of, "I am right" and "I am the only one that is right," should be checked at the door, and when sitting here, become part of the one (1) body that represents Kaua'i. Everyone, especially while in accordance of protocol and allowance of time spent, to be able to share whatever discussion necessary in order to bring alternative solutions to deep issues. This is the time to do it. If not now, then when? If not, it is just a waste of time and you are toying with our lives. The time should be spent well and in conversations of anything that feels should be said. I agree with the "Monday until midnight" aspect. I really do appreciate all of you coming forward and having your different opinions. I feel that disagreements and debate are wonderful, but it should be done with respect, kindness, and consideration of each other. Cooperation is the most important part. That is how we move forward in solving these problems. The way they have been solved in the past is not the way it is going to happen in the future, because it just has not worked and we do not have the luxury to do that, to use things that have not worked in the past. As Kaua'i, we are so lucky to see where options have failed in the past so that we can move forward and with innovation, which is bringing alternative, more efficient and effective solutions to issues that we have. I just really do appreciate this work. So be present in it and appreciate where the disagreements are so that we can move forward with creativity and inspiration. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Thank you. That was your first three (3) minutes. Do we have anyone else registered?

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: There are no further registered speakers.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Anyone else from the public wishing to testify on the budget? If not, Ana, did you want another three (3) minutes?

Ms. DesMarais: I will not need the three (3) minutes, but I feel that the bold actions taken by the Vice Chair in cutting the budget is a beautiful way of showing efficiency of what needs to happen. There should not be any intimidation in going into arbitration. I feel that the heroes of our island should not be the ones taking the punches in the face, to be frank. I understand everything that needs to happen and sustainability is extremely important for our future. We have to consider what is truly important for our future. In the Legislature, it was spoken on how mistakes were made and we do need to take that into consideration, because the comments on natural disasters and things that we have heroes on our island for...it is probable. Any conversation on climate change, sustainability, and the humanity of our island, things that have I spoken about previously, are of high importance. I do not feel that the County needs to make sacrifices when there is money being made on this island. Furthermore, I do not understand why the \$3,000,000 needs to be paid. Is it going to O'ahu? I am unclear and I do not know if this is an appropriate time to ask questions, but maybe during the day it can be answered of why there is a \$3,000,000 deficit that we need to make these sacrifices for. I really, truly do want the body to consider the fact that the County that earns money here by taxes, ticketing, and whatever it is needs to stay here. There should not be these conversations and sacrifices that are made. Sustainability is a big problem that we are facing and all of these issues will only grow. Here and now is the time to have the conversations to solve them in a creative manner with cooperation, respect, and kindness with each other. Thank you for the time.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Thank you. Anyone else wishing to testify? Seeing none, I will call this meeting back to order. I believe we are nearing the end of our individual cuts. I know that Council Chair had some cuts and I know that the Administration has had some time to look at them, so I will probably want to start with those cuts. Then we will move on to cuts that affect all divisions. Is yours broken up or is it one big cut?

There being no further testimony, the meeting was called back to order, and proceeded as follows:

Council Chair Rapozo: No, Scott actually took it apart position-by-position, so we can go through that. I would ask though if we can wait for Councilmember Kagawa to get here as well, because as we did yesterday, he requested to wait for Councilmember Brun because of the votes. I would ask for that same courtesy.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: We can take a quick recess.

Council Chair Rapozo: Does anybody know what time Councilmember Kagawa is supposed to arrive? If he is going to be a while, then obviously I would like for us to take a recess.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Yes. Let us take a quick recess.

There being no objections, the meeting recessed at 9:43 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 9:50 a.m., and proceeded as follows:

*(Councilmember Kagawa was noted as present.)*

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Welcome back. Let us get started where we left off. Council Chair Rapozo.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you. This whole thing about positions has been an issue for a long, long time. The Council over the years, different Councils, different people, different times, have tried to get a handle on all of these vacant positions, because it amounts to a significant amount of money. I do not know if the lady who testified left already, but she asked about the \$3,000,000 and where that came from, but the reality is that a lot of the expenses are in positions that have been funded, but never been filled. We have tried with provisos, "Hey, you can only use that position for that position. You cannot transfer the money." The attorneys tell us that you cannot do that; that is a violation of the separation of powers. Asking for Council approval, if they are going to reallocate, "No, you cannot do that. That is not your business." Really, the only way this Council or this County can get a handle on these positions...I am going through each one and I think the public will be pretty surprised to find out how long these positions have been vacant and the costs associated with those positions, that the only way we can start anew is cutting the positions; cutting the positions, letting the Administration reassess what they need, and then come back to us with justification so we can decide if, in fact, we do need those positions. We keep paying for positions that we do not hire. With that, I will start. We are starting with ourselves, Council Services: the first one is Position No. E-66, Council Services Review Officer. This was only a dollar-funded position, but nonetheless, it is a position that is carried on the books. This position has been vacant for seven hundred twenty-six (726) days.

Council Chair Rapozo moved to eliminate Position No. E-66, Council Services Review Officer in the Office of the County Clerk, seconded by Councilmember Kagawa.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any questions or discussion on this dollar-funded position? Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: What is this position supposed to do?

Council Chair Rapozo: It is a review officer. If we do not know what they supposed to do, then we should vote to cut it. This was the position that apparently was being held for an appointed person that took an appointed job and now he is no longer here. This was the "holding position" from what I understand. Again, if you do not know what it is, then we should cut it.

Councilmember Yukimura: I think I just wanted to ask what it is because if it has specific functions then maybe it is being covered by somebody else. If it has a function that was not useful, then that is fine.

Council Chair Rapozo: Seven hundred twenty-six (726) days.

Councilmember Yukimura: Thank you very much.

Council Chair Rapozo: You are welcome.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any further discussion? Questions? Comments?

Councilmember Yukimura: Yes. Let us get from Jade what the Council Services Review Officer is supposed to do.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Or we could just ask if we need this dollar-funded position.

Councilmember Yukimura: Okay. That is fine.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: Our office will have no problem with having this position removed.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Okay.

Councilmember Yukimura: Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Again, we are on cuts and it only takes four (4) to cut. Roll call vote.

The motion to eliminate Position No. E-66, Council Services Review Officer in the Office of the County Clerk was then put, and carried by the following vote:

FOR MOTION:	Brun, Chock, Kagawa, Kawakami, Rapozo, Yukimura, Kaneshiro	TOTAL – 7,
AGAINST MOTION:	None	TOTAL – 0,
EXCUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0,
RECUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: Seven (7) ayes.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Thank you. Next one. Council Chair Rapozo.

Council Chair Rapozo: The next one is Council Services Assistant I, nine hundred seventeen (917) days vacant. When I took over as the Chair and we had these vacant positions, I had a long chat with, at the time, Ricky Watanabe, and then subsequent to that, Jade, and the message was real clear that we need to set the example by doing more with less. We are doing really well without these excess positions. Again, nine hundred seventeen (917) days vacant, \$1 in the budget, does not really do much for the budget, but again, we are starting fresh. If the Clerk wants that new position, she can come like everybody else and solicit for that and get the justification.

Council Chair Rapozo moved to eliminate Position No. E-2701, Council Services Assistant I in the Office of the County Clerk, seconded by Councilmember Brun.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: It has been moved and seconded. Any questions or comments on this? If not, roll call vote.

The motion to eliminate Position No. E-2701, Council Services Assistant I in the Office of the County Clerk, was then put, and carried by the following vote:

FOR MOTION:	Brun, Chock, Kagawa, Kawakami, Rapozo, Yukimura, Kaneshiro	TOTAL – 7,
AGAINST MOTION:	None	TOTAL – 0,
EXCUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0,
RECUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: Seven (7) ayes.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you. My next one is Position No. E-2714, Secretarial Assistant. Again, I do not think the public understands that we share staff and that we do not have personal staff, like all of the other counties. This one has been vacant for one thousand two hundred seventeen (1,217) days, dollar-funded.

Council Chair Rapozo moved to eliminate Position No. E-2714, Secretarial Assistant in the Office of the County Clerk, seconded by Councilmember Kagawa.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any further questions or comments on this position? Roll call vote.

The motion to eliminate Position No. E-2714, Secretarial Assistant in the Office of the County Clerk, was then put, and carried by the following vote:

FOR MOTION:	Brun, Chock, Kagawa, Kawakami, Rapozo, Yukimura, Kaneshiro	TOTAL – 7,
AGAINST MOTION:	None	TOTAL – 0,
EXCUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0,
RECUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: Seven (7) ayes.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you. Next, is the Office of Elderly Affairs, Position No. 135, Program Specialist II. It is dollar-funded as well. This one has been vacant for eight hundred fifty-two (852) days.

Council Chair Rapozo moved to eliminate Position No. 135, Program Specialist II in the Agency on Elderly Affairs, seconded by Councilmember Kagawa.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any questions or comments on this dollar-funded position?

Councilmember Yukimura: Yes.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: Since we are now going into administrative positions, I would just like to get the feedback from the Administration.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: The rules are suspended.

There being no objections, the rules were suspended.

Council Chair Rapozo: Committee Chair, can I just make a quick comment?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: This is for the general public, really, because we all know this, but one of the concerns I have is when we have a position number like this that is vacant, the Administration has the ability, and the Council as well, to take that position number and create a contract position and reallocate the position, and the public and the Council never knows until the next budget. I am just saying that if we have to tighten up the belts, let us do it that way. If you need a position, I will be more than happy to support it, but if you need a position number to act as a floater, I really cannot support that. That is just my personal opinion. I just want the public to understand how important or valuable that position number is, even if it is dollar-funded, because the funds in the department can be used to pay for that contract position.

JANINE M.Z. RAPOZO, Director of Human Resources: Good morning. Janine Rapozo, Director of Human Resources. I apologize, Kealoha Takahashi is unavailable today. The Program Specialist II position was dollar-funded a couple of budgets ago, or maybe more than that, to assist with financial times at that point. So to try to address the needs of what this position was doing, right now Elderly Affairs is temporarily assigning a different position to assist with the role that this particular position was doing. If the position is eliminated, the ability to Temporary Assignment (TA) to this position is no longer there because that position is gone.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: So the position purpose was to assist with the financial what?

Ms. Rapozo: At the time, it was dollar-funded to assist with the financial budget constraints at the time and that is why it has been vacant for so long because it was never funded.

Councilmember Yukimura: But it is, in fact, being filled because you are temporarily assigning somebody into that.

Ms. Rapozo: Correct. The duties are being accomplished through someone else doing temporary assignment to accomplish what that position was doing.

Councilmember Yukimura: If we were to remove the position, then you would not be able to TA that person?

Ms. Rapozo: That is correct.

Councilmember Yukimura: Why was the person who was in the TA position not just recruited for the permanent position?

Ms. Rapozo: That is something that Kealoha would have to answer as to why she did not make those changes. I am not sure if the role of the TA person was already critical that she wanted to keep that person in that role.

Councilmember Yukimura: So the TA person is doing two (2) functions or two (2) roles?

Ms. Rapozo: Correct.

Councilmember Yukimura: Do you still need two (2) positions for one (1) body?

Ms. Rapozo: I cannot answer that. I think Kealoha would have to answer that. They have been doing that for the years that it has been dollar-funded. So whether they have been stretched to the limit to do that to try to wait until financial times were better or whether or not it has gotten to the point where maybe they have been able to do it by looking at various duties being not done or reassigned. I am sorry, but that would be something that she would have to answer.

Councilmember Yukimura: I think what you are telling us is there is essentially a warm body involved.

Ms. Rapozo: Not in Position No. 135. There is in that, that person is temporarily assigned to that number at times to accomplish the duties of what that position was doing.

Councilmember Yukimura: Okay. So what if the other position that the person was in could just be reallocated with those additional duties? Is that a possibility?

Ms. Rapozo: That is something that the department could look at.

Councilmember Yukimura: I do not know how much time we have, but is there a way to contact Kealoha and get her answers about that?

Ms. Rapozo: I think that is what Wally is trying to do.

Councilmember Yukimura: Okay. Committee Chair, can we just...

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Let us see if there are more questions on it.

Councilmember Yukimura: Okay.

Council Chair Rapozo: I just have one question—how long has that person been temporarily assigned?

Ms. Rapozo: I cannot remember how long this position was dollar-funded, but since that position was dollar-funded.

Council Chair Rapozo: So probably eight hundred fifty-two (852) days.

Ms. Rapozo: Correct.

Council Chair Rapozo: That is over two (2) years. Anyway, thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Kagawa.

Councilmember Kagawa: For me, it is kind of shady when we say, “Well, we are holding a position because somebody is temporarily assigned under that.” Every one of Council Chair Rapozo’s position numbers on the list have been on the list because it has been vacant for so long. What is the definition of “temporary assignment”? What is the definition of that? It is “temporary,” right? It is a “short assignment.” But when you are talking about two and a half (2.5) to three (3) years being held temporary, it is longer than temporary. Again, for transparency to the public, I think it just looks kind of shady on our end and I think we just need to clean all of that up. I do not think government is meant to be a private business where you can hold a position because you really like this person and you want to make sure this person gets it. I think government should be transparent and we open it up so that everybody on Kaua‘i can all apply for this job that is funded by taxpayers. It just appears that way. I am ready to vote on this.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Brun.

Councilmember Brun: So as far as this person getting temporarily assigned to this, they are getting the regular pay of what this position would be, right?

Ms. Rapozo: Correct.

Councilmember Brun: So we would not be able to just take that position and promote them to this and eliminate...right now, we have two (2) positions for one (1) person and I think the consensus here is that we do not want that position to be given to somebody else just as a “friend,” and then we are taking money from somewhere else to fund it. Can we just promote this person and give them that pay at the Program Specialist II and get rid of that position?

Ms. Rapozo: I think that is the option that Councilmember Yukimura was looking at into reallocating that person into the higher level.

Councilmember Brun: Okay. I am ready to vote.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Council Chair Rapozo.

Council Chair Rapozo: Again, just to remind, especially the newer Councilmembers, that this is not something that is new. This is brought up during every

budget since I have been here. KipuKai Kualii kind of took the lead over the last few years, but this dates way back. So “temporary” is “temporary.” Two (2) positions for one (1) body—we do not lose a body in this position. I do not think it takes eight hundred fifty-two (852) days to reallocate a position. I think most of the positions are like this and I guess for the department heads when you come up, all I really want to know is what the justification is for the vacancy. It is going to be the same, “We are temporarily assigning.” Just come up and justify why you need a position that has been vacant for six (600) hundred days, seven hundred (700) days, eight hundred (800) days, or twelve hundred (1,200) days, whatever it is. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any further questions? Janine, I have a question—just to get a better understanding of this “temporary assignment”—so the reason we have a TA is because we have a person doing the job, and it is because the unions only allow them to do certain duties and then Kealoha has the need for them to do additional duties and they need to be considered a TA to do those functions?

Ms. Rapozo: Correct. If they are functioning at the higher level, they would have to get temporarily assigned to those duties and pay them at that appropriate rate.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Okay.

Council Chair Rapozo: I have one more.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Okay. Council Chair Rapozo.

Council Chair Rapozo: This will be pretty much...if it is the same scenario then I will ask the same question for all the department heads. Is the person in that position now, the TA to Program Specialist II...from whatever position that person is at right now, is that person qualified to be hired as a Program Specialist II?

Ms. Rapozo: I am not sure.

Council Chair Rapozo: That is the concern. We take the unqualified person, give them the TA, pay them the high rate, but they cannot qualify, but we are tying-up two (2) positions to make that happen. I think that is another problem that we have to resolve and this actually does that. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: If we remove the position in this budget, it would be effective July 1st, right?

Ms. Rapozo: Correct.

Councilmember Yukimura: So the remedy for getting the job done that this vacant position was assigned to do or created to do would be to reallocate the other position to include the duties.

Ms. Rapozo: That is correct, but Chair Rapozo does bring up a good point if that incumbent in the position that is being temporarily assigned into these positions does not qualify, then we cannot do the reallocation with that incumbent.

Councilmember Yukimura: Okay, so then what would the remedy be? Assuming those things that are being done under this vacant position need to be done, then what would Kealoha have to do? Would she have to come back and ask for a position?

Ms. Rapozo: I think one of the things we have asked all departments, as the Vacancy Review Committee, is to look at creative ways to get those duties done and look at your other positions that may qualify or are at this level already to spread out the duties. We have been doing that with a lot of departments. At this point, if she has no other option, she is going to have to look at other ways to accomplish those duties.

Councilmember Yukimura: This vacant position may have other jobs besides the jobs that are being done by the person in the other position, right? Essentially, this has allowed the agency to do more with less. With one really paid position, they are getting more things done, and if you have to have a second position and fully fill it, but you do not need that full position, then you are going to be paying more for the same amount of work.

Ms. Rapozo: I am not sure if the temporary assignment...they have to do a major portion of the job, but may not necessarily be all, so I am not sure if that person is doing the whole one hundred percent (100%).

Councilmember Yukimura: I see. If we act right now without any additional input from Kealoha, then if she needs those duties done, she has to either reallocate before July 1<sup>st</sup>, if that is actually possible, given the scales of the person who is in the position.

Ms. Rapozo: She could do it after July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Councilmember Yukimura: Okay. If she cannot do that, then her option is to come back here and get another position?

Ms. Rapozo: That would be one option. Another option would be to look at the rest of her staff to see how she can reorganize.

Councilmember Yukimura: Okay. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: I wish she was here to answer the question, because my question would be, "If we get rid of this dollar-funded position, what would it cost us in the next fiscal budget? Is it going to cost us more than the \$6,300 we have budgeted for temporary assignment?" I do not know if you can answer that.

Councilmember Yukimura: How much was budgeted?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: \$6,300 for temporary assignment.

Ms. Rapozo: I am not sure if that temporary assignment is completely for that person or if it is spread out among all other positions. Without the position there, if it is eliminated, she cannot do temporary assignment.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: If we cut it now and she comes back in July and says, "I want to dollar-fund this position again," and she is going to do a temporary assignment and do what she is doing and justifies it to us, how long do you think that process would take?

Ms. Rapozo: It will take as long as however it takes the Council to get that position back in, which I think we were estimating at least two (2) months.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Okay. Any further questions? Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: It just seems that it might be worthwhile to defer this until before noon or whatever you say to try to get that information.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: We are in the budget meeting and if there are other department heads that are not available, then we are going to be deferring stuff until Monday when our budget meetings are Thursday, Friday, and Monday. I would rather we make the decisions now and we move forward. It is a very important day for all of us. Councilmember Kagawa.

Councilmember Kagawa: To try to help us get forward, if something is sitting on the books for eight hundred sixty (860) days, then obviously it is not that urgent. There are other ways of fixing the problem. So just delaying and delaying when we know we are going to hear excuses from the other side—it happened yesterday. It is going to happen today. Every time you ask them, "Why is this," you are going to hear a story that I can predict right here for you. Ask the question, I will predict the answer. We either see the facts, we see what is happening, and let us move it. Let us vote up or down and take the next item.

Council Chair Rapozo: I do not have a question. I just have a comment.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Yukimura, do you have a question? If not, I will bring it back.

Councilmember Yukimura: I am okay.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Thank you, Janine. I will call the meeting back to order. Any final discussion from the members? Council Chair Rapozo.

There being no objections, the meeting was called back to order, and proceeded as follows:

Council Chair Rapozo: We have a Vacancy Review Committee that I think in some points, in some situations, do very well. I am going to read this because I think this is what we should be concerned about as leaders, both sides of the aisle. This is

straight out of the State Constitution that “mandates,” not “suggests,” says, “The State Constitution mandates that the employment of persons in the civil service, as defined by law, be governed by the merit principle. The legislature declares that the public policy of the State is that all positions in the civil service systems of the respective jurisdictions,” which is the County of Kaua‘i, “...shall be filled through civil service recruitment procedures based on merit and that the civil service system of the respective jurisdictions,” which includes the County of Kaua‘i, “...shall comprise all positions, whether permanent or temporary, in the jurisdiction now existing or hereafter established.” In other words, you have a position and by the constitution civil service, you recruit. You do not just take somebody from an unqualified position and stick them in that position and tie up two (2) positions with one (1) person. I am concerned that we are violating the law. In fact, I think the last audit that we had on the employment hiring practices, which we will be following up on real soon, will show. That is the law. That is the constitution. So if we have a position, hire them or lose them. That is how simple this thing works. You cannot play with this, this is civil service. We have unemployed people out there looking for work. Councilmember Kagawa hit it right on the head—we are going to dollar-fund this, and then TA somebody? This is not anything personal; I do not even know who is in this position, and I love Kealoha to death, but yesterday morning I passed out the list and I said, “Department heads, you come prepared and explain why we need the position.” If they are not here, I agree with Councilmember Kagawa that we are moving. To have the HR person come up and say, “I cannot answer that question,” I do not think she should answer that question, but if the department head is not here...do you all agree that we are following the constitution with this example right here? We are going to see many more of these. Does it follow the constitution of civil service? The mandate? No, it does not. If there is somebody out there watching television right now that may have applied for a position and got denied will say, “Hey, wait, timeout. Maybe I will see a lawyer.” We do not learn. I do not know if I need to say any more, but that is going to be my argument for every single position. We have a civil service law that governs what we should be doing, and when we manipulate this process, I think we violate the law. Mauna Kea or Matt will be jumping up and saying, “Council Chair Rapozo, shut your mouth.” It is the truth and the transparency is the biggest problem I have. We have a position and we have people willing and able out there, hire them based on merit. Do not go and move people around, “Oh, they do not qualify for the position, but we just dollar-fund it and we just put them in there anyway.” I am sorry, but this should stop in this Council session this year. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: I agree with the Chair if it is true that the person is not qualified for the position into which they are being temporarily assigned and I do not know what the circumstances are. It involves \$1, so I am going to be voting to keep it in until it can be sorted. I do agree that the Chair was courteous enough to give out the positions yesterday and the department heads should be here to answer the questions.

Council Chair Rapozo: Committee Chair, just one quick thing.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Council Chair Rapozo.

Council Chair Rapozo: If the person is qualified, promote them. That scenario makes absolutely no sense. If the person is qualified, promote them. The only reason I can think that they would not move that person up is because something is

missing. Again, we are not going to speculate. I am just saying that it is very evident to me that we do not need this position.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any further comments? If not, roll call vote.

The motion to eliminate Position No. 135, Program Specialist II in the Agency on Elderly Affairs, was then put, and carried by the following vote:

FOR MOTION:	Brun, Chock, Kagawa, Kawakami, Rapozo, Kaneshiro	TOTAL – 6,
AGAINST MOTION:	Yukimura	TOTAL – 1,
EXCUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0,
RECUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: 6:1, motion passes.

Council Chair Rapozo: Position No. 562, Vehicle Registration & Licensing Manager, five hundred thirty-three (533) days vacant. This line item is \$97,702. Ma'am in the back, how are we going to cut these funds? That is how you cut these funds.

Council Chair Rapozo moved to eliminate Position No. 562, Vehicle Registration & Licensing Manager and related benefits in the Department of Finance, Driver License, seconded by Councilmember Kagawa.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any questions or comments? Councilmember Kagawa.

Councilmember Kagawa: I made the second, but on this one, I might not support it. Our population is growing so there must be a lot of increases in the need for vehicle registering and licensing.

There being no objections, the rules were suspended.

SALLY MOTTA, Deputy Finance Director: Yes.

Councilmember Kagawa: I am thinking that it could be dangerous if we remove this and our existing staff might be overburdened.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Please state your name for the record, Sally.

Ms. Motta: My name is Sally Motta, Deputy Director of Finance. I also work very closely with our Motor Vehicle Division. The reason that this has been so difficult for us to fill is because of the requirements that are put on the position to have experience that none of our own staff had. We tried twice to hire from within and we could not get any of our candidates on staff that could qualify for it, so we went out and we still could not get anybody on-island that qualified. So we went together with the other counties to come up with a better definition that we hoped would still satisfy what needed to be done and have some candidates for it. We currently have five (5) candidates that are being interviewed, starting May 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

Councilmember Kagawa: What is the major hang up? In most of the positions, like this kind of specialized position, getting people's proper documents and what have you in order to give them a driver's license...so if guys are doing it for five (5) years as the clerk, why can they not move up to the manager, knowing what everybody's role is?

Ms. Motta: Because the position did not allow for it and when the candidates send their applications and everything into HR, HR has to go through and verify whether or not they have the experience. We were hoping that one of our current employees was going to end up having enough time in at his current position and when he was temporarily assigned in the position, but unfortunately his TA time would not count. That is what forced us to go out for this last period in order to find somebody who did already have that time.

Councilmember Kagawa: Is there a sticking point in that job description that everybody in your current staff does not have?

Ms. Motta: Yes.

Councilmember Kagawa: What is that? A certain degree?

Ms. Motta: Time of experience.

Councilmember Kagawa: Time of experience managing?

Ms. Motta: Yes, of the management portion of it.

Councilmember Kagawa: Somebody is obviously running your driver's licensing now and there are probably a couple of managers, right?

Ms. Motta: We have a separate manager for each of the division portions of it, and then our Treasurer currently sees over that. As you know, our Treasurer has or may have plans on changing, so we needed to have a position created in order to take that away from what the Treasurer was doing.

Councilmember Kagawa: Okay. So you have five (5) applicants that are going through the process.

Ms. Motta: We have five (5) qualified applicants that have already agreed to be interviewed, starting on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Councilmember Kagawa: Are any from Kaua'i?

Ms. Motta: Yes.

Councilmember Kagawa: Terrific. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Council Chair Rapozo.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is someone in this TA position now?

Ms. Motta: No.

Council Chair Rapozo: When did you folks go out for the external solicitation?

Ms. Motta: I do not have the dates in front of me.

Council Chair Rapozo: HR?

Ms. Rapozo: I think before Finance went out for that position, they reclassified it, basically because the Treasurer was overseeing this area. We upgraded it to be its own manager of that section. They went out and could not find anybody, so we tried to downgrade it back to see if we could get any applicants and we could not get any applicants, so I believe it got upgraded again. At this point, they looked with the other counties to try to see how they could reclassify/re-describe the position in order to try to get applicants. Sorry, I know I am not answering your question as to when we went out, but I was just trying to say that there was some history as to why this has been taking a while.

Council Chair Rapozo: I think she made that very clear: internal, internal, then external. I just want to know when. Was it after I told the Administration that we are going to cut all of these positions?

Ms. Rapozo: I do not think so.

Council Chair Rapozo: When do you anticipate hiring this person?

Ms. Motta: I am sorry?

Council Chair Rapozo: When do you anticipate hiring one of these applicants?

Ms. Motta: As soon as we interview, then the decision will be made by the panel that does the interviewing and it will be sent on to HR for the final processing. We plan to have somebody before the beginning of the next fiscal year.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Brun.

Councilmember Brun: So the department is running right now without this position?

Ms. Motta: It currently is, yes, because we still have our Treasurer.

Councilmember Brun: Are we failing in that department without this position?

Ms. Motta: Are we what?

Councilmember Brun: Are we failing?

Ms. Motta: We are not failing, but we are anticipating what is going to be a possibility of that happening.

Councilmember Brun: Okay. My other question was, as Council Chair asked, did we just really pursue this because we knew this was coming up or was this in the works and we really need this position?

Ms. Motta: It has been in the works continuously. It is a brand-new position for our County. We have a smaller population, so it is more difficult for us to get people more qualified for that here.

Councilmember Brun: Okay. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Kawakami.

Councilmember Kawakami: Did I hear correctly that "time of experience" was the biggest contributor to not being able to promote someone from within the department?

Ms. Motta: Yes.

Councilmember Kawakami: What kind of...I am sorry...

Ms. Motta: Supervision.

Councilmember Kawakami: Supervision time of experience?

Ms. Motta: Yes.

Councilmember Kawakami: What is that time of experience that you folks have set?

Ms. Motta: I do not know off the top of my head.

Councilmember Kawakami: Do you know, Janine?

Ms. Rapozo: I do not know off the top of my head, but some of the qualifications in these different departments require time in, like motor vehicle and driver's licensing. That is very difficult to get because government is pretty much the only place you can get that experience.

Councilmember Kawakami: We could not find anybody from within with that?

Ms. Rapozo: No.

Councilmember Kawakami: But we were able to find somebody on Kaua'i with that time of experience?

Ms. Motta:

Yes.

Councilmember Kawakami: I think we have identified a big issue, because in my experience, "time of experience" has very little bearing on good leadership. I think it has a lot to do with attitude and drive, but that is just my personal experience. I think it has identified a general frustration within our rank and file when people come up to us and say, "I have been a loyal, good worker and I cannot even get promoted" because there is this glass ceiling with time of experience that they are hitting. If that is an issue and you need some kind of legislative change, then we should start talking, but if that is something that you can work within, maybe we have look at other municipalities to see if there is any innovative ways that we can promote from within. I think that is what kills a lot of the morale and people get frustrated, and they come to us, because the worst case scenario is if we cannot find somebody qualified on Kaua'i. Then we bring in somebody and recruit from the outside, like what we are doing for the Office of the County Auditor, to come in, expect to adapt to our culture and expect to know how things operate, and then they become a complete failure. If it is time of experience, I kind of want to know what that time of experience is, eventually. It does not have to be today. For me, it does not sit well that that would be a sole prohibiting factor as to why we could not promote somebody from within, especially if there was a desire from within. If there is no desire then that is a different story.

Ms. Rapozo: If I can just add a little bit to that, when they temporarily assign to a position that is doing those types of duties, it will count towards meeting that requirement. That is why we look at temporary assignment as a way to try to promote within and try to do succession planning. The other thing that we have as a tool is what we call "training agreements," where if they do not qualify we can do a training agreement with them in order to get the qualifications. Until they meet those qualifications, they stay at the position, but they are getting the time in there and then they will get promoted.

Councilmember Kawakami: Did I hear that...sorry that I interrupted you...did you have something else that you wanted to say?

Ms. Rapozo:

No.

Councilmember Kawakami: In this case, did the temporary assignment time not count towards your time of experience?

Ms. Rapozo:

I believe it counted...

Ms. Motta:

But there was not enough.

Ms. Rapozo: He did not have enough because I think there was no degree, so you are going to have to now use some of that experience to meet your degree requirement, as well as now have the experience.

Councilmember Kawakami:

What kind of degree? A college degree?

Ms. Rapozo:  
position.

A college degree. It is a managerial-level

Councilmember Kawakami: I have my own feelings about college degrees as well, if that is the sole factor. I have seen great leadership from people with no college degrees. I think Bill Gates is one of them. We have to take a look at our job descriptions, in my opinion, and revamp. I can understand the value of a college degree to anybody listening in high school. To the parents, please do not be upset at me. A college degree is very valuable, but it has, to me, very little bearing on good leadership skills. Thank you, Committee Chair.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: Thank you. Actually, this sounds like really good succession planning.

Ms. Motta: That is correct.

Councilmember Yukimura: I know that the Treasurer, when he came and talked, said that Kaua'i County is the only place where the Treasurer also does this management of the different divisions, and now that he is leaving soon—I think he said maybe the end of this year—there is real concern about whether there is going to be sufficient oversight or management and it sounds like you have been doing your work to reconfigure the position so that there is good division supervision. Is that correct?

Ms. Motta: Exactly.

Councilmember Yukimura: That is definitely independent of any Council initiative. You have just been trying to make succession work. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Brun.

Councilmember Brun: So the person that is temporarily assigned to his position right now, how long has he been doing it?

Ms. Motta: He is not temporarily assigned into that exact position; he is temporarily assigned to...how would you say that he is doing bond...

Councilmember Brun: He is temporarily assigning as a supervisor, right?

Ms. Motta: Yes.

Councilmember Brun: For how long?

Ms. Motta: He is in the same position that he was and that he is temporarily assigning for experience as the supervisor for that area.

Councilmember Brun: How long was he doing that?

Ms. Rapozo: I think initially he was temporarily assigning, but I believe...this has been a while, but I think he got reallocated up to that position, so he

is not doing the temporary assigning right now. He is already in that, but it is not the position that is listed here.

Councilmember Brun: Okay. For this position, do you need four (4) years of supervisory? Two (2) years?

Ms. Rapozo: It is an Excluded Managerial (EM) position right now, so it will need at least...I am just guessing, but I think it is a college degree, as well as four (4) years of experience in that particular area and maybe two (2) of which is managerial or something like that.

Councilmember Brun: Okay, so how much does he have right now total? How much was he short by to not qualify for this position?

Ms. Rapozo: Maybe a year and a half (1.5) or two (2), I think, because he needed to use some of the experience for the college degree because he does not have one.

Councilmember Brun: Okay, so he is short about a year and a half (1.5) or two (2) years?

Ms. Rapozo: I believe so.

Councilmember Brun: So that is seven hundred (700) days. I can see that if we are looking at somebody like that, from within and trying to give them the experience, I would support temporarily assigning this person for those two (2) years to get the experience so that he can be in this position, instead of bringing somebody fresh from the outside. It is happening in all of the baseyards. I have heard it over and over. We are bringing these folks in you are just bursting this person's bubble because he does not qualify. How about giving him a chance to qualify and start from the bottom? A college degree—I have none. In my own company, I was picking up rocks when I started. Now, I am a supervisor. Give them a chance to start from the bottom. We are bursting these people's bubbles and you see it all over the County right now, because we are bringing people out because they can pass the test. Please, if we can temporarily assign this person and get him in there and he wants the position, let us support him and let us get him there. For bringing somebody else in, you are just going to kick morale in that department. I promise you that that is going to happen. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Kagawa.

Councilmember Kagawa: I am just trying to follow-up. Are you folks temporarily assigning somebody or is Mr. Spanski doing this job right now?

Ms. Motta: Mr. Spanski is in charge of this right now.

Councilmember Kagawa: Okay. Is it kind of like renaming the Treasurer a little bit? Is that what it is doing?

Ms. Motta: We are dividing the Treasurer up...we are taking away from the Treasurer position, the overall management of the Department of Motor

Vehicles & Driver's Licensing, and that is the position that we are creating here. Each of those departments have a separate manager that they have and that is the person that they would be reporting to—this new position.

Councilmember Kagawa: My question is, the motor vehicle registrations, is it not closer to the Real Property Tax Collections, and then the licensing seems like a separate entity on its own? When you pay, the Real Property Tax line and all the payment lines are all with the vehicles on one side.

Ms. Motta: Vehicle registration is the long lines you see.

Councilmember Kagawa: Right, that and Real Property Tax, right?

Ms. Motta: No.

Councilmember Kagawa: Just vehicle registrations?

Ms. Motta: Yes.

Councilmember Kagawa: Okay.

Ms. Motta: Sometimes for driver's licensing in the back of the building the line will get long there.

Councilmember Kagawa: Okay. So this person will run the driver's licensing and the vehicle registrations?

Ms. Motta: Right and it will be a working supervisor.

Councilmember Kagawa: Okay. I got it. Thank you. I like the sound of "working supervisor." When a lot of people are up, you would be able to cover whatever is missing. Thank you.

Ms. Motta: Exactly.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Council Chair Rapozo.

Council Chair Rapozo: I have a follow-up that I think is very important because I am actually really confused. Earlier, I thought I heard that there was no TA, and then I heard you say that you folks reallocated someone to this position.

Ms. Motta: No.

Council Chair Rapozo: That is what I thought I heard. Is that not what they just told you?

Councilmember Kagawa: No.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is this a new position? It cannot be because it has been vacant for five hundred (500) day.

Ms. Rapozo: That position that has been vacant used to oversee the driver's licensing side. There was another supervisor below that position at the time. When that position vacated, this position, the other supervisor in the department, was temporarily assigned to that particular position. In the process, they looked at having the vacated position now also oversee Treasury, taking that away from the Treasurer, so upgrading that position since it was vacant.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay.

Ms. Rapozo: In the process, the incumbent in the supervisor position was then doing the TA, but then at some point when we could not get recruitment, he could not qualify. We upgraded that position to then oversee driver's licensing for now until we can find that other managerial level to do driver's licensing and treasury.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: I think what you just said answered the question I was going to ask. It appears that some of these vacant positions are needed to do the kind of movements that you need, reallocations, and redefining positions in order to achieve a succession plan.

Ms. Rapozo: I think given that we knew that the Treasurer was going to be vacating soon and that he was tasked with something that his counterparts were not tasked with, we were looking at once that particular position vacated what kind of creative things we can do to reorganize and I think that is what Finance did. Unfortunately for them, nobody initially qualified for that higher-level position, so they had to do some other things to try to see how they could get a list and they have now; it has just taken a while.

Councilmember Yukimura: Even in the Elderly case, a vacant position can be used to TA a person and gain them the experience to qualify ultimately for that. We are talking about hiring and promoting internally, so some of these positions can be used for that purpose to actually give experience to somebody in order to gain what they need to qualify.

Ms. Rapozo: Yes.

Councilmember Yukimura: Okay. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: I have one last question.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Council Chair Rapozo.

Council Chair Rapozo: I know that Councilmember Yukimura said that this is great succession planning, but would you consider this great succession planning?

Ms. Rapozo: Well, we are looking at our internal people first to see whether or not...if that is their desire to move up...

Council Chair Rapozo: But a succession plan covers all bases. A succession plan, the ones that I know of anyway, all scenarios are covered. I guess my question really is “yes” or “no.” Do you consider this, as the Director of Human Resources, a good example of succession planning? Five hundred thirty-three (533) days?

Ms. Rapozo: Unfortunately with government, succession planning is difficult to do, and yes, five hundred (500) odd days is a lot. It is not the ultimate on doing succession planning, but government is stifled a little bit in how we can do that unfortunately.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay. I disagree, but I accept that answer.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any further questions? If not, I will bring the meeting back to order. Any final discussion on this before we take the vote? Council Chair Rapozo.

There being no objections, the meeting was called back to order, and proceeded as follows:

Council Chair Rapozo: We talk about this every year, that we have to cut spending and reduce the size of government, and talk about all of these other things. We are at the time where this body can either fish or cut bait. Five hundred thirty-three (533) days, to me, is that you do not need the position. I understand what they want to do. We had three (3) positions that we cut from the Council and we could have put people in all three (3) and say, “We are going to take some duties away from Jade, Scott, or Yvette for whatever reason.” No, we are trying to set an example for this County and say, “Hey, you know what, we can, and we did it for five hundred thirty-three (533) days.” To sit here today and think that, “You know what, let us keep it going.” \$97,702—really? I know it is difficult for Councilmembers because we all know everybody across the street, but really, take the personalities out of this thing and just look at it objectively. That is our job. Our job is not to worry about who is in that position. No, it is not our job. Our job is to look at this objectively and say, “Is this position needed? Five hundred thirty-three (533) days?” If you can sit here and say, “Yes, I think so,” then I do not know what to say. I respect everybody’s vote and position, but again, fish or cut bait. This is the time. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Kawakami.

Councilmember Kawakami: I respect that philosophy, but I think, in this case, they have been trying to actively recruit from within is what I have been hearing and time of experience has been prohibitive, the necessity to have a college degree. I completely agree with us being more efficient, but as we go through this exercise and call people to the stand to justify the position, I think they made a case. I call this a “pothole issue,” because some of the things that our constituents have been complaining about, like the wait times at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). I am not sure if this is going to help with the efficiency. I know that there are quite a bit of requirements going into the DMV side that would cause a lengthy wait time. This is, to me, like a pothole issue. This is one of the departments where people have asked if we could become better operators of it. I do not

know—maybe this position will help with the efficiency, but in this position, I heard that they have been trying to recruit from within. Unfortunately, because of the job description, they were not able to.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro:            Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura:            Is this position needed? I would say “yes” because the Treasurer is going to retire soon. We need to have a manager over this very important service to the public. Yes, we need it. I commend the Administration for doing all they can first to hire internally and also to give our people time to qualify, and also doing all that needs to be done in this fairly complex civil service system to have some succession going on.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro:            Councilmember Brun.

Councilmember Brun:                 This is a big struggle for me. We are using the argument that the Treasurer is going to retire, but for this person to catch-on this position is not going to help us anyway. It is going to be another six (6) months, eight (8) months, to a year before this person even knows what is going on. I like the idea of TA and moving that person up, but that is something that I think we really should do. I am struggling with this one, so I am not sure yet.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro:            Councilmember Kagawa.

Councilmember Kagawa:                First, I would like to say that I appreciate the workers there. I think they are the reason why we are successful, is because of the workers in the front, the DMV team. I think they do an outstanding job. Some days you go, the line is just packed. When I talk to the workers, they say that their day just flies by because they are always busy. That is one job where if you take a job there, there are no “cruise” days, because every day the demand is there. They are serving a lot of people and they do a great job. They are the reason for the success. This vote here is to make sure that they have an opportunity to move up possibly or have a manager to help them, so I am going to support them because I know that their workload never goes away. Some of the other County functions that we have go through peaks and valleys where we have busy times and slower times, but for the DMV, they are always busy. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro:            Councilmember Chock.

Councilmember Chock:                 I think we are going to have to go through each one of these, one-by-one, because I, for one, need to hear the story behind the cut. When we have the nod and it is like, “Yes, we are going to go for it, let us go for it,” then I am all for it. It is apparent that I am not going to step in, in the middle of something that is just about to fall. If we are going to hire somebody in June, it just makes no rhyme or reason for us to look in a different direction at this point. With that being said, this is all a result of budget cuts over the past few years and us needing to try to adapt to them, and you folks trying to scramble around and make ends meet. Nothing is moving in that direction—in fact, it is moving in the opposite direction in many ways and I think we need to be transparent in the sense that, let us call a “spade a spade.” If we cannot do the work that we need to do with the cuts that have already been made, then that is it. Let us not try and create multiple jobs out of one position, because I think this does a disservice for

management. I am not one to micromanage. This is something that I cannot, from this seat, start to tell you folks what it is that you need to be successful. As these do come up, one-by-one, at the very least...that is why for the last one, I had to vote for it because you have to show up for this. There were some transparency issues that really became apparent without being answered. I will not be supporting this cut. I will be looking at each one with discernment. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Council Chair Rapozo.

Council Chair Rapozo: This is really in response to Councilmember Kagawa's comment that he was so right about, about the lines. This manager is not going to help the line. I would rather see two (2) more clerks or more people on the line that can help that line. I have been in that line; the County Council does not have a special line. You wait in line like everybody else. Try to go at the end of the month to get your registration. This is not going to help that line. Let me just try this analogy so that it can maybe bring some perspective back home for us on the Council—if the Auditor was not a charter position, if it was a regular General Fund position, how many of you would say the same thing for the Auditor position? “No, it has been five hundred (500), seven hundred (700), eight hundred (800) days, but we tried, and tried, and are trying again. Let us keep the funding in there.” How many of you would support that? That is something to think about. I am not going to ask you to answer on the floor because I know what the answer is; that Auditor position would be gone, and no matter if Jade or anybody came up here to beg for that position, saying that they need that position; at the end of the day, five hundred thirty-three (533) days, to me, it was never a priority and I will disagree with the succession. The Treasurer's position should have had a succession plan. It starts there. Now, “Oops, the Treasurer is going to retire, now what? Oh my God.” That is not succession planning. We do not start succession planning from the bottom. You start succession planning from the top. That was not done. I think there are going to be a lot of votes that are 6:1, but I think it is important that the public knows...five hundred thirty-three (533) days. Whatever the excuse, reason, rationale, I would do the same for my department and I respect that. I think it is our job, the check and balance, on this body, to make sure that we serve the people right. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: For me, I will not be supporting this cut. We are all looking and trying to make the most difficult decisions we can. We are trying to rationalize if this position is needed or not. I know for a fact that we have always been worried about the Treasurer position, knowing that they are going to leave eventually. We have always asked for a succession plan. I know how long it takes to get anything moving in the County. I do see where we are going with this. I support it. I think we have people actively applying for the position or possibly interviewing soon. I will not be voting for the cut. I do like to see the succession planning. I like to see that we have employees that have something to look forward to, have something to strive to. Again, we have heard some things that we have to try and work around, like the experience type of things and college degrees. I can tell you that college degrees do not get you jobs either. I remember applying for the County three (3) years out of college with a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) Degree and Degree in Accounting and I got rejected for a County job because I did not have four (4) years of work experience. It goes both ways and those types of things happen. I ended up staying in Oregon. It is a true story. I was rejected for not having four (4) years of work experience, but I was a CPA. Again, we take these cuts and adds as we do. We all have our own justifications and let us keep moving forward. With that, roll call vote.

The motion to eliminate Position No. 562, Vehicle Registration & Licensing Manager and related benefits in the Department of Finance, Driver License, was then put, and failed by the following vote:

FOR MOTION:	Brun, Rapozo	TOTAL – 2,
AGAINST MOTION:	Chock, Kagawa, Kawakami, Yukimura, Kaneshiro	TOTAL – 5,
EXCUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0,
RECUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: 2:5, motion fails.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Council Chair, how many proposals do you have?

Council Chair Rapozo: A bunch. Just to save the pain, I will just go down...if you folks all know how you are going to vote, let us just call for the vote. We do not need to go through this exercise with everyone.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: My comment was that I think a lot of people need to get comfortable on how they are going to vote, but I am going to ask you to please direct your questions to only questions that are going to make you decide whether you are...we want to get a point of you knowing whether you are going to vote “yes” or “no.” As far as what are your succession plans, you let them answer the question and you get comfortable at how you are voting. Sometimes, granted, we are not going to get the answers that we need and we need to come to a vote, but I am just going to ask the Members if we can try to direct our questions to questions that get us to point of, “Am I voting ‘yes’ or ‘no’” and we take the vote to kind of speed it up. I do not want to just go through and try to make the decisions without the proper information. Just know that we have a lot of proposals and just ask the question that gets your comfortable to vote “yes” or “no” and we will keep moving. We will see how that goes. Council Chair Rapozo.

Council Chair Rapozo: My next one is Position No. 233, Account Clerk, Department of Finance, Real Property Collections, one hundred eighty-one (181) days, six (6) months.

Council Chair Rapozo moved to eliminate Position No. 233, Account Clerk and related benefits in the Department of Finance, Real Property Collections, seconded by Councilmember Kagawa.

Council Chair Rapozo: What is the status on that one?

There being no objections, the rules were suspended.

Ms. Motta: This position was an SR-15 and the employee left the County in October 2016. Part of the responsibilities for the Tax Collector’s Assistant as SR-15 included doing foreclosures on the properties that had non-payment of taxes. We went out immediately to try to fill that position and nobody qualified intra, inter, or

anywhere, so we ended up downgrading it to SR-11 so that we could get somebody that we would be able to get qualified. When the first list went out, the existing employees did not qualify because of time in the department. So that was where the main issue was and we do have a list that has gone out and there are candidates on it that are being vetted right now by HR and we should have the list by the first week of June so that we can fill that position by the beginning of the next fiscal year. Again, we run into the issue of having enough time in that particular area in order to qualify.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any questions?

Council Chair Rapozo withdrew the motion to eliminate Position No. 233, Account Clerk and related benefits in the Department of Finance, Real Property Collections, Councilmember Kagawa withdrew the second.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Okay.

Council Chair Rapozo: The next one is from the Housing Agency, six hundred seventy (670) days, dollar-funded. I did speak with the Housing Director and it did not really matter one way or the other, according to her yesterday. Anyway, I will make that motion.

Council Chair Rapozo moved to eliminate Position No. 9534, Housing Technician in the Housing Agency, seconded by Councilmember Brun.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any questions for the Housing Director?  
Councilmember Brun.

Councilmember Brun: Do you need this position?

KANANI FU, Housing Director: Good morning. Kanani Fu, for the record. It would be in the best interest of the Housing Agency to keep these positions and I can just kind of take a few moments to...

Council Chair Rapozo: Before you go there, because you just made me look like a real big liar, that is not what you said yesterday. You told me yesterday that either way...

Ms. Fu: We can go either way, because we can always, again, as you folks have said over and over, we can always go to the Vacancy Review Committee to ask for another position. If we remove positions, we still have the opportunity to go and ask for positions back.

Council Chair Rapozo: When do you need this position by?

Ms. Fu: That is why we do not have a definite clear date. Historically, these positions were funded under (inaudible) funds, 211, the HCDRF funds, and as those funds depleted and these people retired, in the best interest of being a team player, we opted not to hire because of the General Fund...we were going through some difficult times and these positions would have to have been picked up by the General Fund. So we left these positions vacant in anticipation of other projects that would come onboard

and we would get outside State and Federal resources to fund these positions. Since the departure of Position No. 9537 in Fiscal Year 2014, and then Position No. 9534 in Fiscal Year 2015, prior to there was the Special Assistant to the Housing Director that took on a lot of those duties. Then we reallocated some positions and even did a Salary Rate (SR) increase for current people who were employed by the Housing Agency. What we are seeing is that we now will have shortly about six (6) Housing projects and the timing of these projects is contingent upon the timing of some entitlements and funding. I cannot give you a definite date of when these positions will be needed. They will be needed when we secure the funding for these projects.

Council Chair Rapozo: How much time do you have before you know when this funding will become available?

Ms. Fu: How much time do I have?

Council Chair Rapozo: In other words, will you have enough time to come back to get a position in six (6) weeks?

Ms. Fu: Yes, we get awarded the funding, and then we would then adapt and move towards...we cannot make any decisions on any projects without the money. So we wait for the money to get allocated, and then we could come back and request these positions.

Council Chair Rapozo: I guess the question is if the position is removed and they have to go back through HR and come to the Council, will it impact the start date of the project?

Ms. Fu: It will not.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay. Thank you.

Ms. Fu: Just to clarify, the Housing Agency is contracted...we are on a contract year-to-year and we are not civil service.

Ms. Rapozo: Correct, they have an exemption.

Ms. Fu: So we have an exemption.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any further questions from the Members?  
Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: But if you had this position, which is just costing us \$1 right now, instead of spending time coming before us to get the position created, you could just fill it in with whatever project needs you have in starting the project.

Ms. Fu: Yes. That has been our response in the last fiscal years as to why we wanted to keep this available. Again, we recognize impending three (3) projects that we have on the books: Koa'e, Lima Ola, and we are siting a parcel for

the Līhu'e development. Just to give you a snapshot, the development team has six (6) staff members. Four (4) of those staff members are specifically allocated to other Federal programs, not necessarily development. So that leaves two (2) staff members, a Housing Director, a Special Assistant to the Housing Director, and administration to work on three (3) huge development projects and all of the other partnership projects that we have, which are scattered lots, Kaua'i Habitat for Humanity. This is one of the scenarios that since the Housing Agency and the County is about to take on one of the largest development projects to-date, I think it would be in the best interest to have the staffing capacity to do this.

Council Chair Rapozo: Have you used these position numbers for any other contract positions or anything like that?

Ms. Fu: We have not. Since the positions have been vacated through retirement, we have not reallocated these positions, reassigned them, or anything like that.

Council Chair Rapozo: So the position number has just remained vacant and no one has ever touched those positions?

Ms. Fu: No. It is the intent for us to not utilize General Funds; it is just to utilize outside funding sources that we receive, whether through bond financing, State financing, or Federal financing.

Council Chair Rapozo moved to withdraw the motion to eliminate Position No. 9534, Housing Technician in the Housing Agency, Councilmember Brun withdrew the second.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Okay. We will move on.

Council Chair Rapozo: The next one is Position No. 1287, Janitor II, one thousand five hundred eighty-four (1,584) days. This is a \$55,513 position.

Council Chair Rapozo moved to eliminate Position No. 1827, Janitor II in the Department of Parks & Recreation-Facilities Maintenance and related benefits, seconded by Councilmember Brun.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any questions from the Members?  
Councilmember Brun.

Councilmember Brun: Do you need this position?

LEONARD A. RAPOZO, JR., Director of Parks & Recreation: For the record, Director of Parks & Recreation, Lenny Rapozo. Yes, I do need the position and maybe I can help save some time. I did some homework yesterday after getting the positions here. What I did is I went back to the minutes of our budget review and I think the Chair was very commendable that we stuck to the script. We talked about positions, effects, and pluses and minuses. What I did is all of the positions that are here, with the exception to two (2), we had discussed already and I am ready to present to you what the minutes were and it has been highlighted so that it is easy to follow and you folks can look at it and make

your decision. I agree that going over position by position is time consuming, but I think all of the questions that have come up have been answered and this is not one of those TA types of things that I heard earlier. I take credit for most of the vacancies that were effective July 1, 2016, because a lot of these vacancies came over from the Department of Public Works. We have moved to get all of these vacancies filled, but as I said, two (2) of the vacancies that were listed here was not included in our budget, because at the time, we were going through a grievance process for termination and that is why it was vacant, they were contesting the termination, and one of them is the Janitor position, and the other one is the Plumber, because the Plumber has recently been given a promotion and we are in the process of filling the Plumber's position. The highlighted areas were done in an effort so you can readily get to the different positions that are listed here on this chart.

Council Chair Rapozo: Well, the public will not have the opportunity to see these minutes. We are looking at the Janitor II position. What is the story on that one?

Mr. Rapozo: The Janitor II was terminated. This one here is the Groundskeeper that initially was going to be...we dollar-funded the Groundskeeper position when we had to make cuts and we just dollar-funded it and kept it there. When Hardy Street came onboard, we needed to get something...it was funded in the last budget for half of a year. We never moved on it, upon assuming facility maintenance and in looking at the operations and in trying to be creative and not adding new positions. Again, this is not a new position, but one that is being reused. We looked at trying to be creative to see how we can fulfill our goals internally by providing service for customers within the County. This is the position that we are asking where, if you read the narrative, we went where we proposed to increase our overtime to take care of Hardy Street, because the total overtime that we are going to use for Hardy Street is going to be less than paying for one (1) position with benefits. On the other side, we are looking to take that Beautification position and convert it to a Janitor position. Again, it is in minutes there where we had discussed about the Kaua'i Police Department (KPD) having four (4) wings and one of the wings is not being fully serviced by a person or a body is the Kaua'i Emergency Management Agency (KEMA) and dispatch. So you have a 24/7 operation that does not have a dedicated person to serve. Likewise with the bus, you have a twenty-hour operation organization where it is only being serviced from four o'clock to eight o'clock, only four (4) hours, and that is what was explained in our presentation. With that position there, we asked to combine to make four (4) hours so that they can do four (4) hours in the morning to take care of dispatch and KEMA. With the other four (4) hours in the afternoon, they can take care of Transportation, so Transportation will be touched twice in that 24-hour operation.

Council Chair Rapozo: I do not understand, but maybe somebody else did. Is the plan to still use overtime for Hardy Street?

Mr. Rapozo: Yes, because it was cheaper. In the minutes there, Hardy...when I asked...again, trying to look at ways to maintain, I asked for once a month overtime for one (1) Beautification crew, which was about \$12,000, as opposed to paying for \$30,000 with benefits for two (2) full-time employees. Since that, we have done Hardy Street twice, once a month, and we found that having two (2) crews, which still comes out to \$24,000, which is still cheaper than paying \$30,000 plus benefits, and hitting it the first Saturday of the month. We were looking at the first Wednesday, but still with

traffic and school getting out early, it was still problematic, so we have done it the past two (2) Saturdays, first in the month. That seems to work out really well.

Council Chair Rapozo: I am done. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any questions? As far as this Janitor II position, this position is for what again?

Mr. Rapozo: For Police and Transportation.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Okay.

Mr. Rapozo: You do not have somebody dedicated, especially for the dispatch.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Okay. Any further questions from the members?  
Council Chair Rapozo.

Council Chair Rapozo: I am just curious if anyone understood that. You did? Okay. I am ready to vote.

Councilmember Yukimura: Can I clarify?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: Lenny, what I heard is that you took the position that was for Hardy Street as a Groundskeeper and you turned it into a janitorial position because you are going cover Hardy Street with overtime, and then you are going to have the Janitor do the Transportation and the dispatch rooms, where Transportation is a 24-hour service and therefore needs a little more janitorial than usual for an 8-hour place?

Mr. Rapozo: Correct. On page 22 of the minutes, on through page 23, it explains Hardy Street.

Ms. Rapozo: Just for clarification, this position was reallocated to the Janitor from the Groundskeeper, and prior to that, it was a dollar-funded Heavy Truck Driver. That is why it has been vacant for so long. I think in the Mayor's Budget Message, this was one of his priorities as far as getting janitorial services at both KPD and Transportation.

Mr. Rapozo: Page 22-24 explains what I just really quickly went through.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Where are we in the hiring process and when do we anticipate hiring for this position?

*(Councilmember Kawakami was noted as not present.)*

Mr. Rapozo: We are looking to hire on July 1<sup>st</sup>. For every one of our positions, we are trying to get it ready. So with funding upon this body, we can make that selection.

Ms. Rapozo: One more clarification on the janitors is that we have some janitors that are part-time, so the process does take a little longer because they are afforded the full-time positions first, and then we have to then go one more time for the part-time. There is a little bit of an extra step with these types of positions, because there is one (1) more Janitor that is on this list, so I just wanted to make that clear.

Council Chair Rapozo: Do we have a list for this one already?

Ms. Rapozo: Yes. It is from the labor list.

Council Chair Rapozo: How long? I know you say July 1<sup>st</sup>, but what is the process from here?

Ms. Rapozo: We have the list now already, so as soon as we refer it, they can select.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any further questions? If not, I will call the meeting back to order. Any final comments? Roll call vote.

There being no objections, the meeting was called back to order, and proceeded as follows:

The motion to eliminate Position No. 1827, Janitor II and related benefits in the Department of Parks & Recreation-Facilities Maintenance was then put, and failed by the following vote:

FOR MOTION:	Kawakami, Rapozo	TOTAL – 2*
AGAINST MOTION:	Brun, Chock, Kagawa, Yukimura, Kaneshiro	TOTAL – 5,
EXCUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0,
RECUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0.

*(\*Pursuant to Rule No. 5(b) of the Rules of the Council of the County of Kaua'i, Councilmember Kawakami was noted as silent (not present), but shall be recorded as an affirmative vote for the motion.)*

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: 2:5.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: The next one is Position No. 1649, Permits Clerk, eight hundred fifty-two (852) days vacant, \$44,883.

Council Chair Rapozo moved to eliminate Position No. 1649, Permits Clerk and related benefits in the Department of Parks & Recreation-Facilities Maintenance, seconded by Councilmember Kagawa.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any questions from the Members? I have a question. Where are we in the hiring of this position?

Mr. Rapozo: Pending funding. We are in the process and we have a list being generated. It went out for recruitment. This is one of those positions where I want to be very clear—with the Vacancy Review Committee, just because you have family ties does not mean that you get what you want. When the incumbent, and this is depicted on page 1 at the bottom of your minutes...they dollar-funded it for us, even though we wanted the position. To prove its worth, and I think Councilmember Yukimura recognized it in our briefing, we had to show that within a certain timeframe, the number of generated business that was occurring in Pi'ikoi. But how do you do that without the funding and what we had done? We proved it and it is in the minutes.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: So this was a position, just to refresh my memory real quick, it was dollar-funded in the past, it was a Permits Clerk here, and then we started getting complaints that people did not know where to get their permits after that, so we saw where we cut a position and we saw an impact in services, and then we received a bunch of complaints on it.

Mr. Rapozo: It was not so much of where, but also at the neighborhood centers, because they are dealing with senior programs and everything that is outlined on page 2 and page 9, that it is talked about—so the first three (3) pages of your handout—they were constrained to certain time periods at the neighborhood centers because the neighborhood centers are busy doing other things. With this one, we have a dedicated eight o'clock to four o'clock window that people could come and get their permits. That is the length of time.

Council Chair Rapozo: So this person will be here at Pi'ikoi?

Mr. Rapozo: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is that going to be full-time?

Mr. Rapozo: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: We used to have that.

Mr. Rapozo: We used to.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay. I will withdraw.

*(Councilmember Kawakami was noted as present.)*

Council Chair Rapozo withdrew the motion to eliminate Position No. 1649, Permits Clerk and related benefits in the Department of Parks & Recreation-Facilities Maintenance, Councilmember Kagawa withdrew the second.

Council Chair Rapozo: The next one is Position No. 1653, Recreation Worker I, nine hundred eighty-nine (989) days, \$44,883.

Council Chair Rapozo moved to eliminate Position No. 1653, Recreation Worker I and related benefits in the Department of Parks & Recreation-Recreation, seconded by Councilmember Kagawa.

Mr. Rapozo: The Hanalei Courthouse and Neighborhood Center Project is a project that has been ongoing before this Administration. We knew that the conversion was taking place and it was going to be turned into a recreation center. When the Recreation Manager at Līhu'e Neighborhood Center resigned or left, we looked at operations and we looked at the impacts or what is going on with activities, and this is where we combined the...Waimea Neighborhood Center is now taking care of Waimea half-time and Kaumakani. With Kaumakani, that community with the decrease in sugar is not as active. The center is still being used for meetings, but senior center programs and those kinds of community programs have been reduced because of the dying of sugar. So that person now has to do two (2) centers. We moved that Kaumakani center manager to Kōloa, and the Kōloa manager we moved to Puhī. As the Director, I have that purview to run the department as efficiently as I feel. With this position, we put it on the side as a dollar-funded position because we knew that the Hanalei community or the neighborhood center was going to be a reality someday, and it is now coming to that reality, hopefully...the projected completion will be August 1<sup>st</sup>, so this position would go to that neighborhood center. We talk about succession planning—we held it on knowing that eventually someday they would have a Hanalei Neighborhood Center that would need to be staffed.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any further questions? Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: So that is a full-time position?

Mr. Rapozo: Yes.

Councilmember Yukimura: They are going to do Hanalei Courthouse and that is it?

Mr. Rapozo: Yes. That would be on page 2 as a Recreation Worker, Hanalei. It is listed.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any other questions?

Council Chair Rapozo: When do you expect to hire that one?

Mr. Rapozo: Sometime in July, but not to start until August.

Councilmember Yukimura: Lenny, do you...I am sorry...

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Council Chair has the floor.

Councilmember Yukimura: I am sorry.

Council Chair Rapozo: She can go. It is not the first time.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: Thank you. I apologize. Do you need a full-time person for the Hanalei Courthouse?

Mr. Rapozo: Yes, we had this discussion.

Councilmember Yukimura: We did?

Mr. Rapozo: Yes.

Councilmember Yukimura: Okay. Are you saying "yes"?

Mr. Rapozo: Yes. You and I went back and forth.

Councilmember Yukimura: I am not the only one who is wondering how that is...you cannot do with a half-time position?

Mr. Rapozo: I do not believe so.

Councilmember Yukimura: How many square feet is it?

Mr. Rapozo: I am sorry?

Councilmember Yukimura: How many square feet?

Mr. Rapozo: It does not matter the square feet...that sounds like a janitor kind of question...but the activities...we still want to reach out to Hanalei children.

Councilmember Yukimura: Sorry, that is a Recreation Worker.

Mr. Rapozo: Yes.

Councilmember Yukimura: Okay. That makes sense.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any further questions? If not, I will call this meeting back to order. Any final discussion? Roll call vote.

There being no objections, the meeting was called back to order, and proceeded as follows:

The motion to eliminate Position No. 1653, Recreation Worker I and related benefits in the Department of Parks & Recreation-Recreation, was then put, and failed by the following vote:

FOR MOTION:	Rapozo	TOTAL – 1,
AGAINST MOTION:	Brun, Chock, Kagawa, Kawakami, Yukimura, Kaneshiro	TOTAL – 6,
EXCUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0,
RECUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: 1:6, motion fails.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: As far as timing goes, we are going to take lunch at 12:00 p.m., rather than 12:30 p.m. today. We will be back at 1:00 p.m. and my intent is to hopefully finish today. We will see where we get to. If we are close and we are near 4:30 p.m., we are going to just try and get through it. I hope to not be going anywhere near 4:30 p.m., but the intent is to finish this today. We have a caption break in about twenty (20) minutes.

Council Chair Rapozo: I have three (3) more.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Yes, we will stay on the Department of Parks & Recreation, and then take our caption break.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you. The next one is Position No. 1541, Electrician Helper, five hundred forty-six (546), \$61,016.

Council Chair Rapozo moved to eliminate Position No. 1541, Electrician Helper and related benefits in the Department of Parks & Recreation-Facilities Maintenance, seconded by Councilmember Kagawa.

Mr. Rapozo: This is on page 36 through page 40. Since the green box or facilities maintenance has come over to the Department of Parks & Recreation, we looked at trying to help and fill these two (2) positions. Right now, we have only two (2) licensed electricians within facility maintenance. This is where sometimes, as Councilmember Kawakami had alluded to, where experience within government, as well as you need to be creative...now, the electrical industry is such that it is a better-paying industry outside of government, even though the benefits of government are better. In order to attract electricians, it has been very difficult, as it shows by the amount and the days that it has been vacant. You have to be creative and sometimes for government, you have to go out and go get it. One young man, who is trying to improve himself, went on his own and got the education that he needed to be an electrician; however, he still retains his Maintenance Worker status within the County. Again, as HR had talked about earlier, we have a training agreement in place and I just need to work with the union. Hopefully that will happen next week Thursday at our next meeting, where they will agree to the training agreement and this person will have enough hours working under the licensed electrician of the County that he will be able to take the test somewhere in August and he will become the electrician. Meanwhile, HR will re-describe one of these electrician positions to a Maintenance Worker position. Right now, maintenance is impacted because this young man is in a Maintenance Worker position, trying to fulfill hours as an electrician. That way, Maintenance will be able to continue their work that they need with the warm body. When he passes and gets his license, we will re-describe the Maintenance Worker position into an Electrician's position.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Kagawa.

Councilmember Kagawa: Lenny, we have been down this before with the Buildings Division, that part of the problem is that it is difficult to get people from the private sector for plumbing and electricians because the County pay is significantly less. I thought that the last time we were talking with Doug, I believe, that he was going to try to work with the United Public Workers (UPW) union to structure it a little better so we have a little better chance. We have good benefits at the County, like the twenty-one (21) days sick-leave and twenty-one (21) days of vacation, but if the salary is three (3) times less, then we almost have no chance to grab them. These innovative ways that you are trying to get people that have been performing a job, even though they are not, is the reason why you need this position.

Mr. Rapozo: Yes.

Councilmember Kagawa: Thank you.

Mr. Rapozo: I think we made considerable progress considering we have had them since July. It is not just me; we have to beat the bush. It is our Division Chief who is also out there trying, because it only helps him in completing the work that we have to complete.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Brun.

Councilmember Brun: For my question, which I think you touched on it, but you need this Maintenance Worker position as well?

Mr. Rapozo: Yes.

Councilmember Brun: So you need that, too?

Mr. Rapozo: Yes.

Councilmember Brun: Okay. That is what I was going to ask.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any further questions? If not, I will bring the meeting back to order. Any final discussion? Council Chair Rapozo.

Council Chair Rapozo: It is a general discussion. We have heard so many different discussions with reclassifying this and reclassifying that, and reallocating this and reallocating that. I guess I am just uncomfortable with that and I would rather they come here when they want to do positions. Honestly, I am not the brightest star in the sky, but I am not the dumbest one either, but I am having a hard time grasping what is being done. That is just me. I feel uncomfortable. Five hundred (500) days, six hundred (600) days, or eight hundred (800) days—all of a sudden, there are all of these plans. I would much rather have the departments come here when they are ready. Again, it does not take five hundred (500) days to create a position. Let us put it that way. I would much rather see the departments come to us when they are ready, not when they are speculating if the person is going to pass the test. In the meantime, \$61,000 is hiding someplace in some account, and then we are talking about raising somebody's taxes. I am going to

support the cuts. I understand and appreciate what the Administration is trying to do, but I do not have a good handle on these. When they come to us with a budget with “x” amount of positions and position titles, that is what we are telling the public we are going pay for this year. When you look at the budget next year, it is completely different with different positions, different classes, different rankings, and different salaries. I would feel comfortable if we just bring it home and have them come here when they are ready. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Kawakami.

Councilmember Kawakami: I think to add on to that, I completely agree. This is not directed to you, Lenny, but to the Administration and how we operate in general. I think what the Council is asking for is some sort of business partnership to operate like a team, because I think what is happening is there is some uneasiness when we see reallocations without the common courtesy of the communication that is involved in keeping us in the loop. Let us face it—ninety-nine percent (99%) of the conflicts are all just miscommunication; just the heads up that, “Hey, this is a dollar-funded position and we are moving somebody here.” Just the courtesy to come to the body or the Chairman to just let him know that these movements are being had, so when budget time comes, we do not get surprised by all of the add-ons that maybe did not get communicated to us. I think it is an exercise in reaching out to let us know about these reallocations. I can see the point where you want to keep the positions because we are in a low-unemployment rate time, so when we do find a recruit, the Administration wants the flexibility to be able to go and hire. Somebody is not going to wait for six (6) weeks with the uncertainty of the Council creating the position or approving the funding. It works both ways. I know you folks want the flexibility, but I think what we are asking for is the communication as to where the money is being moved around. With this kind of justification that is happening, it makes our decision-making easier.

Mr. Rapozo: If I can just mention, Councilmember Kawakami, Section 19 of the budget does require HR to provide that information to you. There are three (3) reports that come through to the Council regarding reallocations throughout the year.

Councilmember Kawakami: Okay.

Council Chair Rapozo: It just shows the moves. There is no explanation, justification, or clarification. It says reallocation, this position to that position and that is it. There is no real...we can put it on the agenda and have that discussion, but I really do not want to do that; that is just a waste of time. I think what Councilmember Kawakami is saying is that in some of these that actually change the whole complexion of the department, maybe more narrative might be important. I think that is what I am hearing.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Maybe we look at those a little closer and if we have questions, we will put them in the Budget & Finance Committee or something like that. That is on the sheet that has new hires, promotions; it is a whole big sheet with reallocations on it also. Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: I just want to say that in times of high employment, it is really hard to get people in the trades to hire them in the County and I

think this is a really creative way. It is allowing a person with great initiative to move up and fill a need. To me, it is a very commendable approach that you are taking.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any final discussion? Councilmember Brun.

There being no objections, the meeting was called back to order, and proceeded as follows:

Councilmember Brun: For me, I like the explanation and I like what we are trying to do. I understand the Chair's point also, but like I said, I have only been here for six (6) months and I am going to hold this to you, Lenny. If we come back next year and we have two (2) Assistants to the Director of Parks & Recreation at \$95,000, then we have an issue. I like what you are trying to do and I like trying to move people within. That is why I am not going to support this cut. Like I said, I am new, so if I am being lied to here, we are going to figure it out next year in budget. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any final discussion? Roll call vote.

The motion to eliminate Position No. 1541, Electrician Helper and related benefits in the Department of Parks & Recreation-Facilities Maintenance was then put, and failed by the following vote:

FOR MOTION:	Rapozo	TOTAL – 1,
AGAINST MOTION:	Brun, Chock, Kagawa, Kawakami, Yukimura, Kaneshiro	TOTAL – 6,
EXCUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0,
RECUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: 1:6, motion fails.

Council Chair Rapozo: If this is going to be an exercise in futility, maybe we should just end it, because it does not seem like...

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: It all depends.

Council Chair Rapozo: It is what it is, and I know it is a difficult decision, but I thought we agreed that we were going to make the difficult decisions. The next one is Elect-Electronic Equip Repairer, one thousand three hundred eighty-five (1,385) days, dollar-funded position.

Council Chair Rapozo moved to eliminate Position No. 1856, Elec-Electronic Equip Repairer in the Department of Parks & Recreation-Facilities Maintenance, seconded by Councilmember Kagawa.

Mr. Rapozo: My explanation was included in...again, the Maintenance Worker is going to do it. For the Helper, we have someone in mind that wants to come home and he is taking the test in May and will probably pass it. The one that wants to come home is a Kaua'i boy. We have done our outreach and tried to get what we explained.

Council Chair Rapozo: One thousand three hundred eighty-five (1,385) days.

Mr. Rapozo: Yes.

Councilmember Yukimura: Is this position needed?

Mr. Rapozo: Yes. We cannot fulfill the County's electrical needs as it is. I know it is a big number and I only can attest to what we have done since July 1, 2016, and understanding the needs of what we are responsible for in the Department of Parks & Recreation, translating to try and be creative to attract the talent to come and work for the County.

Councilmember Yukimura: So July 1, 2016 is when it was...

Mr. Rapozo: That is when Facility Maintenance came under the Department of Parks & Recreation.

Councilmember Yukimura: I see.

Mr. Rapozo: Seeing how the electricians are struggling, meaning that we do not have enough electricians to service the entire County's needs.

Councilmember Yukimura: Okay.

Mr. Rapozo: We have to do something, right? We have to try to be creative.

Councilmember Yukimura: Okay.

Ms. Rapozo: Just for clarification, we currently have two (2) Electricians. The position we discussed before, plus this one, are both in the electrical field as well. What they are doing is one is the Maintenance Worker becoming an Electrician, and the other one is being converted down to an Electrician Helper so that we can bring somebody onboard at a lower level and train them.

*(Councilmember Kagawa was noted as not present.)*

Councilmember Yukimura: Oh, so you are still only going to have two (2) Electricians?

Ms. Rapozo: No, plus these two (2). Two (2) are already working and these two (2) would be four (4).

Councilmember Yukimura: Okay, you have two (2) Electricians...

Mr. Rapozo: Licensed. One is working to get his license in August and downgrading one to get one onboard so that he can also get his license.

Councilmember Yukimura: Okay, but then you have two (2) others that are already filled...you have two (2) that are filled and working and they are licensed electricians?

Mr. Rapozo: Yes.

Councilmember Yukimura: Then you have two (2) positions that are in transition.

Ms. Rapozo: These two (2) right here, Position No. 1541 and Position No. 1856.

*(Councilmember Kawakami was noted as not present.)*

Councilmember Yukimura: Okay, so this is a downgrade?

Ms. Rapozo: The first one, the Electrician Equipment Helper.

Councilmember Yukimura: Position No. 1856?

Ms. Rapozo: Position No. 1541 is showing as an Electrician Helper.

Mr. Rapozo: That one is a downgrade.

Ms. Rapozo: That is the downgrade to try to recruit at an entry-level.

Councilmember Yukimura: The one we just dealt with?

Mr. Rapozo: Yes.

Councilmember Yukimura: Is the downgrade to a Helper?

Ms. Rapozo: Correct.

Councilmember Yukimura: For this one, you are going to get a licensed Electrician?

Ms. Rapozo: I believe this is the one you are doing the switch, right?

Mr. Rapozo: Correct.

Ms. Rapozo: The prior explanation was actually for this position.

Councilmember Yukimura: But is this is a licensed position or not?

Ms. Rapozo: It is. So they are going to switch with the Maintenance Worker, the explanation right before, so it will become licensed.

Councilmember Yukimura: Okay. The end result is that you are going to have one (1) licensed and one (1) helper?

Ms. Rapozo: Until the Helper gets to the point of getting licensed, correct, with these two (2) vacancies.

Councilmember Yukimura: There will be two (2) licensed Electricians ultimately to add to the other two (2) that you have.

Mr. Rapozo: Correct.

Councilmember Yukimura: Okay. All of this is open recruitment and testing?

Ms. Rapozo: For the Helper. The Helper is entry-level. I am not sure if there is a testing or if it is just experience.

Councilmember Yukimura: But this one, which has been open one thousand (1,000) days, that is right now before us to make decisions on...I know...

Mr. Rapozo: That one has been ongoing...there is an ongoing recruitment for that one.

Councilmember Yukimura: It just has not been...I know you said that somebody is coming home, which is good, but we just want to make sure that it is not a position made for one (1) person.

Mr. Rapozo: No, it has been an ongoing recruitment position that has never been filled.

Councilmember Yukimura: Very good. Thank you very much.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any further questions? Council Chair Rapozo.

Council Chair Rapozo: So for Position No. 1856, we do not have any applications right now?

Ms. Rapozo: No, it has been continuous recruitment and no one has applied.

Council Chair Rapozo: Does "continuous recruitment" mean only on the website? Do we put anything in the paper or anything like that?

Ms. Rapozo: It does go out in the paper periodically.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you.

Councilmember Yukimura: I have one more question.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: So for the size of the County that we are and the number of facilities that we have and everything, four (4) Electricians is reasonable or it fits the standard of other counties?

Mr. Rapozo: I am going to say "yes." I have not been fully-staffed and I am hoping that answer will be "yes."

Councilmember Yukimura: What we should all be doing is defining what "fully-staffed" means, which means we ask, "Are these positions needed?" There is enough electrical work to be done by four (4) people, four (4) Electricians?

Mr. Rapozo: Yes.

Councilmember Yukimura: Okay. So say they do one (1) repair and then they are called back because they overlook something, do we have a system where it is usually completed on the first repair?

Mr. Rapozo: Yes.

Councilmember Yukimura: Okay. Very good. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any further questions regarding this dollar-funded position? If not, I will bring it back to discussion. From my standpoint, I remember us having a lot of discussion on this during the budget. I think it was real clear to me that we always had a difficult time getting electricians and that was the need for some of these types of movements. I am comfortable with what they have done. Again, with the Sunshine Law, we do not know what is being cut. I am not going to bring my notes from our meetings either because our desks would be crowded. When we ask questions, let us try to get them to a point. I think right after this we will take our ten-minute caption break. Any further discussion on this position? If not, roll call vote.

There being no objections, the meeting was called back to order, and proceeded as follows:

The motion to eliminate Position No. 1856, Elec-Electronic Equip Repairer in the Department of Parks & Recreation-Facilities Maintenance was then put, and failed by the following vote:

FOR MOTION:	Kagawa, Kawakami, Rapozo	TOTAL – 3*
AGAINST MOTION:	Brun, Chock, Yukimura, Kaneshiro	TOTAL – 4,
EXCUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0,
RECUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0.

(\*Pursuant to Rule No. 5(b) of the Rules of the Council of the County of Kaua'i, Councilmember Kagawa and Councilmember Kawakami were noted as silent (not present), but shall be recorded as an affirmative vote for the motion.)

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: 3:4, motion fails.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Just to confirm, Council Chair, do you have any more for the Department of Parks & Recreation?

Council Chair Rapozo: No, there is no sense.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: We will take a ten-minute caption and come back.

There being no objections, the meeting recessed at 11:29 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 11:43 a.m., and proceeded as follows:

*(Councilmember Kagawa was noted as present.)*

*(Councilmember Kawakami was noted as present.)*

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Welcome back. We are still on our cuts. Council Chair Rapozo, do you have more cuts?

Council Chair Rapozo: Yes. From the Planning Department, Position No. 2027, four hundred seventy-one (471) days, \$70,395.

Council Chair Rapozo moved to eliminate Position No. 2027, Planner IV and related benefits in the Planning Department, seconded by Councilmember Kagawa.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any questions or discussion questions? Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: Do you need this position?

There being no objections, the rules were suspended.

MICHAEL A. DAHILIG, Planning Director: For the record, Mike Dahilig. Yes, we do need the position. Let me give a little bit of background on what the position entails. In December of 2015, as well as in 2014, we have been coupled with judicial mandates concerning historic preservation compliance with quasi-judicial permits. Namely, these are the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) ruling that came down in 2015, as well as the Kaua'i Springs ruling that came down in 2014. It has placed a higher burden of proof on our department to show compliance with sixty (60) requirements, as well as historic preservation and cultural Hawaiian compliance with our determinations in-house. We had asked for an additional position in fiscal year 2017, this current budget. When we went through internal budget reviews with the Mayor's staff, they had indicated to us a desire to actually have the responsibilities of that position coupled with a vacancy that was created by a promotion in January of 2016. We went through the Historic Preservation Commission to create what was called the "selective certification." So on top of a Planner IV, which we downgraded from a V, it went to a IV, we created a selective certification to attempt to obtain somebody that was qualified in the area of historic

preservation and 6D compliance. We went out for recruitment in March of 2016, and in April of 2016, we had no eligible recruits available. Through that budget process that was going at the same time, we ended up getting nine-month funded for the position. So we delayed recruitment on the position until July of 2016 and kept that as a continuous recruitment. By the time December rolled around, we did not have a list that met the amount of eligibles necessary to actually start recruitment at that point. We returned back to the Historic Preservation Commission to say, "Look, we cannot hire at that pay and at that qualification. Can we instead remove the selective certification and instead recruit for a broader range of planners?" So we put out recruitments for Planner II, III, and IV without the selective certification, upon which time we were notified that we had enough eligibles in the Planner II to move forward. We had requested to the Human Resources to downgrade the position from a IV to a II, and we are in the process right now of obtaining a list. Our strategy to meet this need is to essentially take care of it by training up a lower-level Planner in-house to try to meet our requirements. As such, because the reallocation has gone through, we believe it is appropriate to Position No. 2027 downgraded from an SR-22 to SR-18, reflecting a salary of \$43,428 and we believe that is appropriate given the personnel moves we just made recently.

Councilmember Yukimura: So you are saying that you would downgrade to what?

Mr. Dahilig: Planner II.

Councilmember Yukimura: Does the Planner II position require planning experience?

Mr. Dahilig: Yes it does.

Councilmember Yukimura: Planning background or college degree?

Mr. Dahilig: It requires a Bachelor's Degree in a Planning-related field, along with one (1) year of work experience.

Councilmember Yukimura: Okay. Are you saying that if it is kept then we can actually make it for less money or is this \$70,000 what a Planner II would get?

Mr. Dahilig: The \$50,772 was what the Planner IV was getting and that is what we recruited at, but because we have not been able to obtain somebody that was qualified with the selective certification or qualified just without the selective certification, we tried to go for somebody that was less qualified and trying a strategy to train that person up versus hiring at the qualification we need.

Councilmember Yukimura: I am just trying to understand the budgetary parameters if it is at Planner II.

Mr. Dahilig: So it would be a reduction of \$7,344 in our overall budget.

Councilmember Yukimura: \$7,344?

- Mr. Dahilig: Just for salaries without the fringe cost.
- Councilmember Yukimura: So instead of \$50,772, it would be minus \$7,344?
- Mr. Dahilig: Yes, to reflect \$43,428 and that is just on the salary line.
- Councilmember Yukimura: Okay.
- Mr. Dahilig: We would understand a corresponding Rate Adjustment Procedures (PRORET) adjustment on the benefits line as well.
- Councilmember Yukimura: So you are getting a list right now and would train in-house. What is your projected time on getting somebody onboard?
- Mr. Dahilig: We have the list pending this reallocation down to the lower level.
- Councilmember Yukimura: Oh, you mean there is an existing list?
- Mr. Dahilig: We need it to go through that reallocation to obtain the list.
- Councilmember Yukimura: Okay. So there is an existing list that you will be working from once the reallocation is finalized?
- Mr. Dahilig: Yes.
- Councilmember Yukimura: Thank you.
- Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Council Chair Rapozo.
- Council Chair Rapozo: Mike, when did all of that happen? When was the decision to downgrade that position made?
- Mr. Dahilig: We made that decision to downgrade, I would say, during the last couple of months. We went out for recruitment again in December of 2016 without the selective certification and the bandwidth of planners because we have had a difficulty trying to attract qualified planners at the higher levels.
- Council Chair Rapozo: That seems to be the theme today. I am glad that the police do not follow that recommendation where you cannot get them here, we just go down until we can find somebody to hire. The Supplemental Budget does not reflect that.
- Mr. Dahilig: Right.
- Council Chair Rapozo: Any reason why?

Mr. Dahilig: Because the downgrade was finally approved last week. We submitted it ahead of time, but we had to go through the approvals.

Council Chair Rapozo: I guess this one is for HR, but is there any way of knowing how many positions came across or on this existing budget that there are plans to downgrade positions? Is there any way of figuring that out?

Ms. Rapozo: No, actually what we did from March 15 to the May 8 submittal is that every change that was made or was upcoming that we were aware of, we made the changes in the budget.

Council Chair Rapozo: But you were not aware of this one?

Ms. Rapozo: No.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any further questions from the Members? If not, I will call the meeting back to order. Any discussion? Council Chair Rapozo.

There being no objections, the meeting was called back to order, and proceeded as follows:

Council Chair Rapozo: I guess for me, my position will remain. I think there are just a lot of plans to restructure our departments. I do not expect them to tell me what the recruiting efforts were over the last four hundred seventy-one (471) days...I do not know how much effort was really put into trying to recruit a Planner IV. Again, I am just not comfortable with all of these movements and it is showing up in the Supplemental Budget Decision-Making. It is just very uncomfortable for me. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any final discussion from the Members? Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: I am thinking that Planning does need another Planner; that is pretty clear to me. I am hoping that there will be a lot more attention to implementation of plans, but that is a lot of work to do, both planning and implementation. To me, the position is needed and that is where I stand.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Okay. Any further questions? I do not know how the votes are going to go, but we did hear that they plan to have this amount reduced. I do not know...depending on how this goes if somebody wants to do a proposal to reduce it.

Council Chair Rapozo: Somebody can make that amendment right there. I do not have the numbers. I can amend it. What is the number?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: We can take a vote on this or withdraw.

Councilmember Yukimura: You can withdraw it, Chair.

Council Chair Rapozo: If I withdraw it, then the position stays. You want to change it.

Councilmember Yukimura: Yes, you are right, the position stays.

Council Chair Rapozo: I know. However you want to do it...I will just withdraw this.

Council Chair Rapozo withdrew the motion to eliminate Position No. 2027, Planner IV and related benefits in the Planning Department, Councilmember Kagawa withdrew the second.

Councilmember Kagawa moved to reallocate Position No. 2027, Planner IV and related benefits to Planner II (SR-18) in the Planning Department, seconded by Councilmember Yukimura.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any questions or discussions? Roll call vote.

The motion to reallocate Position No. 2027, Planner IV and related benefits to Planner II (SR-18) in the Planning Department was then put, and carried by the following vote:

FOR MOTION:	Brun, Chock, Kagawa, Kawakami, Rapozo, Yukimura, Kaneshiro	TOTAL – 7,
AGAINST MOTION:	None	TOTAL – 0,
EXCUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0,
RECUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: Seven (7) ayes.

Council Chair Rapozo: The next one is Building Permit Clerk, Position No. 1439, seven hundred seventy-nine (779) days vacant.

Council Chair Rapozo moved to eliminate Position No. 1439, Building Permit Clerk in the Department of Public Works, Building Division, seconded by Councilmember Kagawa.

There being no objections, the rules were suspended.

LYLE TABATA, Acting County Engineer: Lyle Tabata, Acting County Engineer. Good morning. As I stated in our budget presentation, this position is a fallback for us in the efforts for the Buildings Division of the Department of Public Works to save on General Fund. We have been using the Revolving Fund that is drawn from building permits, the Building Permit Revolving Fund. In that manner, we are able to fund the positions using that fund versus the General Fund. Then we dollar-funded this position so that we have a placeholder in case the Revolving Fund should it run out and we have to then fund it through the General Fund. It is just a placeholder position. Hearing the discussion on the floor, we track our fund monthly, so we know exactly where we stand, plus or minus.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: Do you have a warm body in there right now?

Mr. Tabata: No, but we have people...yes, we have a body meaning it is being funded through the Building Revolving Fund.

Councilmember Yukimura: So you do have a warm body?

Mr. Tabata: Not in this dollar-funded position. It is in a Building Revolving Fund temporary position, doing that function.

Council Chair Rapozo: But you are using this number?

Mr. Tabata: No, this is just a placeholder for fallback in case the Revolving Fund should fall.

Council Chair Rapozo: But you would know ahead of time, right?

Mr. Tabata: We would have to then look for funds anyway to recover it.

Council Chair Rapozo: Right.

Mr. Tabata: So we would still have to come through the same action.

Councilmember Yukimura: So do you need this dollar-funded position?

Mr. Tabata: It is a "safety blanket" thing for us that if we need it, then we would come back to the body to fund it with the General Fund. So we would have to then come back to fund a whole position.

Councilmember Yukimura: The Revolving Fund is to help where the demand for permits or the permit applications get, in time of high construction, big projects, like a hotel or something...you need the building processing and inspection, right? When you need that, then you have this dollar-funded position and you can just put somebody in there using your Revolving Fund moneys?

Mr. Tabata: No. This is the permanent position. Right now, we are use the Revolving Fund and temporary positions to meet our needs.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Brun.

Councilmember Brun: So it will take the same amount of time to come back for money to create another position, right?

Mr. Tabata: I believe so, correct.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any further questions? If not, any discussion?  
Councilmember Kagawa.

Councilmember Kagawa: I go either way on this, but for me, it is one of the major functions. He is trying to process these permits on time. We get complaints sometimes. Sometimes I ask people who just pulled and it is okay, it was not too long, but I think just a safety net for management and I think this is a function that I have raised a lot of questions on. If having this position open allows Lyle folks to sometimes meet the problem areas that are described then I would be okay with just leaving this in. I will vote against it. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: I will just withdraw. I am going through my list right now. I am just going to save everybody a lot of time.

Councilmember Yukimura: We might have the vote.

Council Chair Rapozo: And we may not. I do not want to waste anybody's time.

Council Chair Rapozo withdrew the motion to eliminate Position No. 1439, Building Permit Clerk in the Department of Public Works, Building Division, Councilmember Kagawa withdrew the second.

Council Chair Rapozo: I think asking them, "Do you need this position" is one of the most foolish questions, and then it goes into this whole story. I am just going to take out a couple of these, and for the rest, we will just move on. I know everybody is tired. Let us go to Auto Maintenance, Position No. 1342, Highway Vehicle & Construction Equipment Mechanic, two thousand seven hundred thirty-eight (2,738) days. I would like to hear this one.

Council Chair Rapozo moved to eliminate Position No. 1342, Highway Vehicle & Construction Equipment Mechanic I and related benefits in the Department of Public Works-Auto Maintenance, and return savings to the Highway Fund Balance, seconded by Councilmember Kagawa.

*(Councilmember Yukimura was noted as excused.)*

Mr. Tabata: Thank you for bringing this up and allowing me to explain. As was presented in my budget presentation, over the last year, have had multiple issues with keeping up with the repairs of our heavy equipment. We relooked at the structure and our personnel and how we use our personnel, and in-line with trying to get more as mechanics on the floor, wrenching, we decided to take this position, which was previously identified as the Body Fender Repair Worker, and we had not been able to fill this position for lack of applicants. So we decided, "Well, we need a wrench on the floor," so we presented in the budget to reallocate this position for the Body Fender to this Heavy Equipment Mechanic, where we are severely lacking wrench time on the floor. That explains the long amount of days, but in actuality, since we just reallocated and are trying to fill, I would like to say that I am ready to hire somebody, because I recently hired to fill another mechanic vacancy and there were two (2) excellent candidates. Right now, HR put the brakes on me, because I asked, "Okay, we reallocated. I would like to hire." But we

wanted to come before the body and get approval for the change in the budget, because I presented it as part of my budget discussion. I am ready to hire as soon as I get approval. We interviewed and I have to say that we have two (2) excellent candidates. We hired one for the previous vacancy, and if I was allowed to, I would hire the second person.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Council Chair Rapozo.

Council Chair Rapozo: So this was the Body Fender Repair Worker?

Mr. Tabata: Yes, which we had ongoing posting and never had any applicants. So with the crisis we felt we were in or we have seen, my presentation was to reallocate this to be the Heavy Equipment Mechanic so that I can get another working body on the floor.

Council Chair Rapozo: So how do we deal with the damaged cars now?

Mr. Tabata: We have one (1) Body Fender Repair Worker.

Council Chair Rapozo: In Kapa'a?

Mr. Tabata: No, he is based in Lihu'e. The paint shop is in Kapa'a, so they do the repairs and when they want to go paint, we take it to Kapa'a to paint.

Council Chair Rapozo: You folks really have not painted much. I was talking to some of the workers in Kapa'a and they said that they painted two (2) cars in that booth since we built it.

Mr. Tabata: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: So we are not painting. Who is painting our cars?

Mr. Tabata: Majority of the time, we just do...how can I characterize this...if we have damaged fenders, we just remove it and swap them out.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any further questions? If not, I will bring the meeting back to order. Any discussion on this? Roll call vote.

There being no objections, the meeting was called back to order, and proceeded as follows:

The motion to eliminate Position No. 1342, Highway Vehicle & Construction Equipment Mechanic I and related benefits in the Department of Public Works-Auto Maintenance, and return savings to the Highway Fund Balance was then put, and failed by the following vote:

FOR MOTION:	Rapozo	TOTAL – 1,
AGAINST MOTION:	Brun, Chock, Kagawa, Kawakami, Kaneshiro	TOTAL – 5,
EXCUSED & NOT VOTING:	Yukimura	TOTAL – 1,
RECUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: In all fairness to Councilmember Yukimura, I lost track of time. She said she had to leave at 12:00 p.m.

Council Chair Rapozo: I apologize.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: No problem. We got through one more. We are going to take a one-hour lunch break. We will be back at 1:05 p.m., roughly.

There being no objections, the meeting recessed at 12:04 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 1:08 p.m., and proceeded as follows:

*(Councilmember Yukimura was noted as present.)*

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Welcome back. We are still on cuts. Council Chair Rapozo, do you have another cut?

Council Chair Rapozo: Yes. The next one is Hanapēpē Baseyard, Department of Public Works, Position No. 939, Laborer II, one thousand one hundred fifty-four (1,154) days.

Council Chair Rapozo moved to eliminate Position No. 939, Laborer II in the Department of Public Works-Hanapēpē Baseyard, and return savings to the Highway Fund Balance, seconded by Councilmember Kagawa.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any questions or comments on this dollar-funded position? Councilmember Kagawa.

Councilmember Kagawa: I just have one question, Lyle. I know when we went with the automated trash pick-up, we freed up some workers to instead do other duties, so I was just wondering with the automated trash pick-up, have those guys replaced some of the...or added to some of the work that was going on, so maybe this position can be just eliminated?

There being no objections, the rules were suspended.

Mr. Tabata: Thank you. Lyle Tabata, Acting County Engineer. Councilmember Kagawa, good question—part of the reorganization and completing the total automation of the island, the refuse section of the Roads Division was carved out and transferred permanently to the Solid Waste Division. So what we have is the refuse operation be less dependent on refuse for support. The people who came off of the back of the truck are now what we have identified or reclassified as “Solid Waste Workers” and they are used to supplement the needs for the Solid Waste Division and fill vacancies. For the Roads Division, however, since we did just complete movement of the

refuse section out of Roads, we have identified that this dollar-funded position...we were trying to do our part in the Department of Public Works to not fill positions to meet the budget needs. Presently, we are trying to bring this position back and we ask for it to be funded. That was our way of trying to meet the budgetary needs.

Councilmember Kagawa: So you asked for it to be funded, but it was not funded?

Mr. Tabata: No. By the way, this is also just a Highway Fund funded position. This is not a General Fund position.

Councilmember Kagawa: Okay. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any further questions? If not, I will bring this meeting back to order. Any final comments or discussion on this position? Roll call vote.

The motion to eliminate Position No. 939, Laborer II in the Department of Public Works-Hanapēpē Baseyard, and return savings to the Highway Fund Balance was then put, and failed by the following vote:

FOR MOTION:	Brun, Chock, Rapozo	TOTAL – 3,
AGAINST MOTION:	Kagawa, Kawakami, Yukimura, Kaneshiro	TOTAL – 4,
EXCUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0,
RECUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: 3:4.

Council Chair Rapozo: The next one is Laborer I, Hanapēpē Baseyard, six hundred thirty-nine (639) days vacant, \$55,513.

Council Chair Rapozo moved to eliminate Position No. 1990, Laborer I and related benefits in the Department of Public Works-Hanapēpē Baseyard, and return savings to the Highway Fund Balance, seconded by Councilmember Kagawa.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: I will suspend the rules.

There being no objections, the rules were suspended.

Mr. Tabata: This position, fortunately, is in the process of hiring. We have selected and are in the process of onboarding an employee.

Council Chair Rapozo: When is that anticipated for? When is the start date?

Mr. Tabata: HR has been really good on supporting us. I believe that within two (2) weeks we should have somebody, contingent on the physical.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay.

Council Chair Rapozo withdrew the motion to eliminate Position No. 1990, Laborer I and related benefits in the Department of Public Works-Hanapēpē Baseyard, and return savings to the Highway Fund Balance, Councilmember Kagawa withdrew the second.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro:           Okay. Next.

Council Chair Rapozo:                The next one is Position No. 1932, Landfill Operations Assistant, four hundred seventy-one (471) days, \$63,187.

Council Chair Rapozo moved to eliminate Position No. 1932, Landfill Operations Assistant and related benefits in the Department of Public Works-Solid Waste Disposal and return savings to the General Fund, seconded by Councilmember Kagawa.

Mr. Tabata:                            I will defer to Keith Suga, who has been working very closely with the Solid Waste Division.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro:        Any questions on this cut?   Councilmember Kagawa.

Councilmember Kagawa:            What is the status?

KEITH SUGA, Department of Public Works:    The current status is this has been going through the 105 consultation with UPW and this position is to establish a working supervisor at the landfill. Since I have been engaged with UPW recently, maybe for the past three (3) to four (4) months, I can say that conversations with UPW have been going really well. I had a most recent meeting with them about a week and a half ago and this was one of the items up for discussion, and working through with them, we provided the sufficient information that they can move forward with approval. I think we are very close to getting UPW's approval, which then would allow us to recruit for this position, finally.

Councilmember Kagawa:            I am going to say this because I am hearing it more and more often, like some of the times they say, "Well, we are having trouble getting the job done because the working supervisor is out," on vacation or whatever. So I am thinking that when a job has to get done, regardless of who is out, if you work and the person above you is not there, you still have to do the work. Sometimes it gets to this, "The supervisor position is not there," so that leads to the excuse of why the job does not get done. I do not know how we convey that to the employees, but I think we should have ramifications. If your supervisor is not there, it does not mean you have an excuse not to do anything. I am kind of hearing some of this, like, "Well, it is because the working supervisor position has been taken away or is not there." When the supervisor is not there, there is another manager above the supervisor that can tell them what to do. Can that be corrected a little bit?

Mr. Suga:                                Good point. We agree with you. At the landfill, there is a worksite supervisor that also manages the overall operations and works with Waste Management. Yes, absolutely, that should not be an excuse by the workers.

Councilmember Kagawa: It seems to be the union's excuse a lot of times. I can understand for the union that for every job there is, they want to create another supervisor or a sub-supervisor. To some extent, that is fine, but do not make that as an excuse for the job not getting done. Even if you are the lowest person on the totem pole, you should be taught that if this person is out, you are going to help do this. That is just how it goes in order to function like a business. If the manager is out sick, they are not going to close Kentucky Fried Chicken, right?

Mr. Suga: Absolutely.

Councilmember Kagawa: The workers are still going to serve chicken.  
Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Brun.

Councilmember Brun: So nobody is in this position right now?

Mr. Suga: Correct.

Councilmember Brun: Is somebody being temporarily assigned to this position right now?

Mr. Suga: Not at this time.

Councilmember Brun: Okay, so it is just an add-on position?

Mr. Suga: It is an existing position that resides in the Landfill Operations Assistant class. So with the discussions we are having with UPW, the 105 Consultation is to establish the working supervisor position. Right now, it is a vacant position.

Councilmember Brun: Okay.

Mr. Tabata: If I may add, just to address Councilmember Kagawa's concern, we feel that a working supervisor at the site will help us become more effective in our operation.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Council Chair Rapozo.

Council Chair Rapozo: This is Kekaha Landfill?

Mr. Suga: Correct.

Council Chair Rapozo: This assistant position after the 105 Consultation is not going to be an assistant position; it is going to be reallocated?

Mr. Suga: Correct.

Council Chair Rapozo: Now you understand the frustration, because in the budget it does not say that. If I did not ask this question, we would never know that. But the intent of your department is to create a new supervisor position?

Mr. Suga: A new working supervisor position at the landfill, correct.

Council Chair Rapozo: What is that pay?

Mr. Suga: WS12.

Mr. Tabata: WS7?

Ms. Rapozo: WS11.

Mr. Tabata: Okay.

Mr. Suga: I do not know the exact number.

Council Chair Rapozo: We should know that because we are trying to get through this budget. Anyway, I am not going to beat the dead horse. What is that pay going to be?

Mr. Tabata: So a WS10 is \$57,372.

Council Chair Rapozo: What is W11?

Mr. Tabata: Sorry, I do not know.

Council Chair Rapozo: Well, obviously more than \$57,000, plus benefits.

Mr. Tabata: Sorry, I have it.

Council Chair Rapozo: I hope my colleagues understand my frustration now and I hope they are finally seeing the picture because there are a lot of positions I tossed on the side, because I do not want to go through this agonizing experience. I heard you say earlier that you already have a site supervisor out there.

Mr. Suga: There is an overall worksite supervisor, Hawai'i Government Employees Association (HGEA) employee, correct.

Council Chair Rapozo: How many people work at the landfill?

Mr. Suga: On any given day, the minimum manpower requirement is seven (7).

Council Chair Rapozo: So you have a site supervisor who is going to supervise the working supervisor, who is going to supervise six (6) people?

Mr. Suga: That would be the structure.

Mr. Tabata: WS11 is \$59,580.

Council Chair Rapozo: So \$59,000 minus \$45,000 is \$14,000 plus benefits. To me, anyway, it is a significant increase. Maybe it is just me. Maybe I am just too critical.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Kawakami.

Councilmember Kawakami: Chairman, I do not think you are being too critical. I think we have identified, and hopefully the Administration can kind of sense...we are just asking them to walk a mile in our shoes, and I do not think you folks are doing this with any type of insidious intent, but you have to understand the sense of frustration that we face on this side of the railing. It is almost like my wife tells me, "Hey Sweetie, I am going to the store. Do you need anything?" I say, "Yes. I need a can of tomato soup for the spaghetti that I am making." Then she also comes home with shoes. The next time I give her money to send her to the store to buy tomato soup, I am going to be like, "What is she going to come home with?" Not to be funny, but I just want to paint a picture. Our job is to appropriate funds, so when we put money behind the position, we are putting it down with the intent of what is being described to us. Then when it comes and it transforms, there is that level of distrust that I do not think is intentional, but if you were to sit here and kind of see what we go through, then I think you folks can sense where the gaps are in the communication of this whole thing. I think this example has identified what we are trying to wrestle with during this budget process.

Mr. Tabata: Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: You could not put it in until you got UPW approval, and then formally created it, right?

Mr. Suga: As I understand it, correct.

Mr. Tabata: If I may, this was one of the initiatives of reorganizing the Solid Waste Division that we embarked on in 2015. We just never got to the point where we got the union to agree with us, so we have been coming back, saying, "We have this plan of how we want to become more effective out there with management on the line by creating these working supervisor positions," because to have one working supervisor right now overseeing our refuse transfer stations and we have four (4) stations, by the time he gets to Hanapēpē, we have an emergency, and then in Hanalei he has to swing around and we lose so much time in the transportation. We are trying to set up this structure whereby we can have more working supervisors and spread the management responsibility over with more people. I believe Keith has taken us to the point where we are right on the cusp of it. If it happened in the middle of the year, we would have come back to you, this body, to get the formal approval.

Councilmember Yukimura: Thank you. I appreciate the effort to be more efficient. It makes sense to me. The one thing that I am a little concerned about is that you

have an on-site supervisor, a working supervisor, and a waste management person. Can you explain that to me?

Mr. Suga: Another way to look at the working supervisor position that is being requested through UPW for us is that the landfill does operate a seven-day a week operation, obviously. The worksite supervisor works five (5) out of those seven (7) days, so this working supervisor would work a staggered schedule so that we can have the appropriate coverage seven (7) days a week. Granted there would be some overlap during other days of the week, but that is also a push to have the proper supervision at the landfill.

Councilmember Yukimura: We know how careful that operation has to be. So you are saying there is an overlap with the on-site supervisor and the working supervisor, but it is partly an arrangement to cover the seven (7) day operation that you do?

Mr. Suga: Correct.

Councilmember Yukimura: Okay. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Brun.

Councilmember Brun: So if the site supervisor is not there, right now, because we do not have working supervisor, then who is the supervisor?

Councilmember Yukimura: You have the site supervisor.

Councilmember Brun: The site supervisor is not there and we do not have a working supervisor.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Let us let the Administration answer.

Councilmember Brun: Who is the supervisor?

Mr. Suga: We have an individual at the landfill being temporarily assigned.

Councilmember Brun: Okay, so on the days that we do not have a supervisor, we could actually temporarily assign that and we do not need this position? Can we TA for that site supervisor, being he is HGEA and the rest is UPW?

Ms. Rapozo: That is one of the concerns, but with the structure right now, that is the only way that we would be able to have a supervisor on site, is someone would have to TA up to the HGEA supervisor. So right now, by creating the worksite supervisor, if the worksite supervisor is not there, it would be blue collar to blue collar TA versus having to TA for the overall worksite supervisor, who is an HGEA employee.

Councilmember Brun: But we can do that?

Ms. Rapozo: We have been doing it, but it is not working really well. UPW has frowned on it. So this is one of the ways to try to address it.

Councilmember Brun: I guess my concern about supervisors is we have been hearing so much about supervisors...we have one thousand two hundred (1,200) employees and it seems like we have five hundred (500) to seven hundred (700) supervisors. I think we have too much supervisors. That is why I am asking that question. It might not be in this department, but just overall, we need more workers to do the work. It is the same thing that I brought up with the police the other day that we need more officers on the street, not officers riding around in cars. We need officers on the street. It is not just you folks.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: I have one question about the TA situation, that means that you have one (1) less person among the workers when you TA.

Mr. Suga: Correct.

Councilmember Yukimura: Okay. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Council Chair Rapozo.

Council Chair Rapozo: You mentioned the transfer station working supervisors, right? Lyle, I think you mentioned that a little while ago.

Mr. Tabata: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is that showing up in our budget?

Mr. Tabata: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: What is that title in the budget? I apologize because I do not have my budget binder with me.

Mr. Suga: "Solid Waste Working Supervisor."

Council Chair Rapozo: It is called that in the Supplemental Budget itself?

Mr. Suga: Yes, Solid Waste Working Supervisor.

Mr. Tabata: At the top of page...

Council Chair Rapozo: Which page are you on?

Mr. Suga: This would be in the Solid Waste Collections, not Solid Waste Disposal.

Mr. Tabata: Page 231.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay. Look on the...

Mr. Tabata: Do you see the top, 810, 1975, 954, and 1917?

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay. On page 226, under Disposal, you are showing a Landfill Worksite Supervisor. I do not know what a F112 is. What is F112?

Ms. Rapozo: That is an HGEA Unit 2 position.

Council Chair Rapozo: Where is that person at?

Mr. Tabata: The landfill.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is that the site supervisor?

Mr. Suga: That is the Landfill Worksite Supervisor, correct.

Council Chair Rapozo: That is the HGEA person?

Mr. Suga: Correct.

Council Chair Rapozo: On page 231, there are four (4) worksite supervisors.

Mr. Suga: There are two (2) worksite supervisors and two (2) working supervisors. The two (2) working supervisors are for the transfer stations.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay, so where are the worksite supervisors?

Mr. Suga: One of the worksite supervisors, 810, is a position that covers the Refuse Collection Operations Automated crews, and then the other worksite supervisor manages or oversees the transfer stations.

Council Chair Rapozo: Where do they operate out of?

Mr. Suga: They are mobile. Again, they cover a lot of ground.

Council Chair Rapozo: Then you go to the Solid Waste Working Supervisor, you have two (2) of those.

Mr. Suga: Correct.

Council Chair Rapozo: Where will they go?

Mr. Suga: One of them has a body in it and currently assigned to the Līhu'e Transfer Station.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay.

Mr. Suga: The other position that you have on your list is the second one that is vacant and the idea is to do reorganization through UPW. That is something we are also working through UPW to establish a second working supervisor for the transfer stations. The idea, right now, in discussion with UPW is to have a district type of situation where we have an east and a west so that we have better coverage amongst the four (4) transfer stations.

Council Chair Rapozo: The position that we are discussing right now that I am proposing to remove is Position No. 1932.

Mr. Suga: Correct.

Council Chair Rapozo: Where does that show up?

Mr. Suga: In the budget, it is covered under Solid Waste Disposal.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Page 226.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay, so this position, Position No. 1932, you are saying that you are going to reallocate it to another working supervisor?

Mr. Suga: That is the current proposal through working with UPW right now.

Council Chair Rapozo: The other two (2) working supervisors that are on page 231, those are already in existence?

Mr. Suga: For the transfer stations, correct.

Council Chair Rapozo: UPW did not have a problem with those?

Mr. Suga: Those were in existence for I do not know how long.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay, so you are going to have three (3) working supervisors if this reallocation goes through?

Mr. Suga: Provided the next position that we go over, because it is in this mix too, the one that you have on your list is one of the working supervisors at the transfer stations that is vacant. Ultimately, if all were approved, yes, we would have three (3) total working supervisors in the Solid Waste Division.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any further questions for the Administration? Seeing none, any discussion? Councilmember Kagawa.

There being no objections, the meeting was called back to order, and proceeded as follows:

Councilmember Kagawa: When Keith came in, amidst a lot of problems, I told Keith that I would support him and he is putting work towards trying to improve efficiency. I think myself and Council Chair Rapozo received a lot of the complaints that occur and a lot of them were from the Kekaha Landfill. We had all kinds of problems going on, but hopefully Keith can minimize some of those calls that we had last year and years before. We had some as ridiculous, like, "The landfill worker, the one who weighs the trucks, called in sick so we have to shut it down for the commercial workers." We had trucks going from the east side, all the way out to Kekaha, burn all of that gas, and find out that they had to turn around, come back home, and wait with that rotten garbage in their truck for the next day. It is those kinds of things that hopefully if we give Keith the support that he wants now then we can judge him on his own merits. I think if we deny things early on when Keith is trying to change things is not going to be fair to him. I appreciate the cut. I think we have too much supervisors all over the place, but then again, maybe that is just the way we have to work. When you have a lot of supervisors all over the place, another section is going to say, "What about us? Why are we not getting treated equally?" I know it becomes a bit of a problem, morale-wise, and we want to have employees happy. I think happy employees are productive employees. It has gotten to the point where if we deny it, we tell Keith that we are not supporting your direction and I think that could be dangerous, because I think he is trying all, whatever percent he got, to try and get things to a better place. As the Committee Chair of the Public Works / Parks & Recreation Committee, I owe it to the public to try and work with Keith going forward.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any further discussion on this? Council Chair.

Council Chair Rapozo: I guess I need to make something very clear. The fact that I am proposing these reductions does not mean that I do not support the direction of this County. That obviously is not the intent. I think Councilmember Kawakami said it much better than me, but this body deserves some courtesy and respect. For us, it takes less time for us to get a new position created than it does for you to get an appointment with the UPW—that I know. This is not saying to toss it away or throw it away. It is saying, "You go back, get your stuff together, and then come to the Council when you have a plan and when you have a focus on what you are going to do, rather than this coming up with a position." Like I said, if this never came up, no one would know. The next budget would have come and we would ask, "Where did this come from?" It happened without us knowing. This is not saying, "No." It is saying, "Regroup and come back when you have a plan and you can tell us what you are going to do." This right now, honestly...I do not know...there is a stack that...just in the interest of time...I plan to pursue separately...there is a stack of them right here that what would we have been told? I am just not going to waste your time. I do not think that is too much to ask for the Administration to be outright, upfront, and tell us, "This is what we are going to do." This is all in the budget hidden and if we did not ask the question, we would never know. I remain committed to having them go back and come back when they are ready. This is \$63,000. You are telling me that they are going to the UPW, meet and confer, get all of the agreements, everything approved, signed, post the position, do the test, list, and interviews, all of that before July 1<sup>st</sup>? Please. All the while, we are trying to get to a number where we will not have to raise property taxes. It is only six (6) weeks that we can get a position and funding. That is on a normal track without an expedited posting. I apologize if I am

upsetting anybody, but I have to feel comfortable when I support this funding, that in fact, the money that we are giving is going to go where you folks are telling us it is going to go and not going to evolve into something different three (3) months from now. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any further comments? If not, roll call.

The motion to eliminate Position No. 1932, Landfill Operations Assistant and related benefits in the Department of Public Works-Solid Waste Disposal and return savings to the General Fund was then put, and failed by the following vote:

FOR MOTION:	Brun, Rapozo	TOTAL – 2,
AGAINST MOTION:	Chock, Kagawa, Kawakami, Yukimura, Kaneshiro	TOTAL – 5,
EXCUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0,
RECUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: 2:5, motion fails.

Council Chair Rapozo: This one is Wastewater, Position No. 1918, Electrical Plant Electrician Trades I, seven hundred fifty-five (755) days, \$88,368.

Council Chair Rapozo moved to eliminate Position No. 1918, Electrical Plant Electrician Trades I and related benefits in the Department of Public Works, Wastewater Division, and return savings to the Solid Waste Fund Balance, seconded by Councilmember Kagawa.

Councilmember Kagawa: I have a process question.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Yes.

Councilmember Kagawa: This question is for the introducer. Chair, is that the General Fund or Sewer Fund?

Council Chair Rapozo: This is Sewer Fund.

Councilmember Kagawa: So this does not trim off some of the fat we are trying to get?

Council Chair Rapozo: Correct. It just replenishes the Sewer Fund.

Councilmember Kagawa: Thank you. I will support this.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any questions? Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: So this is an Electrical Plant Electrician, right?

Mr. Tabata: Yes, the incumbent recently retired and we have an open recruitment going on. Like what we heard this morning from the Department of Parks & Recreation with getting electricians, there are challenges of finding available people. If you notice, the salary rating is a BC15, so we did adjust salaries to make it more

attractive. To-date, we still have not had anybody apply, so right now, we have...how we are addressing this issue is we have an open procurement that whenever we have emergencies, we call a contractor to come in and support us. It is a hard way though because then you cannot take care of the routine weekly, daily maintenance that the plant requires. Wastewater is extremely regulatory in nature, so keeping this available to us, I believe, is important because you never know when somebody is going to walk in and be able to qualify for the position.

Councilmember Yukimura: Theoretically, this is not contributing to Real Property Taxes because it is from the Sewer Fund.

Mr. Tabata: Yes.

Councilmember Yukimura: Can you not procure for routine maintenance, too?

Mr. Tabata: Presently, the maintenance is being supported via the UPW contract. So to make a change to go out and I guess you could say "privatize" the maintenance is a challenge.

Councilmember Yukimura: So you are just doing open procurement for emergency work?

Mr. Tabata: Yes.

Councilmember Yukimura: I see. Okay. How long has this been open?

Mr. Tabata: One hundred twenty-one (121) days.

Councilmember Yukimura: One hundred twenty-one (121) days?

Mr. Tabata: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: I am seeing seven hundred fifty-five (755) days.

Councilmember Yukimura: The Chair has seven hundred fifty-five (755) days.

Council Chair Rapozo: That is what I have on my list that was provided by the Administration.

Councilmember Yukimura: What is the accurate number?

Council Chair Rapozo: No, I am sorry, it is one hundred twenty-one (121) days.

Mr. Tabata: We had two (2) positions previously and with previous budget discussions, that one was eliminated because it was very hard to fill, so we are down to our last position.

Councilmember Yukimura: So the retirement was about one hundred twenty-one (121) days ago?

Mr. Tabata: He left in December.

Councilmember Yukimura: December?

Mr. Tabata: Okay.

Council Chair Rapozo: I will withdraw that one.

Councilmember Kagawa: I had a question.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Kagawa.

Councilmember Kagawa: So this Electrician is assigned to all of the sewer plants?

Mr. Tabata: Yes.

Councilmember Kagawa: I would think so. It is not like there is always the need to replace bulbs, right?

Mr. Tabata: The work is a little more detailed because the wastewater treatment plants are an industrial operation, so we have many multiple phased motors and switch gear systems that beyond just say a facility maintenance.

Councilmember Kagawa: Maintenance and things like that?

Mr. Tabata: Yes. He also maintains the programmable logic controllers, which are computerized.

Councilmember Kagawa: I just wanted to make sure that there was enough job for the position. Thank you.

Mr. Tabata: More than enough.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any further questions from the Members? If not, I will bring the discussion back. Any final discussion? I will take a roll call vote.

There being no objections, the meeting was called back to order, and proceeded as follows:

Council Chair Rapozo: No, I will withdraw.

Council Chair Rapozo withdrew the motion to eliminate Position No. 1918, Electrical Plant Electrician Trades I and related benefits in the Department of Public Works, Wastewater Division, and return savings to the Solid Waste Fund Balance, Councilmember Kagawa withdrew the second.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Council Chair, was that the final cut?

Council Chair Rapozo: Yes, that was it. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Now that we went through all of the individual cuts, next are any cuts that affect multiple departments. Do we have any cuts that affect multiple departments? Do we have any combination cuts? Now we are getting into the realm of needing five (5) votes. Any combination cuts and adds?

Councilmember Yukimura: I do.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: In the Office of Economic Development, I want to reduce the grant-in-aid line item for Agriculture, Agriculture Support, Diversified Agriculture by \$75,000, but I am adding funding for Grant-In-Aid for \$75,000 for Agriculture, specifically for the 'Āina Ho'okupu (Kīlauea Agriculture Park) Irrigation System Only. Right now, the Agriculture Park is combined with a lot of other agriculture projects and I want to take it out and specify that the funding should just go for the irrigation system since we feel that water is really the important bottom line for the agriculture. I want to make sure that it is restricted to the water infrastructure.

Councilmember Yukimura moved to reduce funding for Office of Economic Development, Agriculture – Ag. Support / Diversified Ag. (RFP) by (\$75,000) and add funding for \$75,000 for Agriculture – 'Āina Ho'okupu (Kīlauea Ar. Park) Irrigation System Only, seconded by Councilmember Kagawa.

Councilmember Kagawa: I have a question.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Kagawa.

Councilmember Kagawa: We just had that discussion and I am kind of curious because you were kind of skeptical of their plan in the long-range and they said they were going to get it together and now you are proposing to put money for them. Did you have a meeting with them and have a change of heart or something?

Councilmember Yukimura: No, it is not reducing the money or adding to the amount that was in the Office of Economic Development budget; it is just making sure that it is earmarked for water infrastructure and that it is not going to be spent for anything else. Without water, the project is dead. I think we all agree that you really need the water, otherwise, you do not have an agricultural park.

Councilmember Kagawa: Why do we need to change it? Is there a fear that George is not going to use it in that way?

Councilmember Yukimura: It is just to make clear the intent of the Council that it be used for water infrastructure. That is all.

Councilmember Kagawa: Okay.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any further questions? Councilmember Brun.

Councilmember Brun: Not a question, but...

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: A comment?

Councilmember Brun: I went out there and toured the farm and I see him taking every effort to get it done, so I do not think this is necessary, but we can vote on it. I went out there to the farm and he is doing a great job out there, so I do not think we should put this limitation on. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Anyone else? Councilmember Chock.

Councilmember Chock: My only concern is about what was submitted for in the request and how that may interfere with what it is we are proposing. I do not see George or Nalani here.

*(Councilmember Brun was noted as not present.)*

Councilmember Yukimura: Well, the request was for an irrigation system. That is what it was requested for.

Councilmember Chock: Yes, I am trying to remember. Was that the total amount? \$75,000 was the total amount, so why is that different then?

Councilmember Yukimura: It is just saying that you cannot use it for anything else but water infrastructure.

Councilmember Chock: Okay.

Councilmember Yukimura: That is all it is saying because there are so many pieces to the puzzle. Also, they said that the total amount for the water system is \$750,000 and that they were asking the State Legislature for \$450,000 and they just got \$250,000. They do not have the water rights tied down, so this is just a way to focus in on the water because without the water the project cannot really happen.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Council Chair Rapozo.

Council Chair Rapozo: I do not recall much of the discussion, as far as the money. I do recall them saying that without water they are dead. I am just curious though with this \$75,000, if we put a prohibition for any other use, does that stop the organization from moving forward in other projects? Again, I am concerned that if we do not get the water, that we could actually waste \$75,000 on other components of the farm.

Councilmember Yukimura: That is my worry, too.

Council Chair Rapozo: I think, if I remember correctly, and somebody correct me if I am wrong, that their biggest concern was the water and if they do not get the water then they will not be able to have that farm.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Kawakami.

Councilmember Kawakami: I am hesitant to support the proposal just because there have been organizations and other businesses that have been reaching out, as well as other partners to help them with this project, so some of this infrastructure costs may be covered as they start to build these relationships. One the companies came out and said, "Hey, we have expertise in the engineering of the irrigation systems and we are wanting to help these folks," and these folks have to go to their board of directors to make sure they have the proper approvals. So to tie money specifically for something that may be covered with voluntary action from outside entities, to me, might be a waste of \$75,000 with the limited amount of funds that they do have. I am not inclined to support it, just because there are too many level of unknowns.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: I think Councilmember Kawakami makes a good point. I do not mind amending it to instead of "Irrigation System" to "Water Infrastructure." According to their own testimony, they need at least \$750,000 for water infrastructure, which is the pipeline running from *mauka* of the main highway down to the agricultural park. So if they want to use it for that, I do not mind that. It is true that if they get some irrigation help, they can, but I do want it to focus on water, otherwise it will be spent on other things and we will not get to the water. I think the Chair's point is well-taken that it might be spent on something else not dealing with water.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Kawakami.

Councilmember Kawakami: I try to avoid asking fellow Councilmembers questions and I am not sure if it is out of protocol, but have you gotten the okay from this organization that has taken on the responsibility of this agricultural park?

Councilmember Yukimura: No, because they already have told us that they are going to use it for water infrastructure and we have a right to say that we want our taxpayers' money to be spent on the infrastructure that is essential to our goal of an agricultural park. That is why we are funding it.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: I think what it comes down to is how comfortable we are at giving the money and seeing that they are going to do what they say they are going to do with it. For me, I am comfortable the way it is without an amendment. I am just throwing that out there. Final discussion? We will take a roll call vote on this. There is no change, just more of a reclassification of the amount.

Council Chair Rapozo: Does it require four (4) or five (5) votes?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: This requires five (5).

Councilmember Yukimura: We are taking it out and putting it back into the budget so that we can earmark it.

Council Chair Rapozo: Got it.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Yes, we are cutting money out of one budget and specifying a line item for it. It needs five (5). From now on, we are in the five-vote territory. Roll call vote.

The motion to reduce funding for Office of Economic Development, Agriculture – Ag. Support / Diversified Ag. (RFP) by (\$75,000) and add funding for \$75,000 for Agriculture – ‘Āina Ho’okupu (Kilauea Ag. Park) Irrigation System Only was then put, and failed by the following vote:

FOR MOTION:	Brun, Chock, Rapozo, Yukimura	TOTAL – 4*,
AGAINST MOTION:	Kagawa, Kawakami, Kaneshiro	TOTAL – 3,
EXCUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0,
RECUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0.

*(\*Pursuant to Rule No. 5(b) of the Rules of the Council of the County of Kaua‘i, Councilmember Brun was noted as silent (not present), but shall be recorded as an affirmative vote for the motion.)*

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: 4:3, motion fails.

Councilmember Kagawa: Councilmember Brun is a “yes”?

Council Chair Rapozo: Yes, let the record reflect that Councilmember Brun is a “yes” vote.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any other cuts and adds? After cuts and adds, we will go to just adds. Any more cuts and adds? Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: The goal is to add Saturday bus service, four (4) runs, at 5:30 a.m., 6:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m., and 9:30 p.m. In order to do this, I am proposing to increase the Golf Fund Revenues by \$150,000, reduce the contribution from the General Fund to the golf course by \$150,000, increase the Residential Investor class tax rate by \$0.14 to generate \$157,000 in additional Real Property Tax revenue, contribute the required percentage to the Public Access Fund...

Council Chair Rapozo: We are not doing Real Property Tax right now, right?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: This is a combination add.

Council Chair Rapozo: I thought that Real Property Tax was going to be at the end?

Councilmember Kagawa: But that is straight, not a combination, right?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: I am not exactly sure.

Council Chair Rapozo: If you want to start doing Real Property Tax, then I am going to put my reduction in Real Property Tax, too, in this one.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: I would like to wait on the Real Property Tax, but I think we can go and move on this and take our votes on it because I have a big problem with the way we are doing this cut and add. If we are going to come with just Real Property Tax stuff, I wanted to hold on that. I do have a problem on this and we still need a second.

Council Chair Rapozo: I only bring it up because in the beginning you said that we are going to go through cuts and adds, and when we get to that number at the end, then we will address Real Property Taxes.

Councilmember Yukimura: This is the way that I am paying for an increase in Saturday bus service without cutting other places. The only place I am cutting is the contribution to the golf course. We are reducing the \$1.1 million dollar subsidy to the golf course from the General Fund because the golfers have said that they are considering a fee increase. Councilmember Brun said that he would be willing to introduce that. I am trying to find a way to not impose any tax increases on our local residents, but to give the service that is desperately needed, so it would add \$317,000 to the Transportation Agency to increase the bus service.

Councilmember Yukimura moved to increase the revenue in the Golf Fund by \$150,000, reduce the contribution from the General Fund by \$150,000, increase the Real Property Tax rate for the Residential Investor tax class by \$0.14 to generate \$157,131 to the General Fund (with \$790 contribution to the Public Access, Open Space, Natural Resources Preservation Fund), and add \$307,921 in the Transportation Agency – Other Services for increased bus service on Saturdays to add 5:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m., and 9:30 p.m. runs for four additional runs, seconded by Councilmember Kagawa.

Councilmember Yukimura: May I say why this is important?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Sure.

Councilmember Yukimura: In 2013, the County Council adopted the Multimodal Land Transportation Plan, which provides a blueprint for building the County's land transportation system over the next twenty (20) years. By land transportation, we do not just mean roads for automobiles, but also infrastructure, including roads, for automobiles, bus, bike, and feet. It has been shown that planning and building only roads for automobile does not work because a great percentage of the population does not or cannot drive, like the *kūpuna, keiki*, the people with disabilities, and the people who cannot afford to buy and maintain a car. In the next twenty (20) years alone, thirty percent (30%) of our population will be elderly, including some of us around the table. This means that our multimodal plan must provide options to the private automobile. The four (4) modes of land transportation also affect congestion, environment, and health. The last time the bus service was increased was in 2011 when weekday service was extended from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., and weekend and holiday service were added. When the service was increased, ridership skyrocketed, showing that you do not need to persuade people to ride the bus; you just need to increase services where there is a need for it and people will ride. It is time to increase services on weekends. Because of the fiscal constraints, I am proposing limited increases to Saturday's bus schedule. If any of you were to ride the bus, you would get much input about the need for weekend service. Every two (2) hours and ending at

4:30 p.m., which is the present service, is so inconvenient that most people are not able to use the bus on weekends. When my dad was sick and in the hospital, I did not have to ride the bus to get the input, because workers at Garden Isle Rehabilitation and Healthcare in Wilcox Hospital approached me on several occasions to beg for better weekend service. As it is presently, they cannot accept weekend work assignments because they cannot get to and from work due to the bus schedule. These are some west side residents who talked to me. This affects family income. Access to work is a critical factor for the visitor industry, as well as the healthcare industry. Peter Sit, the General Manager (GM) at Pono Kai, knows personally the impact of not having public transportation for his workers on weekends. Adding Saturday services is an economic necessity if we are to help the workers and employers in this tight employment environment. Compare this to the golf course fund deficit of \$1.1 million, which requires the transfer of General Fund moneys, Real Property Tax revenues that you and I pay, to the Golf Fund so that some golfers can pay about \$2.50 a round for primetime golf. This is definitely a “need” versus a “want”; transportation to work versus *holoholo* on the golf course. Golf course play, for some, is not just a cost, it is a luxury at \$5 a round for primetime. This is a “nice to have” versus a “need to have” issue and that is why I am proposing it.

*(Councilmember Brun was noted as present.)*

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Thank you. I will be the first to comment, only because we have seen a type of add and cut like this before, and I do not think it is good for us to arbitrarily increase the Golf Fund revenue without anything supplementing it. I know we have talked about golf increasing their fees, but there has been nothing done to increase it, so as far as increasing a golf revenue fund, I would highly frown upon it from the Members. That just one part of it. The second part is I know we are working on a short-term transit plan, which I believe our contractors or planners have met with us on it before and they said the plan will be coming out next year sometime and I know they have a lot of good suggestions, but it is still premature to make any moves on it and I would rather wait on that, rather than going forward with an increase to Saturday bus service. That is my take on this, so I will not be supporting this. Council Chair Rapozo.

Council Chair Rapozo: Ditto.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: The short-range plan is coming and there will be many proposals, from shuttles to paratransit changes, and I am waiting for that, too. I am working for the one-half percent (0.5%) excise tax so that we will have money to actually implement some of the needs that will be coming forth. This is a very simple proposal to address a very imminent need. We also need to increase frequencies during the week, but I am not proposing it because we cannot do it without more buses and we cannot have more buses without more baseyards; although, I do not see the baseyard in our bond float and I hope that is going to be there. But just increasing Saturday service, we can do with what we have right now. The only thing that we do not have is money. The budget is always projections. The Administration has the whole year to propose new fee increases because the budget will carry them forward for at least three-quarters of the year. So I am asking for a commitment to provide a much needed service for our people right now.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Thank you. Any further discussion?  
Councilmember Kawakami.

Councilmember Kawakami: I agree with some of the merit and I would love to increase Saturday bus services, especially for working-class people that need to get to work. What I have a difference in opinion is the tone towards the golf course and I will tell you why: one, we have identified sports and recreation as a hub for economic development, so it is a part of our revenue generation. Can the golf course do better for revenue generation? Absolutely. For health and wellness, when we talk about being preventative in our healthcare and we build walkable and complete streets, bike paths, and multimodal transportation plans to get people to walk...do you know how many people and what kind of people I see walking on that golf course, getting their exercise? It is our *kūpuna* and our *keiki* that cannot necessarily afford to play at the private golf courses. I just want to remind people that it is not just a sport. For many people, this is a window of opportunity for scholarships to get to college. For our *kūpuna*, it is their daily exercise that prevents them from going to the hospitals, which drives up our healthcare costs. So in my opinion, all of the pros that go along with multi-use paths and walkable and complete streets have the same benefits with that golf course. With that being said, I will not support the current proposal. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: I stated that I would not support, Council Chair Rapozo dittoed that, and Councilmember Kawakami said that he is not going to support it. You need five (5) votes to do it. I would like to take the vote on it already.

Councilmember Yukimura: I would like to be able to respond.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: I do not think the votes are there already for it.

Councilmember Yukimura: I know, but I still have the right. Our rules say that the minority is able to say its piece and the majority makes the decisions.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Go ahead. I will let you talk about it for an entire page of notes. I really want to get the meeting going because there are not enough votes for it.

Councilmember Yukimura: Thank you. My proposal will not stop golf on the golf course or the opportunity to walk and exercise on the golf course, nor will it require people who cannot pay to play, because the fees are...we can arrive at an increased fee schedule without making it prohibitive to play golf.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Thank you. Roll call vote.

The motion to increase the revenue in the Golf Fund by \$150,000, reduce the contribution from the General Fund by \$150,000, increase the Real Property Tax rate for the Residential Investor tax class by \$0.14 to generate \$157,131 to the General Fund (with \$790 contribution to the Public Access, Open Space, Natural Resources Preservation Fund), and add \$307,921 in the Transportation Agency – Other Services for increased bus service on Saturdays to add 5:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m., and 9:30 p.m. runs for four additional runs was then put, and failed by the following vote:

FOR MOTION:	Yukimura	TOTAL – 1,
AGAINST MOTION:	Brun, Chock, Kagawa, Kawakami, Rapozo, Kaneshiro	TOTAL – 6,
EXCUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0,
RECUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: 1:6, motion fails.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any other cuts and adds?

Councilmember Kawakami: We have an area where it is just straight adds, right?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: We do. Straight adds will be right after this. I actually had a proposal. Councilmember Kagawa, you might have to introduce it. I hate to bring it back up, but things got a little confusing for me at one point in the meeting. My cut and add is regarding the position for the Assistant Fire Chief and the only reason I bring it up is because I know we had a lot back and forth and things were flying on the table, but we in the past just recently accepted the Deputy and I just wanted to get the temperature if the direction was to cut the overtime or to reduce the position back to a Fire Fighter I from the members. Again, this takes five (5) votes to do. We looked at it and we said we will allow them the position, but cut the overtime to account for overtime that that Assistant Fire Chief position would be making up. I think we cut \$50,000. If we put it back to the way it was, it would a \$25,000 difference or \$75,000 difference.

Councilmember Kagawa: I will introduce this on behalf of Committee Chair Kaneshiro. This is a cut and add to the Assistant Fire Chief, resulting in a savings after the add and the cut of \$23,180.

Councilmember Kagawa moved to reallocate Position No. 630, from Assistant Fire Chief in the Administration Division back to Fire Fighter I in the Operations Division, and related benefits in the Kaua'i Fire Department and add back \$30,000 in Overtime to Fire Operations and \$20,000 to Overtime in Administration, seconded by Councilmember Brun.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Let me state this a little clearer—I think yesterday when we were looking at it, we brought up the Assistant Fire Chief position and it was to eliminate all of the money in the Assistant Fire Chief's position, but when the Fire Chief was up here, he mentioned that they were taking off a lower fire position and moving it there so there was some money there. If we cut the whole thing then we pretty much cut the Assistant Fire Chief and we would have cut the funding for the fire position that they moved it up to, so there was a difference in that amount. With the conversations going on, the decision was made to not do that because I think it was a \$100,000 cut and it was to cut overtime, being that this Assistant Fire Chief would be able to reduce overtime by \$50,000. In this case, we would get an additional reduction of \$23,000. I just wanted to get the temperature from the members on this. Councilmember Kawakami.

Councilmember Kawakami: Just as a clarity check, it was that position that was vacant that they were going to morph into this Assistant Fire Chief, so we had left some of that money in that vacant position and we are just removing it now?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: This would be the difference.

Council Chair Rapozo: The way I am reading this is that yesterday we approved the Assistant Fire Chief position and we removed overtime. This reverses it. So basically, the Assistant Fire Chief position, which was approved yesterday, if this passes, will now go back to the Fire Fighter I position, and the \$50,000 that we cut from the overtime will be reinstated?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Correct.

Council Chair Rapozo: So you are actually unwinding what we did yesterday?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Being that I think the proposal we had at-hand was to cut the entire \$118,000, and it did not take into consideration that that money was moved from a fire fighter position. Again, it is just to get the temperature of the Council on it? Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: So this recommends then not approving the Assistant Fire Chief, right?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Yes.

Councilmember Kawakami: Are you trying to trick us?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: No. This is the situation we went through in the prior years. In the prior years, there was only a Fire Chief, there was no Deputy Fire Chief and no Assistant Fire Chief. In last year's budget, it was budgeted for a Fire Chief, a Deputy Fire Chief, and an Assistant Fire Chief. In last year's budget, we got rid of the Assistant Fire Chief and we allowed them to have a Deputy Fire Chief. In this budget, they came with that Assistant Fire Chief again, which came from a lower position. So Fire did not add \$118,000 to the budget; they added the difference between that Fire position that they moved and this \$118,000. Yesterday's proposal was to cut the \$118,000, which would have eliminated both the Assistant Fire Chief position and the lower Fire position.

Council Chair Rapozo: But that proposal did not pass.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Right, it got withdrawn.

Council Chair Rapozo: Wait, no...

Councilmember Kawakami: We supported it.

Council Chair Rapozo: Yes, the position was basically approved yesterday.

Councilmember Yukimura: Well, it was not cut.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: It was not cut...

Councilmember Kawakami: No, but now we know what you want to do.

Council Chair Rapozo: I see, okay.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Yesterday, it was withdrawn and the proposal was instead of taking out the money for the Assistant Fire Chief, it was to decrease overtime with the rationale that having this Assistant Fire Chief will reduce overtime by \$50,000.

Council Chair Rapozo: Right, but the Supplemental Budget today includes the Assistant Fire Chief. So regardless of what we did yesterday, nothing happened yesterday. We cut the \$50,000 of overtime.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Right.

Council Chair Rapozo: But the Assistant Fire Chief position is in the budget today, so that is approved.

Councilmember Yukimura: But we have not finished it.

Council Chair Rapozo: Well, we did yesterday. Correct me if I am wrong, Committee Chair—yesterday, there was a proposal to remove that position from the budget.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: \$118,000.

Council Chair Rapozo: Correct, that position would be gone.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Right.

Council Chair Rapozo: It actually got voted on and it did not pass.

Councilmember Yukimura: No, it said that we will come back. That is what my notes said.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: It was withdrawn.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: I only bring it up because when we look at it, the difference is a matter of...if you look at the savings to the County, it would be a matter of \$23,000 more now than in the previous. I think the difference between the \$118,000 and the previous fire person, you would see an additional \$23,000 saving this way.

- Council Chair Rapozo: But you would lose the position.
- Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Which has not been in the budget before.  
Councilmember Yukimura.
- Councilmember Yukimura: So it is a matter if whether there is going to be a warm body or not because this Fire Fighter I position...we do not know if that is actually going to be filled if we leave it at that. The main issue is whether there should be an Assistant Fire Chief.
- Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Yes.
- Council Chair Rapozo: So for clarification, if this does not pass, the Assistant Fire Chief remains?
- Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Correct, everything stays the same.
- Council Chair Rapozo: Okay.
- Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Brun.
- Councilmember Brun: So with the Fire Fighter I, there is no warm body right now?
- Committee Chair Kaneshiro: No.
- Councilmember Brun: So it is either two (2) positions or one (1) position then if we eliminate the Assistant Fire Chief, right? If this does not pass then the Assistant Fire Chief would stay there.
- Committee Chair Kaneshiro: No, it would either be you have an Assistant Fire Chief or the position goes back to a Fire Fighter I.
- Council Chair Rapozo: No, he asked if this does not pass.
- Committee Chair Kaneshiro: If it does not pass, then you have one (1) position, Assistant Fire Chief.
- Councilmember Brun: Okay. Thank you.
- Committee Chair Kaneshiro: It is a little confusing with the overtime stuff that happened yesterday. It is do we want the Assistant Fire Chief or not? That is the question.
- Council Chair Rapozo: That is the question.
- Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Yes. Councilmember Yukimura.
- Councilmember Yukimura: This comeback one from yesterday passed, so you really need four (4) votes.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Yes, and we are going pass it, so this needs five (5) votes.

Councilmember Yukimura: Well, you need five (5) votes because you are putting back the overtime.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Right, because the rationale was that this overtime would be reduced with the Assistant Fire Chief. If the Assistant Fire Chief is not there, then they need this overtime. That is why it is a cut and an add. Any further questions?

Councilmember Kawakami: I do not know if I am not getting it because I am just hungry again. When I look at it, I see the cut from the whole...sorry Chairman...I do not even have the floor.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Kawakami.

Councilmember Kawakami: I am thinking out loud. I am just seeing the cut for Assistant Fire Chief, and then I see the cut for the benefits. I also see a \$61,000 add for Fire Fighter I and I see the add for the benefits. Then I see the add for the overtime. So this is a cut to the Assistant Fire Chief?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Yes.

Councilmember Kawakami: So this is a cut to the Assistant Fire Chief?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Yes.

Councilmember Kawakami: Okay. Now I got it. I cannot support this.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Okay.

Council Chair Rapozo: Yesterday, Councilmember Chock asked the question, "Would you rather have the position or the overtime," and the Chief said, "position." So at that time, the action was to cut the overtime and give them the position. With this here, you are basically cutting the position and giving them the overtime. I cannot support it either.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: The only reason I brought it up is because there is a \$23,000 difference. If you did not have the Assistant Fire Chief, we would save an additional \$23,000. If we have the Assistant Fire Chief, then it costs us an additional \$23,000 in the budget. That is the only reason I brought it up.

Councilmember Yukimura: The other thing is that you would have a high-level administrator or you would not. That is the issue and the question is, is there a need? Do you have a recommendation?

Council Chair Rapozo: Just ask the Chief. That is what we did all morning.

Councilmember Yukimura: We know the Chief's recommendation.

Council Chair Rapozo: You knew it earlier. Just "yes" or "no."

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: I will suspend the rules. Chief Westerman.

Mr. Westerman: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: That is what I thought.

Mr. Westerman: If I may, I would like to make some corrections. This is not the first time and this is not, last year, for the Deputy. The Deputy has been in the department for almost nine (9) years. We dollar-funded it for two (2) years to help support the shortage in the budget. So we came back the year before last and funded the Deputy Fire Chief and asked for the Assistant Chief, and that the recommendation of the Council that year, we went back to HR and asked them, "Could we transfer that position to another Deputy Fire Chief?" HR responded, "No, you cannot have two (2) Deputy Fire Chiefs." That is what the Council directed us to do. So we came back this year saying that we cannot do the two (2) Deputies, so that is the Assistant Fire Chief position that we are requesting.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Again, let us take the vote and the votes will fall where they fall and we move on. Any further questions? Any further comments?

Council Chair Rapozo: Did you have a motion and a second?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay. Thank you.

There being no objections, the meeting was called back to order, and proceeded as follows:

The motion to reallocate Position No. 630, from Assistant Fire Chief in the Administration Division back to Fire Fighter I in the Operations Division, and related benefits in the Kaua'i Fire Department and add back \$30,000 in Overtime to Fire Operations and \$20,000 to Overtime in Administration was then put, and failed by the following vote:

FOR MOTION:	Brun, Kagawa, Yukimura, Kaneshiro	TOTAL – 4,
AGAINST MOTION:	Chock, Kawakami, Rapozo	TOTAL – 3,
EXCUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0,
RECUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: 4:3, motion fails.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any further cut and add combinations? If not, we are going to move on to adds. Again, adds take five (5) votes. Councilmember Kagawa.

Councilmember Kagawa: Thank you. We have some patient gentlemen back there, the “Uncles” from Kekaha have been waiting for a while. I want to make a motion to add \$500,000 to the Kekaha Solarize Project and I am hoping that this will be the first installment of a four-year plan to fund one hundred percent (100%) of homes in Kekaha for hosting the Kekaha Landfill. It was recently announced that...on numerous occasions, extensions upon extensions, and now it looks like another ten (10) years, at least, that Kekaha will be taking our daily trash and burying it and making the mountain bigger and bigger. I feel like it is kind of disingenuous of the County of Kaua‘i to say, “Hey, we gave you a certain percentage already when we keep changing the amount of years.” In any other field of private business law, there is a penalty when you lie or when you are not truthful, and I believe that we need to finally come to a decision as to when the final day that we will be sending our rubbish down there. With no options, I am afraid that we are going to continue lying. But at least I would hope that this legislative body would take responsibility for this County’s failure to find an option and keep giving the Kekaha community false hope that the due date is any time soon. With that, can I get a second on my motion to add \$500,000 as the first year of a four-year plan to fully solarize the Kekaha community as hosts to the landfill for who knows how many more years?

Councilmember Kagawa moved to add funding in the amount of \$500,000 in the Office of Economic Development, Gran-In-Aid, to Host Community Benefit (Solarize Kekaha Project), seconded by Councilmember Kawakami.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any questions or discussion? Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: I have a lot of questions about the project. Does Councilmember Kagawa want to answer them or do we want the Uncles to come forward?

Councilmember Kagawa: No, I do not think we need the Uncles, I think I explained it clearly. I think everybody else gets it. They are \$2,000,000 short. They have spent roughly \$800,000 and \$800,000 did not go as far as I think they had hoped. It is not that cheap to put up, but let me tell you the benefit of every person that has solar panels on their house, they have raved to the Uncles about how successful it is. We have looked at ways of cutting their property tax and it is illegal. I think Mauna Kea did an analysis of that of trying to give a special credit to the people in Kekaha. That did not fly. That is the only way that we can ensure that every homeowner in Kekaha will have the benefit of having a solar panel. If we stop now, then only the few lucky ones...it is almost like a lottery, but they did a fair lottery—they went to the oldest first. But the oldest or the youngest, everybody down there has been lied to, whether you have been there last year or whether you have been there one hundred (100) years. We cannot keep changing the date on them. Just because we said that we did the Host Community Benefit...well, we did that...we told them it was going to close in five (5) years or seven (7) years. Now, those seven (7) years have gone and we are going another twelve (12). I think...

Councilmember Yukimura: Excuse me, I did not ask for a whole essay about why this is important...

Councilmember Kagawa: I am sorry.

Councilmember Yukimura: I just wanted to ask some questions and I think we are in the question and answer time right now.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: I think you asked Councilmember Kagawa the question, but I was trying to look through my notes on something. Did he answer it?

Councilmember Kagawa: That is what you do to me sometimes.

Councilmember Kawakami: Everybody is fussy.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Did he answer your question?

Councilmember Yukimura: No. I did not even have a chance to ask my questions.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Okay.

Councilmember Yukimura: May I ask my questions?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Sure. Councilmember Brun, do you have something?

Councilmember Brun: I just have a clarifying question for the Uncles because I need to know if I need to recuse myself or not.

Councilmember Kawakami: You probably do if you live in Kekaha.

Councilmember Brun: I have a question for them because I need to know if I need to recuse myself. That is what I am looking for.

Councilmember Yukimura: We need somebody to answer specific questions.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: As far as the recusal part, Councilmember Brun, that is usually your own discretion.

Councilmember Kawakami: I think the Uncles are the wrong people to ask that question.

Councilmember Brun: I want to know how they are going to do this. That is what I am looking for. We are talking about the landfill and who have been there for a long time. My wife lived there her whole life, forty-seven (47) years. Are we only going to do the Kekaha houses or are we going to take care of the Kekaha people that moved out in a different community and help do their house because they were part of the landfill longer than some of the new houses? That is all I want to know.

Councilmember Kagawa: I can give you my understanding, which is that it will only be physical residents of Kekaha.

Councilmember Brun: Residents of Kekaha?

Councilmember Kagawa: Physically residents of Kekaha at this point. Anyway, you can have the Uncles answer that.

Councilmember Brun: Mauna Kea, can I see you in the back, please?

Councilmember Kawakami: I probably have to see Mauna Kea, too.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Let me take a recess.

There being no objections, the meeting recessed at 2:26 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 2:43 p.m., and proceeded as follows:

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Welcome back. Again, we have a \$500,000 add. Councilmember Yukimura, do you have a question?

Councilmember Yukimura: I have a question first to the maker, and then to somebody who knows about this program.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Well, let us ask the maker first. Also, I do not see anybody in the audience from the Administration that could help answer, too. Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: My question for Councilmember Kagawa is we have not gotten \$3,600,000 in cuts, so by adding another \$500,000, you are basically saying that we are going to raise Real Property Taxes to do that.

Councilmember Kagawa: This project is important to me and whatever we have to do to balance the budget...whether I support it not, it is either that I am going to do a cut from the Reserve, which is frowned upon by our Budget & Finance Committee Chair, or Real Property Tax increases will be in effect. Hopefully, it will be much less than the \$0.19 across the board.

Councilmember Yukimura: So basically, all of the taxpayers of the island will be paying for solarizing Kekaha.

Councilmember Kagawa: I think the Uncles have kind of said it and they host all of the rubbish for the island and I do not think they wanted it originally and they did not want it to go longer, but the Administration keeps telling them when the end point is and it keeps going on.

Councilmember Yukimura: The longer it goes, the more money they will have for the community.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Is that a question? Do you have any other questions?

Councilmember Yukimura: I do have questions about the program itself.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: I will suspend the rules. Please introduce yourselves.

There being no objections, the rules were suspended.

DENNIS EGUCHI, Kekaha Resident (Uncles): Dennis Eguchi, Kekaha Resident.

WAYNE AYUDAN, Kekaha Resident (Uncles): Wayne Ayudan, Kekaha Resident.

PATRICK PERREIRA, Kekaha Resident (Uncles): Patrick Perreira, Kekaha Resident.

Councilmember Yukimura: Thank you very much for being here and for all the work you have done to help your community. There is \$200,000 a year that is produced from the Host Community Benefits, so why is this money not being used to solarize the community?

Mr. Eguchi: First of all, we do not think it is \$200,000; I think it is more like \$160,000.

Councilmember Yukimura: Okay, whatever it is.

Mr. Eguchi: But initially, Kitty for the Host Benefit was at \$780,000 and we used up \$700,000 of that money. That is where the first phase came from. Shall I explain about the program a little bit? No?

Councilmember Yukimura: If we need more information, we can get it. I think basically you said that you used \$700,000 of the initial \$800,000 to...

Mr. Eguchi: \$780,000.

Councilmember Yukimura: \$780,000?

Mr. Eguchi: Yes.

Councilmember Yukimura: To solarize part of the community.

Mr. Eguchi: Right.

Councilmember Yukimura: But you get some every year, right?

Mr. Eguchi: Right.

Councilmember Yukimura: So the community gets \$200,000, at least that is what it shows in our CIP Budget, \$198,000 is what is showing here.

Mr. Eguchi: At our meetings, they say it is about \$160,000.

Councilmember Yukimura: Okay. If you get \$160,000 per year, why is that money not being used to solarize the community?

Mr. Eguchi: Well, the money that is sitting there right now goes to other projects. People can put in for grants from the community. But when we do this project, we are definitely going to be asking them for money from there also. Our project, we used \$700,000 and retrofitted two hundred forty (240) homes. The rate of return on the money that the community saved was able to be put back into the community. Within three and a half (3.5) years, that \$700,000 actually came back to the community, was being spent on this island. So that is why we feel that out of all the projects that Host Benefit has done, this is the most viable one for us. With that being said, the reason why we are asking you for more funds is because you folks told us that the landfill was going to be gone by a certain time. You folks spent big money to have consultants come by to say, "This is how we are going to beautify the landfill." Now because we are going to host the landfill, we literally just threw all of that money away. We are saying the initial amount that we settled for, which we were not the ones that actually came up—some of the *kūpuna* actually came up prior—we are looking at it and saying, "You know what? If you break it down for fifty (50) years of hosting the landfill, given initially \$600,000, we literally just got taken for granted." We keep on saying we know that the landfill in Kekaha is the best place to keep the landfill. So we do not have a problem with that. All we are saying is that if we are going to have to host the landfill, then please just make it worthwhile for us.

Councilmember Yukimura: Well, making it worthwhile could be whatever you want, right?

Mr. Eguchi: Basically, all we want is to finish our project because that is what the community is asking for.

Councilmember Yukimura: The initial Host Community Benefit was set based on a formula, so I am thinking if you think the formula is not accurate, then we need to see the rationale for changing the formula to increase the amount. I have not seen any data to say that the impacts are greater. I do want to say that the return to the community that you described, I am well-familiar with, because the payback for a solar water heater is...I think you can pay it back in five (5) to seven (7) years, which is why I lobbied hard to require that every new single-family house on Kaua'i would be required to do solar, but unfortunately this body rejected that effort. The question is, why could you not do it in loans? The payback is so good that after five (5) to seven (7) years, then the people have "free money," so to speak, but if you do it as a loan, then you would be able to help more people faster.

Mr. Eguchi: We are open to any option. Will the County Council loan us the money then?

Councilmember Yukimura: No, you are making a proposal and I am saying had you thought about how to use that money most efficiently—anybody who is making a proposal needs to come forward and say how they are going to use the money and when it is taxpayers' money, it needs to be as efficient as possible. You do not want to use \$100,000 to get your end goal when you could use \$50,000. That is why I am asking how you formulated your proposal.

Mr. Eguchi: Initially, the money that you are talking about, the \$160,000, was proposed by the County Council. I think Jay Furfaro came up with a

formula and it just so happens that the people that were here that accepted that from Kekaha at the time were not basically true representatives of Kekaha, and that was the problem. There are four (4) of us. We hold meetings regularly and when we do, we literally ask the community, "What do you folks want?" With that being said, we are not here representing the four (4) of us; we are here representing the community that comes out and says, "This is what we want. Can you please try to see if you can do it?"

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Let me just preface the questions to questions that are going to make you get closer to a decision of whether you are going to support or not support this proposal. I know asking them whether they are going to do buybacks or something...if they say, "Yes," then make sure it is a question that is going to make you want to support it or not and just gear the questions towards that.

Councilmember Yukimura: Thank you. If a program is really well-thought through and it maximizes the use of taxpayer money then that is important to me in considering whether or not to vote for a project. My other question is if the people of Kekaha want this so badly, why are you not using the Host Community...if that is the top priority, why are you not using the Host Community moneys that you have to do the top priority for the community? Then these families who save the money can buy the sports equipment, pay for sports trips and so forth, and they will have a continuous annual income.

Mr. Eguchi: Basically on the initial project, we did it for \$700,000. We set out bids for contractors on Kaua'i, and throughout the State to be honest with you, and what happened was we got a contractor that came out and said, "For \$5,000, I can provide you fifteen (15) panels. No other contractor could even come close, but what we did was we had them come and do a presentation to the community and the bulk of the community went with one contractor and some of the people in the community went with other contractors. The only reason why we are able to get it down to a very, very good price was because we offered the contractor out there...this many people are looking for photovoltaic (PV) or water heaters...if we went with \$150,000 and said, "Contractors, we want you to bid on this." They are going to look at it and say, "Okay." This is the price and you know why? There is no volume there.

Councilmember Yukimura: Why could you not accumulate the money over time, like we do for our road money? We do not spend it all every year, but we accumulate it for that very purpose.

Mr. Eguchi: Well, like I said, we need enough money to make it worthwhile. When we did this, it actually benefited the entire island because for \$5,000 and fifteen (15) panels, we are able to pass it on to every community, from Kekaha to Hā'ena, right? So everybody actually benefited because of the program. I will give you a perfect example—the four (4) of us, we did not want to have any conflict with the project, so we went ahead and purchased our own. I spent \$35,000... I think it was forty (43) panels—if I had waited for the project, my roof would have been just too small. I could have had so many panels, but we went ahead and did it because we did not want to have conflict. When we did this and we passed the word out in Kekaha, all the relatives starting calling from literally the entire island.

Councilmember Yukimura: Everybody on the island would like what you want.

Mr. Eguchi: Right and they all benefitted. What we plan on doing again is that if we can get this money and run a program, we plan on offering it to the entire island the same way we did the first time.

Councilmember Yukimura: So why are you having people that can afford it or can do a loan not do that instead so that the money could go farther to more people?

Mr. Eguchi: Because we feel that the people that resided in Kekaha that have hosted the landfill for this time deserves something for a change. I will be honest with you, we went and hosted somebody in Kekaha recently at one of our parks, and just so happen this person brought for us some lunch. We sat down there and before we even open the lunch, I made a comment, "Watch this," and as soon as you open the lunch, here comes the flies. That is part of the inconveniences we live with because we live with the landfill. Everybody says, "Well no, the landfill really does not propagate flies," but it actually does because you can go to other communities, do the same thing, and the fly never comes. In Kekaha, the people are getting really tired of all of these inconveniences. At least tell them to make it worthwhile for us to host it. We do not mind hosting the landfill. All of the other communities do not want the landfill. We are saying that if you are going to leave it in Kekaha, please make it worthwhile for us. That is all we are saying. If you folks do not want to make it worthwhile for us, then I would suggest that you quickly go ahead and find an alternative place and see what community would want the landfill.

Councilmember Yukimura: I think we are saying we want to offset the impacts of the landfill. If it is to put on solar, then we want to do it in way that is going to maximize the benefits to Kekaha people and you can do more with less money when you do it with certain kind of guidelines.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: I do not want to get into a debate, because we can debate this all day. I do not want to torture them and have them have to answer one million questions. We go through it and vote it up or down.

Mr. Perreira: Patrick Perreira. Councilmember Yukimura, I want to tell you something, and you are a businesswoman, so you should know this—if we want, like you say, for ten (10) years and accumulate the money until we get enough, we are not going to have enough to pay for the project. The contractor is not going to wait with this year's price, ten (10) years from today. Everything goes up.

Councilmember Yukimura: Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Perreira: To put the record straight, Dennis is correct, but we did one hundred forty-one (141) homes on County money. The other forty (40) homes we did were with gifted money. The Uncles, we look at ways that we can increase the production of what we are trying to do. That was gifted money, \$200,000.

Councilmember Yukimura: Where did that money come from?

Mr. Perreira: That money came from a contractor that told us, "If the people go with us, we will do the system and we will kickback \$1,000 every system." So for every five (5) houses they did, we got another \$5,000 of free money for another system. That is what happened.

Councilmember Yukimura: That is very creative. Thank you.

Mr. Ayudan: Councilmember Yukimura, my name is Wayne Ayudan. In the initial matter on the funding for the host community, whatever the funds that was appropriated back then, it was great, with the intention of getting the landfill relocated. Along the way, we came across a few endeavors and the County decided this, the County decided that. I cannot blame them for some of the decisions they have to make because of the fact that there is no other place for us to go and utilize the landfill. We are talking about additional funds for this specific project. The funding that comes into the community is basically utilized for all different kinds of projects. It just so happens that the project that we came up with and the grant that we asked for, we asked for the most money because we felt that this was one of the best projects for the community at-large. We did not specifically tell them that they had to do or suggested that it will be only PV systems. They could also have done hot water solar. The balance on hot water solar and the electrical side, there is an imbalance there, only on the fact that it is because of usage. That is water under the bridge. Regardless of which residents are allotted this grant, they can choose whatever they want to do. Getting back to public money, it is something that nobody wants to spend public money back into the public, and I understand that. It is just like how you folks were talking about \$75,000 to get water for this agricultural park. That is the same thing; there is no difference there. We are talking money, money; it is just how it being utilized, what is the community's benefit, and what is the island's benefit at-large, State into State, whatever it may venture forward on? I know it is a hard thing to come up with money to do things like this, but it is also a very hard thing for our community. We never ever voice our opinions. We do not come out headstrong, "We want to do this and we want to do that." We basically use a little bit common sense and after we do our homework, we will come out and speak our piece. I have to tell you this much and I definitely know, because I have met with some of the community people that I have known for a long time. If and when the landfill gets relocated, wherever it is going, they are not going to come sit here, asking for funding. They are going to expect big money. Hanamā'ulu and the Līhu'e area—you folks are going to have to get the Department of Health out chasing around the flies...we only talked about flies. I know there are big plans on different ways of eliminating our trash, but until we get to that point, the discussion can go on and on, and on. We are just asking for something to subsidize what we have been putting up with for a long length of time. There are a lot of people that are passing away that have lived with that landfill forever. You do not hear them come crying to you. We have to be the people to come to you and whatever information we bring is wholeheartedly from the community.

Councilmember Yukimura: Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any further questions? If not, I will call this meeting back to order. Any discussion on this before we take the vote? Councilmember Brun.

There being no objections, the meeting was called back to order, and proceeded as follows:

Councilmember Brun: Thank you for the recess earlier. I just needed some clarification to see if I had a direct conflict of interest. I do not because I will not directly benefit from this. I lived in Kekaha for eighteen (18) years and now I moved to Waimea, so I missed out. My wife lived there for almost forty (40) years and she missed out. I will not be directly benefitting, so I will be voting on this issue. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any further discussion? This is not an easy decision and we have seen how the budget is going so far. We are chasing \$3,600,000. Right now, we are chasing \$1,400,000. I do not know what other adds we are going to get. This will be a direct increase to Real Property Taxes. I commend the Uncles. I know exactly what they are feeling. We have heard them. I missed the meeting when they came in, but I did watch the meeting online after. Again, for me, it comes down to County money and how we spend it. The Kekaha Host Community Benefit will be getting \$198,000, \$2.38 times 83,407 tons from last year, so \$198,000 this year. I am not going to be able to support this add at this time. Any further discussion? Councilmember Chock.

Councilmember Chock: This is a hard one. I do believe that Kekaha should be getting their worth out of their role in hosting the landfill. As you can see, and I will not repeat, but I focused really hard these past couple of days to ensure that I can try and support every single cut so that we do not have to raise taxes for our community. I also told myself and made a promise that I would not support any adds unless we really focused on the core need of our County operations. There are a couple of things that I think I would like to see: one, I would like to see the Administration come back with a revised formula and a formula that I can support and makes sense so that I know what I am giving money towards and why, some reasoning behind it if there is a proposal for an increase. The other thing is...I am a little bit...I guess I am not real clear...I was going to ask George to come up, but forget it, because I think I have enough information about it. Really, it is about the host benefit organization, how that is organized, and who is making the decisions behind it. I totally appreciate the Uncles and they represent the community in Kekaha. I also see that there may be already an established process that it needs to go through in order to vet these funds. I would like to see their wishes come to fruition. I think it needs a little more work, in my opinion, given where we are with this budget and it looks like we are about \$1,000,000 behind still. I will not be supporting this at this time, but hopefully we can come back to this soon. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Council Chair Rapozo.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you. There are a few variables or unknowns that we have to really take into consideration. I tried to cut a lot of positions today, but I was unsuccessful. I can tell you that in my opinion and my experience, those positions will not be filled, and I know for a fact that a lot of them will not be filled for the entire year, so we are going to get some lapsing of funds there. We are going to get lapsing of funds in our budget. I was actually kind of surprised to see this drop on the floor today and my initial reaction was, "Oh my God, that is going to take us further back," but then I went back to 2000...I am not sure when we even put that money in first, but it was the intention at that time, for the Council at that time, that we would put \$1,000,000 in this account and that would be an annual contribution. That is what the intent was and it never ended up that way. It was a pretty controversial time, and at the end of the day, I think we got \$650,000 or \$750,000, and then it just dropped to \$40,000 or \$80,000 and it

took a lot of effort by the Council to get the Administration to kick that up, even to what it is today. The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) out in Kekaha provided \$700,000 for the first go-around for this project. From what I have found in talking to a lot of people in the community on the west side is that they want to be able to utilize funds from the CAC money, the Host Community Benefit money for many small projects. They want to be able to do certain things in the community, utilizing those funds, which was the original intent as well. Then there is this other large segment of the community that wants to continue the solarize project. I think it was you, Dennis, the last time you were up here and the Mayor was sitting back there, and I said, "If you funneled the money through the Host Community Benefit, then it has to go through the CAC." So I told you, "Go talk to the big man in the back and see if we can get a separate line item for these funds? That way, it would be earmarked for that project." So whether it is coming from the Administration or from a Councilmember, it is here for the deliberation and discussion and what we are going to do. Councilmember Kawakami and I were talking and there are still some uncertainties about the Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT), whether or not we are going to get our share of the TAT. We have options of how we are going to address the shortfall, if we have the shortfall, and there are options that are besides raising taxes. I will just say that for now. I will express my thoughts later when we get to that point. I do have some additional adds that I think I had discussed during the budget process that we still have to go up. I see that George is here and I would assume that should this get approved that Economic Development is going to be the caretaker of the funds to make sure that there is a policy in place on how we are going distribute these funds to the families that could benefit from these services or from these projects. I am going to support this today, just because I believe that the community on the west side deserves this. I fully support the CAC and the Host Community Benefit as well. I do not think that we should disqualify or kick out this project because maybe the CAC at this point does not necessarily want to spend these large sums of money for projects. I do think that money should be used for mini projects throughout the community. So this would be the proper venue to ask; this would be the proper place to do it. So I will be supporting this today and I will figure out how to make the adjustments as we get through the budget process.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any other comments from the Members?  
 Councilmember Kagawa.

Councilmember Kagawa: For me, I do not think anybody should be surprised because last year I tried it and I think I started at \$1 million, and then I tried it again at \$500,000. It is something that I believe in, I believe that it is right. Maybe I am biased because I am from the west side. Even if this happened on the north shore or whatever if we state things to the community that something like the landfill is going to stop by a certain year and we keep changing the date, because we find out that Ma'alo is not going to be ready and we need this or that—the terms have changed. Any agreement you make...you lie...you are breaching. Just because it is the government, we say, "No, we can just change it how we want to because we are broke and we do not have money." To me, it is not right. It is not an excuse. Again, it is just about values. What values you have in doing the right thing for the community and being fair. I think this is a very small step in being fair. Even if this would pass, I do not think we are even close to what the community deserves, but they are a humble community and I think we should respect and appreciate that. Thank you, Chair.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any further discussion? Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: I totally support the goal of solarizing Kekaha and I would like to see the entire island solarized. That is why I have been working for over ten (10) years for a solar water heating law that would require solar water heating on all new construction to start to kind of turn off the faucet, instead of creating houses that do not have solar, and have every new house get solar and figure out how to retrofit our existing houses. After paying off a solar water heater, it is free hot water and the savings is about thirty percent (30%) of a household electricity bill. With that kind of additional money, it would really help our families and I think you, Uncles, have shown that and you have actually made it happen for those two hundred forty (240) families. I think though that when it is taxpayers' money, we have to use it in the most cost-effective way possible. I do not think there is a plan for how to do that yet. I do not think that people who can afford to get a loan...I think that the credit unions have interest-free loans for solar water heating that we need to do it that way, because that will maximize the taxpayers' money. If we are going to have to raise taxes this year, I would rather take the time to work with you if you would be willing to work out a program that would be more cost-effective that you can come back here and get the moneys next year, perhaps.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any final discussion from the Members? Councilmember Brun.

Councilmember Brun: No, I am ready to vote.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: I just want to add to be clear that if we had the money, I would love to give the money. But again, as the Budget & Finance Chair, I need to be strict on the budget. Right now, as far as Solid Waste goes, we are losing \$8.3 million a year on Solid Waste. So the General Fund subsidizes the Solid Waste program by \$8.3 million, so if a proposal came in later to increase the tipping fees and a portion of that goes to Kekaha for another project, it might be an easier pill to swallow. The money is based on the amount that was dumped in there, but as of right now, with or financial situation, it is just something that I cannot support. With that, can I get a roll call vote?

The motion to add funding in the amount of \$500,000 in the Office of Economic Development, Grant-In-Aid, to Host Community Benefit (Solarize Kekaha Project) was then put, and failed by the following vote:

FOR MOTION:	Brun, Kagawa, Kawakami, Rapozo	TOTAL – 4,
AGAINST MOTION:	Chock, Yukimura, Kaneshiro	TOTAL – 3,
EXCUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0,
RECUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: 4:3, motion fails.

Mr. Perreira: May I say something?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Mr. Perreira, we typically do not allow more discussion because the time to speak was before the vote.

Mr. Perreira: This is an apology. Most of you people do not know me per se, but when I am passionate on something, that is when my voice gets loud and boisterous, but I did not mean to hurt anybody. I would like to thank the Council for all of the work they do. Please excuse my loud, boisterous voice. Sometimes I think I am still coaching.

Councilmember Yukimura: We have heard louder.

Councilmember Kawakami: Like Matt Bernabe.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Matt is a lot louder than you folks. Thank you for being very respectful also. I have an apology because I have an add and cut that came from the Administration. It balances itself out and I forgot to propose it.

Councilmember Kagawa: I am going to introduce it for Committee Chair Kaneshiro as being circulated. This is to cut funding, \$250,000, for the Kalāheo Fire Station and add \$250,000 for 'Anini Bridge.

Councilmember Kagawa moved to cut funding in the amount of \$250,000 from the Kalāheo Fire Station in the CIP-Bond Fund and add additional funding in the amount of \$250,000 to the 'Anini Bridge project in the CIP-Bond Fund, seconded by Councilmember Brun.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Let me just explain this and I will try to explain is as best as possible, but Keith mentioned that the 'Anini Bridge estimate ended up a little higher than what they expected. With the Kalāheo Fire Station, they were able to reduce the cost on that and so rather than coming back later on in the year, he wanted to know if we could adjust it right now. It is two (2) items that are in the CIP: one, they went out to bid and it came out over-budget; the other one, they are doing it and it is under-budget and they are just moving the numbers around. Councilmember Kawakami.

Councilmember Kawakami: I just had a question because this was one of the items that constituents have reached out, not only fishermen that utilize that area, but also we have somebody that utilizes paratransit operations out there. We have a gas company that cannot service their customers out there. I just wanted to know so we can respond back, when is this project going to be completed? When is the anticipated completion date?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: The rules are suspended and this is what you get for making me propose it and I forgot about it. Now you have to answer our question on 'Anini Bridge.

There being no objections, the rules were suspended.

Councilmember Kawakami: Just the completion date. I do not have problems. I heard the justification, but I just wanted to know when is this \$250,000 going to end up with a bridge that people can utilize?

Mr. Suga: I certainly apologize for the last minute request. I do not know if Committee Chair Kaneshiro went through that the bid came in yesterday,

it opened yesterday, and seeing that it came in over-budget, we thought maybe now is the appropriate time to try to make the appropriate adjustments so we can award. At this point, if this does pass Council approval, the moneys would be there July 1<sup>st</sup>, which we then could award the contract at that time. From there, the Notice to Proceed (NTP) could be issued. I believe the project, in totality, once the NTP is given, we are probably looking at a three (3) to four (4) month completion to improve the situation out there at 'Anini Bridge.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: October, I guess? Before the end of the year.

Councilmember Kawakami: Okay.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Council Chair Rapozo.

Council Chair Rapozo: How much was the estimate?

Mr. Suga: The initial estimate I received from Engineering  
was...

Council Chair Rapozo: \$250,000.

Mr. Suga: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: What was the award?

Mr. Suga: \$534,000, I believe? Not the award...excuse  
me...the potential low bid came in at \$534,000.

Council Chair Rapozo: Over two (2) times the amount?

Mr. Suga: Correct.

Council Chair Rapozo: Who does our estimates?

Mr. Suga: For this particular project, we have...

Council Chair Rapozo: I do not need to know the name, but do we...

Mr. Suga: We have a consultant.

Council Chair Rapozo: A consultant told us \$250,000?

Mr. Suga: Correct.

Council Chair Rapozo: And it is \$530,000?

Mr. Suga: Correct.

Council Chair Rapozo: Did we fire that consultant? It is not the first  
time. I am going to tell you and be strictly honest—the Transportation Investment  
Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant is what my concern is. This is when we

come across with a number, like \$250,000, and it is now up to \$530,000. You know we are not going to do it for \$530,000. I think history tells us that we will have a change order and it will be more than that. I am not sure at what point we say, "Hey, we have to find another consultant." That is crazy. Keith, you are like the lightning rod for all of the venting of this Council and do not take it personal, but that is something that I think we have to look at. That is a bad estimate, unless the contractors are taking us to the cleaners, which is what I am worried about.

Councilmember Kawakami: I have one quick question, Committee Chair.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Okay. Councilmember Kawakami.

Councilmember Kawakami: Is this bridge a complete replacement or is it a rehabilitation project?

Mr. Suga: This particular project would be...it is more of a replacement because this would be spanning the existing culvert that is in place.

Councilmember Kawakami: But it does not expand the footprint, the width, or anything like that, right?

Mr. Suga: No.

Councilmember Kawakami: Just out of curiosity, how much did we have to pay for Environmental Assessments (EAs) or compliance with Chapter 343 on this bridge project?

Mr. Suga: I cannot remember off the top of my head what our consultant contract amount was. It would have been included in that during that process.

Councilmember Kawakami: Okay.

Mr. Suga: I could find out for you.

Councilmember Kawakami: Afterwards, can you get it to us?

Mr. Suga: Yes.

Councilmember Kawakami: Okay. Thank you. I only raise that because in order to cut costs, and I would like the constituents to know that the Legislature had taken measures to cut costs of projects when it came to bridge repairs or replacements that as long as it did not expand the footprint or as long as it was not new bridges and it was existing bridges, to exempt it from Chapter 343, just to cut costs. But it was met with extreme opposition. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Chock.

Councilmember Chock: Thank you, Keith. My understanding is that there is no alternative route in and out of this road.

Mr. Suga: Correct.

Councilmember Chock: Have you made a plan for how it is you are going to complete this in the amount of time?

Mr. Suga: Correct, there is a phasing that has been incorporated into the plans and that probably is why a lot of the bids came in higher, in terms of the risk or liabilities being pushed onto the contractor to meet certain closure requirements.

Councilmember Chock: So is that one of the reasons why the bid is higher?

Mr. Suga: I believe so.

Councilmember Chock: ...than you had imagined?

Mr. Suga: Correct.

Councilmember Chock: Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any further discussion? Roll call vote.

There being no objections, the meeting was called back to order, and proceeded as follows:

The motion to cut funding in the amount of \$250,000 from the Kalāheo Fire Station in the CIP-Bond Fund and add additional funding in the amount of \$250,000 to the 'Anini Bridge project in the CIP-Bond Fund was then put, and carried by the following vote:

FOR MOTION:	Brun, Chock, Kagawa, Kawakami, Rapozo, Yukimura, Kaneshiro	TOTAL – 7,
AGAINST MOTION:	None	TOTAL – 0,
EXCUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0,
RECUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: Seven (7) ayes, motion passes.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Sorry about that. Any more adds?  
Councilmember Brun.

Councilmember Brun: Mine is to reclassify Position No. 897 in the Auto Mechanic Shop that they moved from a Repair Shop Supervisor to a Heavy Equipment Mechanic. I want to move it back to the Repair Shop Supervisor.

Councilmember Brun moved to reclassify Position No. 897, Heavy Vehicle & Construction Equipment Mechanic, to Repair Shop Supervisor from BC11 to F211 and related benefits, reduce R&M Vehicles by (\$11,979) to fund the increased salary amount in the Department of Public Works-Auto Maintenance, Highway Fund, seconded by Council Chair Rapozo.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any questions or discussion on this?

Councilmember Brun: After visiting the shop and talking to the shop and talking to a lot of mechanics, they really feel that they definitely need this position. They used to have this position with way less people and it was funded. But with more people, they took it away and they wanted to put it as a mechanic and I think we had a Body Fender worker that turned into a mechanic. So I do not think we are short of mechanics. We do need this position. I think they are temporarily assigning a person there right now. When we went there, somebody was temporarily assigned for this position. Some of the workers really feel that this Repair Shop Supervisor should be in place. I also talked to the repair shop foreman and he was in support of it.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: We do not have the power to reclassify, right? I guess we have the power to put money in there, but I do not know if we have the power to reclassify. Is that a reallocation?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: I will suspend the rules.

There being no objections, the rules were suspended.

Ms. Rapozo: In the budget, you can change the position to the Supervisor and change the dollar value, as far as funding. I guess at that point, it will be up to the Administration how they are going to be filling it.

Councilmember Yukimura: What is the Administration's position on this?

ERNEST W. BARREIRA, Assistant Chief Procurement Officer: Good afternoon Councilmembers. Ernie Barreira, Assistant Chief Procurement Officer. This position was vetted through the Vacancy Review Committee process, pursuant to standard procedure. When a position is vacated, we take a look at it. The Vacancy Review Committee basically conveyed its findings and recommendations to the Mayor, at which point the position was not going to be filled, only because of situations at the automotive shop that indicated they needed some time to closely evaluate their operations to make sure that the chain-of-command was properly in place and that the allocation of duties was properly addressed. In line with that, there seemed to be a very strong emphasis that based on the Administration's visits with the baseyards, part of the problems were that we were not getting turnover of large and small equipment in a timely fashion and that was adversely affecting the productivity of the workers in the field. So that is why in the March Submittal that position was re-described to a Mechanic as opposed to a line Supervisor.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any other questions? Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: Would this action be to remove a Mechanic?

Ms. Rapozo: The position was reallocated in this new budget to be a Mechanic, so currently, it is vacant in this current budget as the Repair Shop Supervisor. When we submitted the fiscal year 2018 budget, it was submitted as a Mechanic.

Councilmember Yukimura: So this change does not change the Mechanic position at all or does it? This is Position No. 897.

Ms. Rapozo: This position would revert back to what is currently in the budget in fiscal year 2017.

Council Chair Rapozo: 2016-2017?

Ms. Rapozo: Yes.

Councilmember Yukimura: So the Administration wants it to be a Mechanic, rather than a Repair Shop Supervisor?

Ms. Rapozo: That is what was submitted, yes.

Councilmember Yukimura: So the Administration by this proposal would not be able to implement their plans?

Ms. Rapozo: As we have seen with all positions, it could be reallocated.

Council Chair Rapozo: Yes, they have that down.

Councilmember Yukimura: It is part of the separation of powers that the power to reallocate is in the Administration. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Kagawa.

Councilmember Kagawa: If I heard you right that even if we do this change, if the Administration sees it fit to leave it as a Mechanic then they will, right? I think Councilmember Brun is giving you the option to do what the men have said would make them more efficient. If the men's supervisor did not bring it forth you folks in the budget submittal, I guess Councilmember Brun is trying to fix a problem that has not been brought into the budget. If you folks deem that Councilmember Brun's alternative is not what the auto supervisor wants, you folks will not do it, right? That is basically what you folks just clarified to Councilmember Yukimura. You folks still have the power to shape whatever position.

Ms. Rapozo: That is correct.

Councilmember Kagawa: I was in that meeting and what it came down is that they said they cannot fix things when they do not have a supervisor processing work orders, ordering parts, and picking up parts. You cannot fix without the replacement parts

and I think a lot of the backlog was in with those types. The mechanics are saying, "If we are mechanics, we cannot go and order the parts on our own." They need that supervisor to go and order the parts because he is the one going to approve of the job being done in a manner that is requested to be done. I think this amendment is trying to give you folks the power to fix a problem that was brought on to us and how do we get more vehicles, more heavy equipment done faster. They are overwhelmed down there. We just sat down there a little while and the amount of work that was coming through was unbelievable. I almost feel like we have to have privatized powers, but I do not know...when we are really busy, then that way we can just get the equipment fixed and what have you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Chock.

Councilmember Chock: I guess one of the concerns I heard earlier was Lyle said that he is hiring one and he already has his eye on the second one. Is that the same mechanics that he was talking about?

Ms. Rapozo: No, there was one (1) vacancy that is a mechanic that he is hired already. There is the Body and Fender position that was vacant that they converted to the Heavy Vehicle Mechanic that he is ready to hire, but it was pending that the position remains in the budget. This is a third one.

Councilmember Chock: Okay. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Brun.

Councilmember Brun: So ultimately it is your decision, whatever the Department of Public Works is going to do. For us, we get the concerns from the constituents and workers and this is what they want, so I am going to do my duty and put it in so that they know we are doing what they want. What you folks do, bottom line, is up to you folks. To answer that question, we are just doing what is right, and then you guys can do whatever you think is right. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Council Chair Rapozo.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you. I guess it is a plea from Councilmember Brun. I, too went down to the shop and I am not sure how many mechanics they have. I guess that place is split in a couple of bays, so you get this side and this side, so it is a mess—I have to be honest—there are some mean personality issues down there and some mean workplace issues down there. You have a Superintendent who sits upstairs and there is no supervisor. I do not know how we can expect that place to function properly without getting problems and internal issues with employees without a supervisor. We heard today regarding the Solid Waste Division—I cannot count how many supervisors we are going to put in there: working supervisors, site supervisors, and all of these supervisors for seven (7) guys. Then we have this shop who has problems. We know that. Let us not pretend that it does not exist because it exists. But we are going to take the supervisor away? You have to have a supervisor. I think that is what Councilmember Brun is trying to say. He is basically pleading, understanding that we make this change...I had this change, but I gave it back because I believe there is no sense, because we can make the change and tomorrow, HR can go right back...I guess this is an attempt to plea with the Administration, please consider the need for a supervisor down at that shop. We hear the

complaints. It takes forever for a car to get finished. There is no supervisor, no leader. The Superintendent cannot be expected to take care of all of the supervisory functions of that shop. Again, not micromanaging, but these are just observations that when you have that many people in a shop and you have different functions in the shop, it just makes sense to have a supervisor there. I would ask that you really consider this. I am going to support this, obviously, because I think it needs to be done and I would ask that the Administration seriously consider it.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: There appears to be in the works additional mechanics that are going to come onboard.

Ms. Rapozo: There was a position proposed to be changed from the Body and Fender Worker to a Mechanic in the proposed budget and this is another one that was also proposed to become a Mechanic to try to, as Lyle said, "Get more wrenches on the floor right now."

Councilmember Yukimura: Okay. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any further questions? If not, thank you. I will call this meeting back to order. Any final discussion? Councilmember Kagawa.

There being no objections, the meeting was called back to order, and proceeded as follows:

Councilmember Kagawa: We have a lot of equipment that we are ordering, so I hope the Administration can be just a little more responsive to how we solve the problem. This one seems like we have the workers, but they cannot work without the coordination of a manager just letting the work orders flow and making sure that we order parts. If we ignore the request of the men, I think we will continue to see backlogs in our repairs. Like any construction company, when the equipment is down, construction companies say you are losing big money. I think the County to have the excuse, "Well, we County. That is okay if it is down," I do not think that is what the public wants. They want roads fixed. Fixing by hand is outdated, so we have to have all of those equipment in working order in order to function at our best. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Brun.

Councilmember Brun: For this one, I asked the Administration to please look at it deeply and see if we really need that position. I talked to somebody today, which is why I was a little late. A Mechanic stopped me this morning and he was just going off. He was saying, "It is horrible in there. We need that shop supervisor." It is out there, the morale is down, and we need this person to kind of smooth things out and work with them. Please, if we do get this passed, Administration, please really look into putting this supervisor in instead of a Mechanic, because we have two (2) more already coming on. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: This is actually micromanaging and second-guessing by the Council. By the way the Charter is set-up, it is protecting the Administration against that because it cannot really take effect. I am actually going to vote for this because I sense there are major problems, and all I want to do, because it cannot take effect without the Administration, is signal to the Administration that there needs to be a closer look at what is happening over there. I felt like I could tell just in the dialogue in the hearing that there were issues and it is hard to get anything done when there are those issues. So hopefully there can be a second look and maybe some work. I know these issues are not easy, but it would be good to see what the best way is to resolve it.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Kawakami.

Councilmember Kawakami: Thank you. I am unfortunately not going to be able to support this currently. I do support the notion and the idea of having a Repair Shop Supervisor. In that type of working environment and what was just described to us, I will not be in judgment of, but I do know that in these type of work environments when you are dealing with repairs, heavy equipment, and tools and dangerous things, you need to have that shop supervisor, but I think it is incumbent upon the Administration to make those calls. What I am afraid of...well, not afraid...what I am hesitant of is the unintended consequences. I would hate to move things around, have them not support or not even have a Repair Shop Supervisor candidate ready to be hired and now we are stuck with a position that goes vacant for another two thousand (2,000) days. The apparent need right now is for a Heavy Vehicle and Construction Equipment Mechanic and has some of our heavy vehicles and construction equipment fall into dire straits with necessary repairs that cannot be made. I totally support the merit, but I think it is incumbent on the Administration's duties to go and come back to us and tell us that they need this Repair Shop Supervisor and that we can fund it. I think from what I have heard, we are all willing and we all support the notion that we need a supervisor, but I am not going to support it this way. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: The motion on the floor is to reclassify Position No. 897 "Heavy Vehicle & Construction Equipment Mechanic" to "Repair Shop Supervisor" from BC 11 to F2 11 and related benefits and reducing R&M Vehicles by (\$11,979) to fund increased salary amount. Overall, the net effect is zero. Councilmember Brun.

Councilmember Brun: We have two (2) different numbers. Which one is the right one? The top says "897" and the bottom says "987." I am just making sure that we have the right one before we vote.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Sorry, it is to move to reclassify Position No. 897. Again, the difference is coming out of R&M Vehicles. The net effect is zero. I think we heard it loud and clear that it is more of a message to the Administration. Roll call vote.

The motion to reclassify Position No. 897 Heavy Vehicle & Construction Equipment Mechanic, to Repair Shop Supervisor from BC 11 to F2 11 and related benefits, Reduce R&M Vehicles by (\$11,979) to fund the increased salary amount in the Department of Public Works-Auto Maintenance, Highway Fund, was then put, and carried by the following vote:

FOR MOTION:	Brun, Chock, Kagawa, Rapozo, Yukimura, Kaneshiro	TOTAL – 6,
AGAINST MOTION:	Kawakami	TOTAL – 1,
EXCUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0,
RECUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: 6:1, motion passes.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any other cuts and adds, or adds?

Council Chair Rapozo: I have one.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Council Chair Rapozo.

Council Chair Rapozo: This is an add to replace the funding that was not submitted this year for the Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA)-Family Violence Shelter and the YWCA-Sexual Assault Treatment Program, \$65,000 for the Family Violence Shelter and \$50,000 for the Sexual Assault Treatment Program.

Council Chair Rapozo moved to add funding in the Office of Economic Development, Grant-In-Aid, in the amount of \$65,000 in for YWCA-Family Violence Shelter and \$50,000 in for YWCA-Sexual Assault Treatment Program for a total of \$115,000, seconded by Councilmember Yukimura.

Council Chair Rapozo: I do not think we need any discussion on this. I think we discussed it at the budget hearing. I think it was clear that the Administration said that they were focusing on cultural programs and they were going to reassess. It did not come back across. This is funding that we have had in there for a long time, many years. Although the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) moneys...very generous to the YWCA. I look at it as two (2) separate things. Other agencies had the opportunity to apply for the CDBG. This is completely separate; it is apples and oranges. These are programs that we have funded, for what I believe is a very vital part of our community and it is not like you can take the money from CDBG to fund these. I think we owe it to our community to replace this funding.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any questions or comments? Councilmember Kagawa.

Councilmember Kagawa: I am going to support this. I think we have a growing population and growing problems out in the community, and the women, children, and families need to have this. It is definitely a need; it is not a want. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any further comments from the Members? Councilmember Chock.

Councilmember Chock: I am going to support this as well. I do think it is a core need in the community. I think it sort of undermines the direction of the Office of Economic Development and how they are structuring their GIA, of which I am against. I am hoping that perhaps this funding can find a home somewhere else in the future, because I do believe that we need to separate those functions that we all deem are core and will

continue to fund without it being in a competitive process. There is some maneuvering that needs to happen in order for me to really swallow this, but I will support this at this time.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: I have had a proposal that I have not proposed because of the tight budget situation, but I will at some point propose an Office of Children and Families, which I think opens the need now...we have an Office of Elderly Affairs and if we talk about prevention and the need, there is a great need for that. This grant funding...I agree that the Office of Economic Development is an odd fit, if at all a fit, so I think we need to evolve our County structure to really align with the needs of current-day society and maybe you can see that next year.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any further discussion? Right now, our total budget that we cut is \$2,200,000, just to remind everybody. Roll call vote.

The motion to add funding in the Office of Economic Development, Grant-In-Aid, in the amount of \$65,000 in for YWCA-Family Violence Shelter and \$50,000 in for YWCA-Sexual Assault Treatment Program for a total of \$115,000 was then put, and carried by the following vote:

FOR MOTION:	Brun, Chock, Kagawa, Kawakami, Rapozo, Yukimura, Kaneshiro	TOTAL – 7,
AGAINST MOTION:	None	TOTAL – 0,
EXCUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0,
RECUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: Seven (7) ayes.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you very much.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: The balance is going down now. Councilmember Kawakami.

Councilmember Kawakami: Yes, I do have an add. I would like to take a brief moment to explain the add. I would like to thank Council Chair because actually we were approached at the same time by the same entity for this proposal and it has gone up significantly since the last time we met and it was a last minute add, so we really apologize. It was one of those things that came up because of the budgeting process...

Councilmember Yukimura: Can we see it?

Councilmember Kawakami: Excuse me?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Yukimura, he has not even mentioned what his add is yet.

Councilmember Kawakami: It is for Kaumakani Park improvements.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: The staff does not even know what paper to pass out.

Councilmember Yukimura: I am sorry. Thank you.

Councilmember Kawakami moved to add additional funding in the Department of Parks & Recreation-Administration in the amount of \$200,000 for Kaumakani Park Improvements (Roof, Repairs, etc.), seconded by Councilmember Kagawa.

Councilmember Kawakami: Basically, let me give you a brief history. We have a gem up there in the hills of Kaumakani, the softball field; I think we have all been there. This was actually a project that was on the books previously. Originally, it was a smaller amount...I think it was \$40,000 with the thoughts that it was going to be leveraged with CDBG funds. But lo and behold, Kaumakani is an area that falls out of that CDBG zone. Believe it or not, it does not qualify, which just baffles me; something is wrong with the formula. We approached the Department of Parks & Recreation. The \$40,000 had been threatened to lapse because it did not get the leveraging from the CDBG funds, so that money was moved over to Black Pot. The intent was to make the repairs, but they lost out because the money was moved. Here we are today to add in a modest amount of \$200,000 for repairs to their pavilion. If you were to go out there, in my opinion, it is a matter of public health and safety. Council Chair has seen it also. It is badly corroded and the Department of Parks & Recreation has agreed that they had intended to make the improvements, but the funding was not there. So I am going to make an attempt to add in the funding of \$200,000.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Questions? Council Chair Rapozo.

Council Chair Rapozo: I do not have a question. I just wanted to put it up on the screen for all of you to see. I went out there and I spoke to a few gentlemen and I will tell you that it is amazing—the average age of the three (3) gentlemen I met was probably eighty (80). Kuku De Costa is probably the youngest and he is in his 70's, then you have Mr. Sonoda, and Winky. Winky has got to be in his 80's. I have not been there in a while, but when I got there the field was like...I am not exaggerating...I do not know the last time you folks went out there. I think Councilmember Kawakami may have been out there recently, but the field was like...you know the major league fields where they cross the cut on the field, it was like that. I should have took pictures of the field. The three (3) men were in there and they were just so humble. They said, "If can, can; if no can, no can." I started to walk around. This is just in the little shack that they hangout in where the restrooms are. If you look at that electrical box right here, which is directly under the leaking roof. That is actually a better shot. That is a health and safety issue. If you go more, that is kind of what it looks like here. That is the basketball court over there. It is right next to a school, which would be a great asset for that school, I think. That is just what it looks like. These people have told me that they think they can get it done for about \$40,000 to \$50,000 if we provide the equipment, but in talking with the Director of Parks & Recreation, he brought me back to reality really, really quick and I would have to agree that it is going to be a lot more than that, just because of the plumbing and electrical. The pavilion built there...they did a really great job. It is a project that I think these people who take such great care of the field. I am glad that Councilmember Kawakami brought up the add because it is a significant add, but again, maybe we do not have to do it all at one time, but we have to get out there and we have to take care of those issues. The roof needs

to be replaced, obviously. Some of those beams need to be replaced. The plywood roofs need to be replaced. With that basketball court, it is not going to take much to clean the weeds and change the backboard, the rim, and the net. I am obviously going to support this. We will figure out a way to get to that number at the end, but I am hoping that we can get the support as well from the rest of the Council. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Chock.

Councilmember Chock: My only question was, and I think I got it pretty answered, was to ensure that the amount that is allotted here will get the job done. I know we have seen in the past some issues with leaky roofs and it not getting fixed properly.

Council Chair Rapozo: I will say that according to Lenny, \$200,000 is using volunteer labor. Just the material and supplies...the designs...everything has been done. Lenny said that all of the plans have been done prior to those moneys being taken away and given to Black Pot. I think all of that stuff is done and now it just a matter of getting the construction.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: I do not have any questions.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: I would have had a question for the Administration, but I do not think someone can answer. Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: There is a Special Projects Contingency Fund on page 239; why can it not fit under there? \$224,970.

Council Chair Rapozo: For the same reason we tried to put the water requirement on your \$75,000. If we identify the line, then it is dedicated for that use.

Councilmember Yukimura: Yes. That is the intention. It will still leave \$24,000, plus whatever they can move around.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: I have a question for the Administration if somebody wants to try to answer. My question is, is there other money to do this project, as far as bond money? I know we have the Ho'olōkahi Project. This is on our own park, so I do not know why we would not try move towards fixing those types of things in our budget. I just wanted some help on this as far as a little more direction.

Councilmember Yukimura: Page 239 of the Supplemental says "Special Projects" and the use is identified as "Contingency Funds." This sounds like a major contingency.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Can we take a five-minute recess?

Councilmember Kawakami: Or we could move on to the next item maybe.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Yes, we can move on to the next one and come back to this. I would rather not hold up the process, but I know it is a big amount. We see

what it looks like, but for me, I want to go through the avenues and see if we have a plan for it. Ideally, I would rather want to see these type of things come up in the budget prior to the Supplemental where we have to make a decision off the cuff, which is very difficult. That is my only concern and I just want to hear if there was a plan or other money for it. Let us keep moving, keeping in mind...I do not know what the next cut is. If that \$200,000, then that number is going to be smaller, so do not propose anything more than that, plus \$200,000, just in case. Whoever proposed it, can we withdraw it, and then we will have it back up again?

Councilmember Kawakami withdrew the motion to add additional funding in the Department of Parks & Recreation-Administration in the amount of \$200,000 for Kaumakani Park Improvements (Roof, Repairs, etc.), Councilmember Kagawa withdrew the second.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: We will bring it back up. I guess I cannot recess a decision. We will move on. Any further adds?

Councilmember Yukimura: Just a query, I thought we could not suggest any adds without suggesting cuts?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: We have \$2,000,000 more than cuts right now. Do we want to add \$2,000,000 back into the budget? I do not think it is wise. Do we have flexibility to add some? We already have a cost right now, we are chasing \$3,600,000. If we want to add, then we will deal with it. That is our prerogative. We cut \$2,000,000, we can spend \$2,000,000 if that is how the votes go.

Councilmember Yukimura: Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Council Chair Rapozo.

Council Chair Rapozo: I do have an add sheet and I am not going to formally introduce it. I want to discuss it because there is a big problem that came up recently with the Kaua'i Humane Society and they have stopped their Spay and Neuter Program indefinitely. I do not know if they even have an idea of when they are going...that is when I am going to need the help from Wally or someone from the Administration. This is relatively new and I apologize for not discussing this with the Finance Director. We discussed it in the past and it was before the Humane Society had shut down services. We control the contract with the Humane Society for whatever they do, but the Spay and Neuter Program was cut from their contract a while ago and they were supposedly doing it. This is a question for us and for the Administration...on this sheet, I have \$60,000 and is there a way for us to work outside of the Humane Society with the private vets...sorry, Wally...with the veterinarians? Again, it is a problem that we have to address. The Spay and Neuter Program...the problems we have with feral animals and stray animals making babies is a problem. The Humane Society is not addressing it. Right now, no one is addressing it, unless you go to your private veterinarian, which could be very costly. Is there an opportunity for the County to work with our veterinarians, whether it is through a coupon system where we issue out vouchers to our private veterinarians for people that want to spay and neuter their animals? I bring that up for discussion. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Actually, let me get a motion and a second on it for discussion.

Council Chair Rapozo: Let me just make the motion. Right now, the add sheet says \$60,000 and that number is only because that is what we funded. I had one for \$60,000 and one for \$75,000. I believe our former contract was \$60,000, so let us start with the \$60,000.

Council Chair Rapozo moved to add funding in the amount of \$60,000 in the Department of Finance, Administration, Special Projects for a Spay & Neuter Program, seconded by Councilmember Kagawa.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Thank you. We will continue the discussion.  
Council Chair Rapozo.

Council Chair Rapozo: Again, this is brand new to them as well, so it is pretty unfair.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: I believe that the Humane Society does have a Spay and Neuter Program, but it is being funded by grants. I know that, in fact, they are bringing in...I think Scott Pisani mentioned that they are going to bring in this major spay/neuter capacity that will come and I think they do around fifty (50) a day or something like that and people will be allowed to bring in their pets. I think I would prefer that we actually work with the Humane Society and come up with a good program, and then consider how to fund it. As the Chair has said, I support the intention, but I think it has to be thought through and developed with the Humane Society because they are the experts.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Council Chair Rapozo.

Council Chair Rapozo: Well, I mean the expert is the veterinarian. Again, whether or not the Humane Society decides to start up their program...I am reading the E-mail from Scott Pisani and this was just on the 11<sup>th</sup>: "The public's spay and neuter services are still temporarily on hold as we continue to assess our clinic and determine how to ensure/provide high-quality of service with the greatest impact to our community." I am all good with that. This money does not become available until July. If it is the Humane Society, I really do not care who does it, but somebody has to do it. I guess what I am saying is that if the Humane Society cannot get it together and offer that service for the public then we need to find another angle. We are not obligated to contract with anybody for this service. It just needs to be done. If you folks want to wait, then that is fine, too. It bothers me. The reason the service was stopped was because a couple of animals had died shortly after surgery. I believe it was purely coincidence. It just happened and that was one of those unfortunate events. But because of the circumstances, they shut down the program. That was a while ago and I am not so sure when it will come back.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: I do not think it is for lack of funding; I think it is because of this logistics that they are stepping back to review their process and procedures. We need to verify that, too.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: I do not know if the Administration will have an answer for us on it. If the Humane Society was here, they would probably have a better understanding of it. Unfortunately, we are not going to get them here in time. Ernie, do you have any comments?

There being no objections, the rules were suspended.

Mr. Barreira: I think the first thing that needs to be addressed is whether or not such an action would have any statutory prohibitions, so I think the County Attorney should be asked to provide guidance before I speak as to the procurement alternatives that might be there.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: We put money in the budget for the Dog Barking Ordinance and other stuff. We put money in the budget for other stuff.

Council Chair Rapozo: We had money for the Spay and Neuter Program in the past. It is not something new. I am just saying that we should redo it and start it up again. That is all. We do not need an attorney's opinion on that because we had it.

Councilmember Yukimura: But the pause by the Humane Society, I do not believe it is for the lack of coins.

Council Chair Rapozo: The Humane Society has absolutely nothing to do with this. Again, what I said was to have money available, and is the Administration willing to work on a program, whether it is with the Humane Society, the Salvation Army, the Boys & Girls Club, or some veterinarian's association? Is there a way we can figure out how we can get this program back in place, preferably with the Humane Society, but if not, then that is fine. If it is too premature, Wally, let us know if it is premature. We can do it later in the form of a money bill. I guess my point is that I did not want to let this go unaddressed during the time where we, as the Council, have an opportunity to share what we think is important. I believe this is very important.

WALLACE G. REZENTES, JR., Managing Director: I will let Mauna Kea speak, but I believe that if you state it generically, like how you are intending, then we will be fine. That is how I feel. How do you have it? Just under "Special Projects – Animal Services," I think that would be an appropriate line item. It is generic enough where we can manage it, come July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you. Is that okay, Mauna Kea?

Mr. Trask: For the record, Mauna Kea Trask, County Attorney. The statute generally requires the County of Kaua'i to contract with the Humane Society for the provision of these and other similar services, so that is kind of left to them.

Council Chair Rapozo: Well, you have to read the whole thing, Mauna Kea.

Mr. Trask: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: You have to read the whole statute. It says for the provision of what? Dogs, loose dogs, and stray dogs.

Mr. Trask: It says nothing in here that talks about dogs shall be limited just to dogs, it could include other animals. It is supposed to be broad. I think it is more of an accounting thing, not a legal question, really. We contract with them and it is accounting, however you want to do this.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any further questions?

Councilmember Yukimura: Call for the question.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Whoa, somebody is ready to vote. Any further discussion on this? I guess I will say that I understand what Council Chair is doing. I guess I am a little uncomfortable not knowing more information on it. That is simply why I am voting the way I am going to vote. Any further discussion? Councilmember Chock.

There being no objections, the meeting was called back to order, and proceeded as follows:

Councilmember Chock: I am feeling kind of similar. I definitely feel the importance and want to support it and I will be there for a money bill if we have to come back for \$60,000 on this and get a little more into it. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: I am absolutely fine with that. If there is one more of you that is uncomfortable, then let me know now.

Councilmember Yukimura: I am going to vote against it.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay, I will withdraw. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo withdrew the motion to add funding in the amount of \$60,000 in the Department of Finance, Administration, Special Projects for a Spay & Neuter Program, Councilmember Kagawa withdrew the second.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Okay. We will keep moving. It is 4:07 p.m., so let us just keep it going. We see the light at the end of the tunnel. Councilmember Kawakami, do you want to do your proposal again?

Councilmember Kawakami: Yes. I am going to pass out a new one. I would actually like to turn it over to the Administration at your blessings.

Councilmember Kawakami moved to move (\$200,000) from the Parks & Recreation Improvement & Maintenance Fund Contingency Funds for Department of Parks & Recreation, Administration, R&M Parks Facilities to Kaumakani Park Improvements (Roof, Repairs, etc.), seconded by Councilmember Kagawa.

Councilmember Kawakami: Would it be okay to ask some questions of the Administration?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Sure, if you want to ask them the question to guide this a little quicker.

Councilmember Kawakami: Wally, thank you so much because this new proposal is actually coming from your side so I guess we found some money with the new budget. This is just the move within the current budget...what is it...relabeling of the title, right?

Mr. Rezentos: I think the intent is to re-categorize Contingency Funds into that particular line item.

Councilmember Kawakami: Yes, it is basically just to move Contingency Funds into earmark for Kaumakani Park.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Got it. Any further questions on this? It is a pretty simple proposal that has not affected the budget. It is just moving funds that are already there. Any discussion? If not, roll call vote.

The motion to move (\$200,000) from the Parks & Recreation Improvement & Maintenance Fund Contingency Funds for Department of Parks & Recreation, Administration, R&M Parks Facilities to Kaumakani Park Improvements (Roof, Repairs, etc.) was then put, and carried by the following vote:

FOR MOTION:	Brun, Chock, Kagawa, Kawakami, Rapozo, Yukimura, Rapozo	TOTAL – 7,
AGAINST MOTION:	None	TOTAL – 0,
EXCUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0,
RECUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: Seven (7) ayes.

Councilmember Kawakami: Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any other adds?

Council Chair Rapozo: Hold on...do we have \$200,000?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: We actually have \$2,200,000 if you want to use all of that. I would highly consider not to.

Council Chair Rapozo: If we are done with adds, can we take a short break?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any more adds? Councilmember Kagawa has an add.

Councilmember Kagawa: I have an add. I am going to request that we up the contribution to Project Graduation by \$500 each to each of the three (3) public high schools. I think it is a very successful program and they are struggling with increased costs for bus and facility use and I want to ensure that this continues, because if you remember in the old days, without Project Graduation, it was chaotic on graduation night.

Councilmember Kagawa moved to add \$1,500 to Office of the Mayor – Administration for Grant-In-Aid – Project Graduation (Kapa‘a, Kaua‘i, Waimea) for a total of \$7,500 or \$2,500 per school, seconded by Councilmember Brun.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Okay. Any questions or comments on this? It is an add of \$1,500. Any final discussion? If not, let us take a roll call vote.

The motion to add \$1,500 to Office of the Mayor – Administration for Grant-In-Aid – Project Graduation (Kapa‘a, Kaua‘i, Waimea) for a total of \$7,500 or \$2,500 per school was then put, and carried by the following vote:

FOR MOTION:	Brun, Chock, Kagawa, Kawakami, Rapozo Yukimura, Kaneshiro	TOTAL – 7,
AGAINST MOTION:	None	TOTAL – 0,
EXCUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0,
RECUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: Seven (7) ayes, motion passes.

Council Chair Rapozo: I have one quick question to Wally and the Mayor about the Kaua‘i Veterans Center. Did you want to revisit that, Wally? I see the Mayor nodding. I just came across your packet and I told you if we had an opportunity then I would propose it.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: The rules are suspended.

Mr. Rezentes: The Council posed questions yesterday on the Kaua‘i Veterans Center and I spoke to the Chair and he asked if I could gather the information quickly, as much as I could find, from the volunteers of the Kaua‘i Veterans Center. I had a couple of discussions yesterday and today, this morning, before I got here and I was able to get some of the questions that were posed answered. I put together this cover sheet and in the back of that cover sheet, some of the financials from the Kaua‘i Veterans Center. The first question that was posed was whether or not Kaua‘i Veterans Center receives federal funding, and I confirmed with the Treasurer of the organization, Russell Maeda, and he said basically that they did not receive any funding for their operations. The financials that you see for fiscal year 2016 in the back depicts that they do not receive any federal funding for operations for the center, the museum, or the Veterans Council. I was also asked if CDBG funds were eligible and I confirmed with the Housing Agency that it is not eligible because it is not in a low-moderate income area, so that funding source is not available to them. I asked if they could obtain loans, and yes, they are

able to obtain loans. I know in the past they have gone out to commercial banks and obtained loans. So they are able, as a nonprofit entity, to do that. The financials also show the type of income that they receive and it is all self-generated type of income, rental income for renting the audiovisual (AV) system, the food truck rental income, when they allow food trucks to go there; they obtain fundraising income, grant income for Veterans' Day and other donations. So it is very a real lean budget. They have no paid employees. It is one hundred percent (100%) volunteer. They asked us if we could make this late request for consideration for funding of some major roof repair that they need to do. I think the number was \$150,000.

Council Chair Rapozo: How much?

Mr. Rezendes: \$150,000.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay.

Council Chair Rapozo moved to add back funding of \$150,000 to Office of the Mayor-Administration for Veterans Center-Roof, seconded by Councilmember Brun.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Kawakami.

Councilmember Kawakami: I want to thank you for responding to some of the questions, but I think for me, some of the more pertinent questions were the cause of the leaking and if we had actually investigated whether or not...because it is a common problem that these photovoltaic contractors come in and they construct or they put these panels on, they void roof warranties, and they cause leaking. So I just want to make sure that if it was the contractor's fault, if he even did the due diligence to find out whether or not it was a contractor that was causing this leaking or maybe not. Because there are so many panels and it is so obvious from the highway, whenever I hear of leaking roofs and I see photovoltaic panels, the first thing to come to my head is, "Was it a faulty installation?"

Mr. Rezendes: I apologize, when I spoke to the Treasurer, Russell Maeda, this morning, he did mention that the bulk of the problems on the roof is the ocean-facing side and there are multiple problems, but the most severe problems is the section that the panels are not on and it is the portion that is facing the ocean, facing the airport, basically.

Councilmember Kawakami: I apologize for making you have to go dig that up, but I have to tell you that when it is a federal building and they are asking for County funding, I have no problem supporting the veterans, but I wanted to make sure that it was not somebody else that is on the hook for these problems that we are bailing out, so thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Kagawa.

Councilmember Kagawa: I kind of feel different from Councilmember Kawakami a little bit on this because I am not real comfortable. The Federal government have budgets in the trillions and a trillion is a million and a million, so we have a budget of \$200,000,000. So I see pictures of Senator Hirono, Senator Schatz, and Tulsi Gabbard. Whenever they come to Kaua'i, they are at the Veterans Center. So I am wondering, did

they ask them? I cannot imagine them not having \$150,000 to fix the leaking roof for the veterans that served the United States in war, and instead we are going to bail them out. What is our plan? After we fund this, are we going to let our Congressional Delegation know or make them be aware that, "We are paying for this thing with our measly budget and because you folks come to take pictures, but you cannot listen to their concerns." Are we going to let them know? They might not fund it annually or whatever, but I am sure in emergency repairs, they would be there for the people that serve this country. Can we get a communication to them? I want them to know that this is not going to be acceptable going forward unless they give their one hundred percent (100%) that they have nothing left in the trillion dollar budget that they have to take care of, what I feel, is their responsibility.

Council Chair Rapozo: I will write the letter.

Councilmember Kagawa: Thank you.

Mr. Rezentos: I can tell you though, Councilmember Kagawa, that in talking to the veterans, they did mention recently that the Federal government would be funding a new building on that campus for the veterans, like a medical building to support the veterans on-island. Again, they are going to house it on the existing campus over there, so I know that future funds from the Federal government are coming, but I cannot speak to the funding that we are talking about, whether or not they requested and got denied. I cannot speak to that.

Councilmember Kagawa: I guess I just find the priorities a little mixed up when you have a relatively new building that is functioning and you cannot address issues that are corroding the building, yet you have money to give for a new facility. I would think that they would tackle the one that is there, and then tackle the new one also because all of it is important. I just hope that we can get this message so that this does not become a recurring thing as we struggle with even tighter budgets going forward, that we get the Federal government to address the needs first of the veterans as much as possible, because I think the County budgets are going to be strained if we continue to get relied upon. Nobody is going to vote against this. I think in every moment of this, we can all learn from, go forward, and hope to improve. So I just want to hope that as we approve this, that going forward, at least we send out a strong message that perhaps they take care of their responsibilities. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any further questions? Discussion? I will vote against it and I apologize. Again, being the Budget & Finance Committee Chair, I am going to try and make the best decisions I can and try to serve everybody. Councilmember Kagawa did say that we are definitely the smallest fish in the pond and for a number like this to come up in the Supplemental, it is very difficult for us to make a decision on it and vet it without knowing all of the history. I know this says that they will not get operational funds, but can they get capital funds, which are building improvement-type of funds, from the government? I would think that the government does not want to have to continue paying their operations, but when it comes to building repairs, I think they would have some money in there for those types of things. This does not mean that I do not support the veterans; my grandpa is veteran. A lot of his friends are all veterans that use that facility. The veterans even came and visited my grandpa when he was in hospice and it really means a lot of all the support they give to their veterans. Again, when I look at this, should the County be paying for a federal building? It is really difficult, especially the timing of it,

in the Supplemental Budget where we do not have much time to vet it. I am going to say that I am not going to be able to support it at this time. Councilmember Chock.

There being no objections, the meeting was called back to order, and proceeded as follows:

Councilmember Chock: I am along the same lines at this point as well, so I will not be supporting it.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: I will be supporting it. It is a community building. I thank Wally for all of the research that was done on a short notice.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Brun.

Councilmember Brun: No, I am ready to vote.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Anyone else? Roll call vote.

The motion to add back funding of \$150,000 in the Office of the Mayor-Administration for Veterans Center-Roof was then put, and carried by the following vote:

FOR MOTION:	Brun, Kagawa, Kawakami, Rapozo, Yukimura	TOTAL – 5,
AGAINST MOTION:	Chock, Kaneshiro	TOTAL – 2,
EXCUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0,
RECUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: 5:2, motion passes.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Thank you for making me look like the bad guy, guys.

Council Chair Rapozo: I was that all morning.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Do we have any more adds? Again, these adds are increases to taxes or raiding of reserve funds, probably. Any further adds? If not, let me find my notes and see where we are at. Can we see our total? Okay. Going, going, gone—we are done with our adds/cuts and now it is a matter of deciding what we are going to do.

Council Chair Rapozo: When you are ready, I have a proposal for Scott to pass out.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Okay. Before we do that, we have provisos. Are there any Councilmember budget provisos to the provisos that we have? No amendments to the provisos? Okay, no amendments to the provisos. We can move on. Of course, the action we have been waiting for the entire time is what are we going to do? We are at

\$2,000,000. We are chasing \$3,600,000. We probably need an exact number on it. We are chasing \$3,600,000, so we will see what our total balance is. Should we take a recess? I know there might be some time to fix the numbers.

Council Chair Rapozo: We can do mine now. Actually, there is Councilmember Kagawa's name on it, so he can introduce it. Councilmember Kagawa, do you want to go ahead and introduce it?

Councilmember Kagawa: No, I do not want to.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Actually, are we up for a caption break? No? What time was our last one? 3:30 p.m. We have half an hour more. Are we ready? Let us take a quick recess and we will get organized on the numbers.

There being no objections, the meeting recessed at 4:25 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 5:15 p.m., and proceeded as follows:

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Welcome back. Sorry that took long. I think we have a difficult decision ahead of us. We have two (2) options and we needed to make sure that our numbers were correct. We knew how many votes we needed for everything and I think just based on what I know, we have two (2) options. We were able to cut \$2,000,000, we were chasing \$3,600,000, so there is a difference of about \$1,600,000 in the budget. Basically, from where I stand, we have two (2) options: the first option would be to reduce the Real Property Taxes, but still have a Real Property Tax increase for this \$1,600,000. So the Real Property Tax increase would be to make up for this \$1,600,000 that we were not able to cover, rather than the \$3,600,000 that we were chasing before. The second option would what...of course...I think I mentioned earlier that it does not go along with our reserve policy, but it would be to take the money from the reserve to balance the budget, so you are taking the money from your savings to balance the budget and I think those are the two (2) options we have to balance our budget. Of course, I have no clue where the votes are going to go. I think we take a proposal, take the votes; take the other proposal and take the votes; wherever it lands. Ultimately, wherever it goes, we are going to have to make a decision tonight. If we do not make a decision tonight on balancing this budget, then the previous budget is going to get passed automatically, right? The original? The Supplemental?

Council Chair Rapozo: We have until Monday.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: We have until Monday, but the Mayor's March 15<sup>th</sup> Budget will pass, as-is, no changes. With that, we will take any first proposal.  
Council Chair Rapozo.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you. Before I do the proposal, I want to preface my comments...

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Should we get a second?

Council Chair Rapozo: I did not even make the...well, let us do the first part. The first one is to reduce the Real Property Tax by \$0.19. In other words, removing the Real Property Tax increase.

Council Chair Rapozo moved to reduce all real property tax rates for each tax class by (\$0.19) and the subsequent contribution to the Public Access, Open Space, Natural Resources Preservation Fund for a total amount of \$3,594,827, seconded by Councilmember Kagawa.

Council Chair Rapozo: Let me just explain. We went through a great Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) process in the last year or so and the GFOA had made some recommendations, and to the Administration's credit, they came up with a financial policy or financial policy documents surrounding the General Fund Reserve, long-term financial plan, as well as the structurally balanced budget. We accomplished all of that. I have to remind those who were here that as far as the reserve policy or the reserve recommendations, I do not believe that the GFOA said we needed to achieve the thirty percent (30%) this year and that we needed to do it right now; it was a goal that we needed to get to. Again, the TAT is still in limbo. We do not know. If you ask me, there is probably an eighty percent (80%) chance that the legislature will have a special session and the \$103,000,000 will be restored, which is my pure speculation, but whether that goes through or not, we have achieved quite a bit as far as our financial policy. As we all stated in the beginning, we did not want to raise property taxes. So we have an opportunity here to...and my first proposal is to really reduce that...that will reduce the revenue by \$3,594,827, which would leave a balance of \$1,592,549. To me, that would be the cleanest way. You take away the Real Property Tax increase and you transfer \$1,592,549 from the reserve, which would be my second proposal if the first proposal passes. Very clean—\$1,500,000 is almost what we would be getting in the TAT. Again, I am hoping that we get that back. If not, we have one more year. Please, after what we did today with the positions that were granted or not cut, with all of the different departments, the funding that we saw today, we know for a fact that at the end of the next fiscal year, we will have a lapse of more than \$1,592,000. We know that. We are not going to fall short. It is just not going to happen. Your reserve policy is really to build up to that thirty percent (30%) number. I am suggesting avoiding any Real Property Tax increases and that we take the funds from the reserve this year and next year, the thirty percent (30%) level is obviously going to happen. There is not going to be any problem with reaching the reserve. I did not do the numbers. I do not know if we take \$1,500,000, what is the percentage that we get to? It is not thirty percent (30%), but I have to believe that it is very close. It is not like we are departing from our reserve policy by a significant amount and I think that is the cleanest way, rather than trying to tinker with the different tax rates for \$1,500,000. To me, that is a very difficult way to reach the same goal. My proposal, my motion right now is to remove...we have to do it separately. My first proposal is to reduce the Real Property Tax rate for each class by \$0.19, which would result in a \$3,594,827 balance.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Okay. We had a motion and a second.  
Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: So the Mayor submitted a balanced budget that was not balanced? This is \$3,954,000.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: The budget was balanced.

Councilmember Yukimura: Okay, but we do not minus...is that the interplay of the fund?

Council Chair Council: We have the \$2,278,000 credit or balance that we have from our cuts. You subtract that from the \$3,594,000 and you end up with the \$1,519,549.

Councilmember Yukimura: Okay.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Basically, we have two (2) options. This option is to take it from the reserve to balance it and that is why we took so long, the numbers are the correct numbers. If we reduce the amount of Real Property Taxes and we are reducing the amount of Public Access Fund and things that depend on that. They did submit a balanced budget. These numbers that we are going to propose now are going to continue to keep the budget balanced, but it is depending on, are we going to balance it with Real Property Taxes and current ongoing funds or are we going to balance it with our savings, our reserve? Those are the two (2) decisions we have. Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: When you pass a reserve policy, it is a discipline that you agree to follow for the benefits of that reserve policy, which is being ready for any kinds of crises, whether it is a natural disaster or a really significant drop in tourism and in revenues. It is so easy to say, "We will just take a little here and we will just take a little there," and pretty soon you start whittling away at the reserves. I think it would be nice if the first budget we do after adopting the reserve policy we would stick to it. The alternative, as the Chair said, is to have a Real Property Tax increase to cover the balance of what we were not able to cut. Based on the calculations that have been done by staff, we can lower the Mayor's proposed property tax increase almost by half to \$0.10 across the board instead of \$0.19. This would cover the things that the community really needs based on our decision-making today. To me, that would be the better way to go. It is a very small increase. Everybody will pay something, but it is for things that are in the budget that this community wants and needs. It is better to do it gradually, rather than not raise property taxes for a long time and then raise it dramatically, because a long time has gone by, like our motor vehicle weight tax where we waited for twenty (20) years or something to then raise, and then it is such a shock to our people. I am thinking that I would prefer to follow our reserve policy.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Thank you. Councilmember Kagawa.

Councilmember Kagawa: It is kind of frustrating that we are going to...to think that we are going to make a really big deal of not meeting the reserve policy of thirty percent (30%). I understand that the Department of Finance and the Mayor really wanted to achieve that, but if you look at our parents, the United States government, their Federal deficit is \$20 trillion. The State government is \$13,000,000,000 behind in unfunded retirement benefits. The County government is going to be in the hole \$1,590,000 in not meeting our reserve—I say that we are doing super, compared to our parents: the State of Hawai'i and the United States government. There is no comparison. We are doing much better than the other two (2). Sure, we would like to meet all of our goals, but when the taxpayers are hurting and they beg and plead with us, "Please cut the budget," and we did cut the budget, this Council cut \$2,000,000. I applaud all of the Members. We work

together, we tried our best to make reasonable decisions. I did not get cuts passed because some of you found it to be responsible and I appreciate it. Everybody can disagree. As far as following GFOA standards, I would hope that if we follow the standard, we are going to tell the Federal government, the United States government to follow the standard and get out of debt. We will tell the State government, get out of debt, fund your \$13,000,000,000 in unfunded liabilities. We at the County level are funding our retirement debts and we should be proud of that. So if today we do not raise taxes and we do not meet our reserve policy, I have two (2) words: "So what." Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Brun.

Councilmember Brun: For me, it was my first budget and it has been interesting. We said all along...I think we heard it from everyone that we do not want to raise taxes. I think we have a chance not to do it. I am just coming in, we have a reserve—yes, it is not good to take the reserve, but we have to weigh this out. There are some tough times out there and I do not think I had one (1) person come up to me and say, "That is alright. It is only going to be so much. Let us just do it and raise the taxes." For me, I do not want to support the tax increase, even if it is \$0.10 or whatever it is, so I think that this is the better way to do it. Like Chair said, we should get some excess at the end of the year and hopefully we can spend responsibly and put it back. I think that is the best thing to do and I will be voting that way.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Anyone else? As far as my vote goes, and I have no clue where the votes are going to go—I am trying to think in the future, we may end up in deadlock and some people are going to have to change their votes somehow to get somewhere so that we do not end up in a stuck budget, which I think would be the worst thing we could do. I set the tone from the beginning of the budget that it was my intention to not raid the reserves. Raiding the reserves shows that we are not covering our expenses, our revenues are not covering our expenses. Even if this number was \$10,000,000, we can still sit here and say, "I do not want to raise the taxes on the people. Let us just take the \$10,000,000." Again, that shows that we are at a \$10,000,000 deficit every year and it is only going to get worse the next year. For me, I did not want to get into that habit of taking from the reserves, because that is really like your savings account. You live every day and your revenues do not make your expenses and you start taking from your savings to supplement that; is that a good policy for yourself? There is no way your savings is going to increase anymore. You are going to keep taking from it. I do appreciate what everyone said and take into consideration that maybe the TAT may come back. There are a lot of stuff that float around. Are we going to lapse in our budget? We probably might. Again, for me, as the Budget & Finance Chair, I think I need to keep to the strict policy of: we are going to try our best to not raid our reserves. That is how my vote is going to fall for now on this to try and get through this. I will not be voting for this policy. Anyone else? Council Chair Rapozo.

Council Chair Rapozo: If I could just respond, we created the deficit. This body today created the deficit. We had an opportunity to fall within that number, we really did. We had some cuts that never made it through and we had some adds that we did not really need. We created the deficit. Now, we either take it from the reserve, which is...I am asking Scott to try to run the numbers to see what that number would be...is it twenty-eight point nine percent (28.9%) or twenty-nine point one percent (29.1%) percent of the target of thirty percent (30%), which is a really a recommendation and part of our

policy? Or do we take it from the people? That is where that is going to come from. It is either going to come from our reserve, which the people built in taxes, or we are going out and get them from the people, in a time where I do not think it is the right time. We talked about that throughout the budget process. People are struggling and working extra jobs, three (3) to four (4) jobs. Somebody might say that it is only "x" amount of dollars per year, but we have a lot of people that are struggling. Unless we are going to raise taxes for the sake of raising taxes, because we do not want to go without raising taxes, so we are just going to raise the taxes, "Let us do it because we can." There is an opportunity to stay away from that. Again, for such a minute number, if that number...if we had exhausted all of our cuts and were responsible in the adds and we ended up with a significant deficit, then I would say, "Yes, there is no option but to raise taxes," but right now we have an option. We have an option to take a very small percentage of the reserve to avoid the property taxes. Unless we want to show the public that we can raise taxes because we have that ability. Thirty percent (30%) target of last year's revenues, \$41,500,000; we are at \$40,300,000, so about...the \$690,000 that was added in this year or proposed to add this year. That is where we are at, a very small number. Do we go out and raise property taxes to keep that number, or do we just get it from the reserve? I am proposing that we get it from the reserve. If we had a bull's eye for the target, we are in the circle; we are just not in the bull's eye, but we are very close to the middle, which I think, compared to our prior years, and this is going out to the Administration, we did a damn good job. We just did not get it in the bull's eye, but we got pretty close without having to tax the public. So that is where I am suggesting we go. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro:

Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: I do not think our chances of getting the TAT revisited this year is very good. I do not think they will do a special session for that. I do think the chances that the General Excise Tax (GET) will be reconsidered is a real option, because they are in such a dilemma with the rail and that is where we have a chance. If this is not a good year for protecting reserve, next year is not going to be any better. In fact, we have seen our Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF) and our Employees' Retirement System (ERS) payments increase year by year and it is likely to increase next year. If the collective bargaining increases go in, I think it is about \$500,000 this year per unit and it is going to go up to over \$1,000,000 next year per unit. So it is going to be harder than ever to protect the reserve then. If the reserve is an option, we have an option. The reserve is an option then we do not have a reserve policy, because the policy says that we are putting this aside. It is going to be sacrifice, so it will discipline us to work within our plusses and minuses. We are deviating from our policy already in the first budget if we choose to take this from the reserve. Yes, some people are struggling, but that is why we are giving some of these services that we have approved, that we did not cut. It is actually giving people services that they need, so people need to pay for the services. Otherwise, we are paying with a deficit, which is not sustainable.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Anyone else? For me, I just want to be perfectly clear as far as what my philosophy on this is, and my philosophy is, yes, we do have a reserve, but if we do not make enough revenues to cover expenses this year, it is likely we will not make enough revenues to cover expenses next year and the next year, and the next year. Yes, we can balance the budget with our reserves this year, but to me, it is kicking the can down the road. Inevitably, we are going to have to raise taxes because I do not see expenses getting any lower. That is my philosophy. We have \$30 million to raid the

reserve—are we going to raid the reserve every single year? I do not know, I cannot talk for the future years, but as far as my philosophy goes and looking at the budget—yes, whatever we are chasing, it may not be a big number and we can take it from the reserve. But if we continue to do that year after year, it is not a good policy. It is showing that we are not covering our expenses and we will continue to take from our reserve. We are basically kicking the can down the road. That is just my philosophy on it. Of course, that is just why I am voting the way I am voting. Anyone else? Councilmember Kawakami.

Councilmember Kawakami: Thank you, Committee Chair. I would like to begin my statements by thanking our Budget & Finance Chair. I think he has done a wonderful job as far as being responsible. I have to say that most times the right decisions are not the popular decisions, so I think that your position you are taking is a very responsible one. I think this body in general made a lot of compromises to come to the point where we are at, where it is not going to be major bloodshed to balance this thing, either way. I do want to thank you. I do have a foreboding feeling about the future as far as revenue from Federal and State governments; I do. I have to say that despite criticism for our state legislative body, I can tell you that I have witnessed that our Kaua'i delegation, all of them who have County ties, advocate tirelessly for our County's fair share of TAT, because they have all, or most of them, have sat at this table at one time or another and have relied on that partnership with the State. I have to tell you that my foreboding feeling is that there is a new world order of elected officials coming in and it is very apparent that some of that history that we take for granted is being lost. We have sunk this new world order, ousted Calvin Say, who has been the longest running speaker, and we have recently ousted Joe Souki, because of disagreements as far as leadership style. People ask me, "Why do you think this is important?"—because it is history. To know where we are going to, we have to know where we came from. I have to tell you that a lot of that old guard that knew what the intent of TAT was, that understood that TAT was to replace GIAs and it was to partner with the counties and pay the counties for their fair share, is slowly eroding. It is not our Kaua'i delegation; it is this new world that does not see the value of county and state relationships. I do take your words, Committee Chair, seriously. I also believe that you are taking the responsible avenue, but I also do know that I can count and I can see where this is going. I can see that nobody wants to raise taxes, but let me remind everybody out there that the cost of everything is going up, like the cost of milk and the cost of spam. Everything is going up. If you were to run this like a business, you need to readjust when things go up, or cut expenses. I think we had an exercise in trying to do both. I do have hesitancy into cutting into our reserve fund, but like I said, at this time, I think I can support the current proposal because I do have faith that there is some hope as to some kind of compromise at the state level. I do look at the numbers and see where we had difficulties in making cuts and I do believe that some of that money will lapse. So I am not so sure that the number that we are chasing now is going to be that big at the end of the day. That being said, I would like to once again thank you, the staff, for the hard work and thank you for being fiscally responsible. Thank you, Committee Chair.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro:

Councilmember Chock.

Councilmember Chock: I also want to thank you, Committee Chair. I think you have done an excellent job in guiding this process and really just being objective. I appreciate that in every sense of the word. Coming into this budget, I told myself that I would try to support every single cut that came forward if it was feasible, and feasible to me was that it was not already obligated to a match or already obligated in a position, or if

it support a core function for our organization. I am pretty proud that we have come far in trying to reduce the deficit that we are in. It was so that I could say to the public that I have done everything that I can. It is a tough decision, and when I think about some of the things we have talked about and some of the things we have invested in the over the years—one of the main things that we wanted to do is to find financial help of our organization. This is why we have invested in some of these policies that we have talked about. Because of it, it brings up the question about which one I should pick: is it the taxes or is it the reserve? There are a couple of reasons why I think that we should try and preserve the integrity of our reserve. The first is that I believe we send a strong message to everyone else that we are willing to compromise. I think that I am in a place where I am less willing to compromise who we are, and I think you have seen that throughout some of my decisions these past couple of days. One of the things that I say is one of the core or root causes that we are dealing with is our collective bargaining in certain arenas. I think that if we compromise this reserve, it sends a clear message to those that we are trying to send the message to that we are willing to use this money whenever a raise comes that we do not like. I also think that in regards to the TAT, it sends a message to the State and our legislators that we are also willing to take the money from our reserve in order to balance our budget and that we do not really need the TAT. I think that others around the State in the other islands have seen that and they have pushed hard for it. I think the reason why it could be a good chance that we get this TAT is because of those counties pushing hard on it and saying that we are not going to compromise. This is the basis of my decision. I think that some would say it is a tough pill to swallow, but I think it is the discipline that we need to practice. I also think that when looking towards the future, it is very uncertain. We have shortfalls in projections that are coming forth that we do not even have a revenue source for. So how do we intend to pay for these things in the future? They are already on the board for us. We know we have to pay for them, like the ERS, EUTF, and Other-Post Employment Benefits (OPEB). These are just things that we just do not have an answer for. If we do not start now, we will never catch up with that. This is the basis of my vote. I do not think that we will get the right votes to support this increase or any of the options. Obviously, someone is going to have to jump ship on this and I look forward to that discussion because we need to come to a decision. My last option would be that we go back on all of the hard work we have done in the last two (2) days. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: I know the Administration is biting at the bit to probably explain ramifications of this proposal. I will give you a quick chance at it, but I am counting the votes and it may end up coming to the fact that someone is going to have to jump ship. Council Chair Rapozo.

Council Chair Rapozo: If there are no votes, there is no sense. I do not want to waste any more time listening to how it is going to affect the bond rating.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Actually, let us take the vote and see where it is at. Councilmember Brun.

Councilmember Brun: What are we voting on? Taking out the \$0.19 first and taking out from our reserve or is it one at a time? We are going to do the \$0.19 first, right?

Council Chair Rapozo: Yes. That is the only thing on the table right now.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Yes. The vote on the floor right now is to take away the \$0.19.

Councilmember Brun: Okay.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: There has to be five (5) votes. Let us take a recess.

There being no objections, the meeting recessed at 5:47 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 5:54 p.m., and proceeded as follows:

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Okay. I think I got this a little straighter. So this is a straight cut. It is going to take four (4) votes. We all know what the plan is. We will take the votes. If that passes, then we take a vote on moving the reserve money, which will take five (5) votes and we will see where those votes go and we will just go from there. It is the only way to do it. With that, roll call vote.

The motion to reduce all real property tax rates for each tax class by (\$0.19) and the subsequent contribution to the Public Access, Open Space, Natural Resources Preservation Fund for a total amount of \$3,594,827 was then put, and carried by the following vote:

FOR MOTION:	Brun, Kagawa, Kawakami, Rapozo	TOTAL – 4,
AGAINST MOTION:	Chock, Yukimura, Kaneshiro	TOTAL – 3,
EXCUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0,
RECUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: 4:3, motion passes.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: The motion passes with four (4) votes.

Council Chair Rapozo: By reducing the Real Property Tax increase, we now are chasing \$1,592,549 to balance the budget. My proposal here is to use the General Fund Reserve Fund Balance of \$1,592,549.

Council Chair Rapozo moved to use General Fund Reserve Fund Balance of \$1,592,549 to balance the budget, seconded by Councilmember Kagawa.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any discussion or questions on this? If this passes with five (5) votes, then the budget is balanced, what passed is that we used the Reserve Fund to balance the budget. We all know the consequences of both, we just have to keep going. Any questions or comments on this? Councilmember Chock.

Councilmember Chock: I just want to clarify that if this vote does not pass, essentially the only other option would be in the long run, even if we introduced another measure would end up in deadlock, given the sentiments of everyone who has spoken around the table about the two (2) choices. Ultimately, if we cannot get through it, we will revert to our original budget.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: That is true if we cannot find any other compromised position and I would suggest that we could try to maybe take half from the reserve and half in Real Property Taxes or something like that. I think a \$0.10 increase in Real Property Tax is pretty small, so I am thinking we could just do that, but if the votes do not do that then you go to the next round.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any further discussion? I think right now is the time to make the decision. If not, it is just going to go another round of this and someone is going to have to jump ship. I see where the votes are. There is no way if we do the other proposal that it is going to get five (5) to pass this vote. That would mean that the budget will go back to the March Submittal, which I do not think anybody wants; not the Administration or us. I think it is where the votes fall. So if anybody wants to state their position on this vote...there may be people that did not want the reserves, but again, what is the end result? It is like we are playing chess; we know where the end result is going to be. I am pretty clear on what the end result is going to be. If we do not pass this, we will go and take the vote on the other proposal, which is taxes. It needs five (5) votes and it probably will not pass and someone is going to have to jump ship. The matter is do they jump ship now or do we go through that same exercise and jump ship later? Those are basically the two (2) options. I do not think we are going to stay here all night trying to adjust Real Property Taxes by a penny here or a penny there. I think it has been late and this is the end result of the budget and it is what it is. Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: We have done good work today. A \$0.10 increase or \$0.09 drop in the Mayor's increase is a compromise. If that is not going to pass then I am willing to compromise further, but not to just completely take everything from the reserve.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Council Chair Rapozo.

Council Chair Rapozo: My question for Councilmember Yukimura is do we have to raise taxes? Are you not going to be happy unless we raise even penny, \$0.02, \$0.05, or \$0.10? We have to raise the taxes? Is that your position? That is what it sounds like, "As long as we raise the tax by something, then I am okay." I guess it troubles me. If you want to raise taxes for the sake of raising taxes, then say it. What impact is \$0.10? What does that do for our deficit?

Councilmember Yukimura: It balances the budget without harming the reserve. My position has been stated by myself, as well as the Committee Chair, as well as Councilmember Chock that the reserve is something very important to keep. I would be compromising to say, "Yes, let us take from the reserve." I have also said that the Real Property Taxes...if you wait a long time...the Committee Chair is correct—next year is not going to be a better year, not with collective bargaining, probably increases in the EUTF and ERS, we still have spiking...if the Adolescent Treatment and Healing Facility gets built, then another \$1,000,000 for operating. It is not going to get better. People have to be willing to pay for the services. We try to offset it as much as we can by hopefully having efficient, effective services and by doing our budgeting well. If we want to keep servicing a growing population, we have to increase it somewhat just to keep up with inflation. If you

wait for so many years, and then do it, that is really wrong because then people cannot adjust. It is better to do it a little at a time.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: I know we can debate this all day. The way I look at it and see it is that if we were to do the other proposal, it might get three (3) votes. It might not even get four (4) or the five (5) that it needs. In a manner to save time, sometimes the votes just do not go the way you want them and sometimes you have to compromise to get the meeting going. I am going to make the compromise and vote for this proposal because I do not see an end road if we continue going. If we all stay hardheaded and we vote no on this, we go to the next one, and the next one gets three (3) or four (4) votes. Then we come back to the same table and we are not going to get anywhere. Ultimately, we need to make a decision and get somewhere. Any last comments on this? I do want to take a vote on it. We all know the ramifications. We do know that the budget next year has some big stuff coming. Would we rather want it take the hit now or later? I think we all explained our positions and where it goes, but again, there are seven (7) votes here and I just do not want to get into a dead tie where we do not move. That is where I see it going if we make this thing prolong any longer. Councilmember Chock.

Councilmember Chock: Thank you, Committee Chair. I stated my position and I also stated that I am not willing to go back to the drawing board on this in terms of going backwards and accepting what we worked so hard on. I will be supporting this moving forward as well because I think that we need to get through this and I have two (2) choices. These two (2) new choices are the ones I have to choose from that are either to accept the Supplemental Budget or go with utilizing the reserve and I will be utilizing the reserve to balance the budget in this decision. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Kawakami.

Councilmember Kawakami: Thank you, Committee Chair. I would like to begin by saying that of course I am going to support this proposal. I supported the reduction in the proposed property tax increase. I do want to thank the Administration; they did provide a Supplemental that also made some cuts and reductions as well and I think it was a collective effort. I think this whole exercise...if we adhere to what we have learned during this budget, it should improve the way that we operate as a team by improving our communication so that there is no mistrust. I want to say that if I felt personally that I had done everything in my power to make the necessary cuts so that we did not need to raid this surplus, I would certainly be more in favor of raising our tax, but I do not think that I did. I did see some cuts that we could have cut because there was not any warm body there or nobody was going to lose their job, but I have heard some explanations, so I went along. I do not think that we did everything in our power, but I can tell you that more than half of our children on this island qualify for free or reduced lunch. So if that is any indicator onto the economic status and realities that our island faces and the hardships that people are facing, then that leans me towards if we have to dip into our surplus a little bit, then so be it. I do know that, in fact, most of my friends do not have a reserve fund. They are living paycheck to paycheck. If our island was an economic status where most people had a reserve fund and that we had done everything in our power to make the cuts without having to raise taxes, I would certainly be in favor of raising the taxes reasonably. I think that this is a compromise. I think we reduced it so the impact to the reserve fund will not be as significant as it was looking like at the beginning of this process. So for that, Committee Chair, I will be supporting this proposal. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any further comments? Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: I have indicated that I am willing to make some compromises, but it does not look like we are going to go there. I will be voting against the proposal as a matter of principle, because I think we need to protect the reserve. I was willing to go and take some from the reserve, but I also think we needed to be cognizant of our need for additional revenues because we will be in a terrible position in future years.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any further comments? Council Chair Rapozo.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you to our Committee Chair, everyone, and the Administration. I said from the beginning that I was going to try and avoid any kind of property tax increases. I think I said it earlier that I do not feel like we did our best in cutting expenses. We could have done more. I know I speak for every one of us here that we all get E-mails, complaints, calls, and Facebook messages or Facebook posts and the public is not happy. The perception of the public right now, in my opinion, is that the roads are obviously in trouble and the parks are in trouble. I think Councilmember Kagawa referenced this several times in his commentary on different issues that our fees have gone up, all of these different taxes and fees. Yet, the standard of service has not necessarily gone up with the increase. It is difficult for me to tell the constituents, "We are going to raise your taxes." "What am I going to get for it?" We are not going to see much and I think that is where I am troubled. When I can show a product that I believe that the public will be willing to support and pay for, then it is a lot easier for me to raise the taxes. Right now, I am not at that point. We have a long way to go in many areas and it is very difficult to go and raise the taxes on your constituents. We just saw it today, whether it is shortages, union issues, or we cannot get people where they need to be—we are not providing the standard of service that I think we should be. Until we get to a better place, I just cannot support a tax increase. I especially appreciate those of you that were able to support the proposal to move this along, but I think at the end of the day, we will be in a better place and that this will be a workable budget. I am very optimistic that we will be able to get through the next fiscal year in good shape.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Kagawa.

Councilmember Kagawa: I see the frustration a little bit from the Administration, but to me, it is like I hope you care as much about today's motion as all of the times we waste money and we come to the Council during the year for the reserve, like "Oh, we are getting sued because we dropped the ball." If you folks want us to do better, you folks do better, too. That is how you prevent the reserve from being raided; start eliminating unforeseen errors. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Anyone else? Councilmember Yukimura.

Councilmember Yukimura: Yes, our roads are bad today because we were not responsible and did not have the courage to raise fees and taxes in the past, and it is going to get worse. By not putting in \$6,000,000, today we are going to get a bigger bill in the future. We cannot fix our roads without money. So that is what we are kicking down the road.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Anyone else? Roll call vote.

The motion to use General Fund Reserve Fund Balance of \$1,592,549 to balance the budget was then put, and carried by the following vote:

FOR MOTION:	Brun, Chock, Kagawa, Kawakami, Rapozo, Kaneshiro	TOTAL – 6,
AGAINST MOTION:	Yukimura	TOTAL – 1,
EXCUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0,
RECUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: 6:1, motion passes.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: We have an Operating Budget Proviso just to tie the number, so I need someone to introduce it.

Council Chair Rapozo moved to amend Section 6 of the Operating Budget Provisos to modify the contribution to the Public Access, Open Space, Natural Resources Preservation Fund from \$644,159 to \$626,094 to reflect the decrease in Real Property Tax Revenue and the subsequent decrease in the contribution to said Fund, seconded by Councilmember Chock.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Any questions or discussion? This is just a matter of housekeeping. Can I get a roll call vote, please?

The motion to amend Section 6 of the Operating Budget Provisos to modify the contribution to the Public Access, Open Space, Natural Resources Preservation Fund from \$644,159 to \$626,094 to reflect the decrease in Real Property Tax Revenue and the subsequent decrease in the contribution to said Fund was then put, and carried by the following vote:

FOR MOTION:	Brun, Chock, Kagawa, Kawakami, Rapozo, Yukimura, Kaneshiro	TOTAL – 7,
AGAINST MOTION:	None	TOTAL – 0,
EXCUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0,
RECUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: Seven (7) ayes.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Before we adjourn, I would like if I could get a motion and a second to provide Council Services Staff with the ability to make adjustments after entering the various proposals, if necessary, to balance the budget.

Councilmember Kawakami moved to allow Council Services Staff to balance the budget after entering Decision-Making proposals, seconded by Council Chair Rapozo, and unanimously carried.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: The Committee's decision-making session is now complete. Before we adjourn, I would like it go over a few more housekeeping items. Staff

will be preparing our amendments made today and incorporating them into the budget. On Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, which is a Tuesday committee meeting due to the Western Interstate Region (WIR) Conference, the Budget & Finance Committee will be formally approving all decision-making items by procedurally amending and approving the budget bills and Real Property Tax Resolution, along with receiving the Committee's report, detailing the various pluses and minuses. I would respectfully like to ask Councilmembers to refrain from making their final commentary that week and make their final comments during the second and final reading of the budget, which will take place May 31<sup>st</sup>. That is going to help save our people time on typing up minutes, so that we do not have duplication. We have a few weeks to do a great message on our budget. As I mentioned, after Committee, Council will then approve the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Budget on second and final reading, which will be accompanied by the Council's budget message on May 31, 2017. On May 31<sup>st</sup>, Councilmembers will be able to make their final remarks on the budget in accordance with our Council Rules. Again, I want to thank the Administration for sticking this process out. It has been long and arduous. I do not think anyone looks forward to coming into budget or making budget decisions, but again, this is probably one of the most important parts of our job. People can complain to us about a lot of things, but the doing the adds an cuts and balancing the budget is probably our most important job. I would also like to thank Council Services Staff and our Councilmembers for their hard work during this budget. We know how fun it is. Council Staff, you folks have been awesome as far as providing us the information we need, running around and answering all of the questions. Admin, thank you for answering all of our questions also and being here through our long meetings. This has been a long session and this has been a very long journey. With that, the Budget & Finance Committee's Decision-Making session is now adjourned.

There being no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Darrellyne M. Caldeira  
Council Services Assistant II



Codie K. Yamauchi  
Council Services Assistant I

APPROVED at the Committee Meeting held on June 7, 2017:



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ARRYL KANESHIRO  
Chair, Budget & Finance Committee