

## Department of Public Works – Operating & CIP

Honorable Addison Bulosan  
Honorable Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.  
Honorable Felicia Cowden  
Honorable Fern Holland  
Honorable KipuKai Kualii (*present at 9:04 a.m.*)  
Honorable Mel Rapozo  
Honorable Arryl Kaneshiro

Pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes Section 92-9(a)(4), because a video recording of this meeting is available online, this is to provide a link to the video recording (valid as of the approval date of these minutes): [https://kauai.granicus.com/player/clip/3051?view\\_id=2&redirect=true](https://kauai.granicus.com/player/clip/3051?view_id=2&redirect=true). Additionally, meeting videos are available at: [www.kauai.gov/Government/Council/Webcast-Meetings](http://www.kauai.gov/Government/Council/Webcast-Meetings).

The Committee reconvened on March 30, 2026 at 9:03 a.m., and proceeded as follows:

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Good morning. I would like to call back to order the Finance & Economic Development Committee Meeting for the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Departmental Budget Reviews. Let the record reflect that all members are present, except Councilmember Kualii, who is on his way. On the schedule today, we have the Department of Public Works Operating Budget, followed by Public Works projects contained in the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Budget, if time permits. Following the Department's introductory remarks and any questions on their synopsis, we will be taking the Public Works divisions in the following order: Administration, Fiscal, Engineering, Building, Auto Maintenance, Highways & Roads, Wastewater, and Solid Waste. Please note that we do plan to recess the meeting at 11:00 a.m. for the swearing in of the Police Chief and we will return at 1:00 p.m. As we do each morning, we will take public testimony at the beginning of the meeting. Is there anyone from the public wishing to testify? Seeing none, we will go right into our Budget Review discussion. I would like to call up the Department of Public Works (Department) to provide a brief overview and then we will entertain any questions regarding the Department's Budget and Operations Synopsis submittal, followed by questions relating to the Operating Budget details taken in order of the division.

(Note: No one from the public provided oral testimony via the Zoom remote technology platform and via Meeting Room 106 on any agenda item.)

*(Councilmember Kualii noted as present)*

TROY K. TANIGAWA, County Engineer: Good Morning, Troy Tanigawa, County Engineer. Good morning, Council Chair Rapozo, Vice Chair Kualii, and Councilmembers. We forwarded our Budget Synopsis, which I anticipate you have already reviewed. That synopsis provides the Department's strategy for the FY 2027 Operating Budget. Our strategy was based on the following principles: ensuring adequate manpower capability by funding current positions, enable operations staff with adequate training and appropriate resources—including equipment required for effective and efficient performance of duties, funding for outsourcing services as necessary, prioritizing regulatory compliance and safety, and finally, repairing and maintenance of infrastructure for which we are responsible.

What I would like to do now is to review specific goals for the coming fiscal year. The first one is to modernize and maintain critical County infrastructure. The goal is to improve the condition, reliability, and lifespan of County-owned infrastructure assets. How this will be accomplished is that we will implement funded improvement and repair projects for prioritized infrastructure items, conduct asset condition assessments to identify priority repair and replacement needs on other infrastructure items, implementing preventative and predictive maintenance schedules, implementing surveillance capability where appropriate, as a deterrent for protection and follow-up against vandalism and theft, prioritizing Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs) based on risk, service impacts, and lifecycle costs, and finally, coordinating with capital planning and finance staff to align infrastructure needs with available funding. Some examples of this are: we have expended over eighty-six million dollars (\$86,000,000) over the past seven (7) or so years on island-wide road resurfacing. By that effort, we have accomplished paving two hundred fifty-five (255) lane-miles. We are maintaining our bridges, both on-system and off-system. Some examples are the Kōloa and Kīpū bridges that just got refurbished and completed this past year, and the replacement of the Niumalu and Anahola landing bridges. Both bridges are under construction now—with Niumalu a little bit further along and should be completed next month. Refuse transfer station upgrades will improve the management of leachate and storm water. Wastewater management staff continue to utilize appropriations from Operating, CIP, State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loans and grants to address deferred maintenance of our wastewater treatment plants and collection systems. So, that is goal one.

The second goal is to protect public and environmental health with reliable operations. Providing reliable, essential operation services that support health and compliance with environmental regulations and standards. How will this be accomplished? We will provide adequate resources to ensure essential operations are conducted according to applicable standards without disruption, maintain routine inspections, testing and system monitoring, addressing deficiencies promptly to prevent service interruptions or health hazards, and incorporating health and safety considerations into infrastructure planning and maintenance decisions. I will give you one example. Solid Waste and Wastewater management facility upgrades replaced antiquated equipment and provided all-weather surface to reduce facility break-downs and weather-related closures.

The next goal is strengthening safety measures and emergency preparedness. We ensure infrastructure systems are resilient and capable of supporting emergency response and recovery efforts. An example of that is that we have continued maintenance of areas that we have addressed wildfire hazards. This past year, our roads crew continued maintenance of the Kaikea property, mowing there as well as the Ninini Point property in front of Ahukini. Another example, beyond addressing deferred maintenance, is our refuse transfer station facility upgrades to replace antiquated equipment.

The next goal is to maintain full compliance with regulatory requirements. Our goal here is to ensure all County operations and infrastructure systems comply with federal, state and local regulations. An example of that, is our Solid Waste and Wastewater staff continue diligent work to ensure compliance with State Department of Health permits for operation of its various facilities. All Department of Public Works divisions involved in construction

and earth moving maintenance projects also continue diligent work to comply with applicable environmental and regulatory requirements. Some examples are Special Management Area (SMA) permits where they apply, and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for construction.

We also want to improve service reliability and prescribed permit review processes through operational efficiency. The goal here is to deliver consistent, dependable services by improving and monitoring our internal processes and resources utilization, adjusting as appropriate. An example here is our Building Code Development and Enforcement Manager participated in the State's Hawai'i Speed Task Force. Participation in a permitted interaction group, the task and scope there was performed by the permitted interaction group (PIG) to investigate all submitted recommendations and gather insights from subject matter experts and building code officials to strengthen the construction permit process and improve permit issuance time, while maintaining strong protections for health and safety.

Our last goal is to support and develop a skilled workforce. The goal here is to ensure staff have the knowledge, training, tools, and resources to maintain infrastructure and systems to deliver reliable services. Examples to that are that we continue to work with our Human Resources Department (HR) to develop training level staff to hire with the expectation for the employee to have the proper certifications they need for the regular position before the probationary period ends or expires. This year, also, we had Building Division staff who attended certification training. Our requested Budget this year proposes to continue certification training for inspectors for the next fiscal year. I will now open it up to questions.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro:           Okay. I think keeping those goals in mind, it might be easier to go through the different divisions, because I am sure we have questions that touch on all the different divisions and if we try to answer them now, we are going to be moving all over the place.

Council Chair Mel Rapozo:           Can I ask a question just on the overview?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro:        Yes. Council Chair Rapozo.

Council Chair Rapozo:            What is the status of the Anahola and Niumalu bridges?

Mr. Tanigawa:                    The Niumalu bridge is...the bridge is there. Everything is up. The final task is welding the cross pieces to the girders. That has to be done so that the bridge does not move and get off-center. From what I understand, there were four hundred (400) plus welding points needed. The engineers took a look at it and they were able to narrow down that number to about two hundred (200), basically cutting it in half. The reason why it became a problem is because the old Superferry Ramp, I guess during the time when it was up on the docks, the sections warped. They were very uneven. There were different spacings between those cross pieces and the girders. So, they had to go take

it back and look and see how that could best be done without introducing varying types of forces on the girders themselves that could cause cracking.

Council Chair Rapozo: How much did we spend on the State's bridge or ramp?

Mr. Tanigawa: I believe it was less than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000). Much less, I think.

Council Chair Rapozo: Would it not have been cheaper to just go with a prefabricated bridge? I was concerned about that.

Mr. Tanigawa: Now, in hindsight, we see all of these things that come up. It is true that "the devil is in the details." It appeared to be a really excellent idea because it is a prefabricated deck. With all the different things that we had to go through, it added a lot of time.

Council Chair Rapozo: What is the cost now? What is your estimated cost for that bridge replacement?

Mr. Tanigawa: I have to defer to Engineering for that.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay, we will wait for them. And the Anahola bridge?

Mr. Tanigawa: Anahola...

Council Chair Rapozo: I remember Councilmember Kualii and I sent over a letter two (2) years ago or a year and a half ago...

Councilmember Kualii: I send a letter every three (3) months.

Council Chair Rapozo: I thought we were assured that it was going to be done shortly.

Mr. Tanigawa: It is under construction. That one also ran into some issues. There are micropiles that are used in the construction of the abutments and there were some issues that came up with that. Working through in all the details...the Engineering Division has all of that information.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay, so you do not know what the timeframe is. We can get that from the Engineering Division?

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes. That should be happening fairly soon, too—or completing it fairly soon, too.

Council Chair Rapozo: Your fairly soon and my fairly soon may be very different, so...

Councilmember Kualii: The last thing I saw said "April."

Mr. Tanigawa: I do not want to give any dates, but I will say that we are close to the finish line.

Councilmember Holland: Just a follow-up on that.  
So, Niumalu—one (1) month?

Mr. Tanigawa: I would say that we will be done next month.

Councilmember Holland: Okay. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Cowden.

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

Councilmember Cowden: I just have a broad question about the difficulty in recruiting and retaining personnel, particularly engineers. Can you speak to...it looks like it is more than just one division...is it pretty much across the divisions? Is it just the engineers or is it everybody?

Mr. Tanigawa: I would say that there are spots in every division in Public Works. For example, our auto shop is experiencing hardship finding qualified heavy-equipment mechanics. So, we started a program with the help of HR, to recruit on a lower level where applicants did not have to have a Commercial Drivers License (CDL), but they still have to have mechanic training and certifications appropriate to the position. We continue to have challenges because a lot of applicants are concerned with working on our refuse trucks because of the contamination and how much residue it has...

Councilmember Cowden: Health issues?

Mr. Tanigawa: We are hoping that with our transfer station and our current construction projects we are installing "wash racks." More frequent maintenance will occur where we can have equipment that have less residue and the "undesirable" conditions that we have had in the past.

Councilmember Cowden: Last year we talked about "no-lunch overtime." Is that applied a decent amount in Public Works? We put that in a few different departments.

Mr. Tanigawa: I will have to refer to our...

Councilmember Cowden: Okay, because I am wondering if that helps. I am wondering how much of it is just a lack of people being here or not enough pay?

Mr. Tanigawa: You know, the Department has been able to benefit from a lot of different things that the Administration has come up with to “sweeten the pot” so to say. Paid medical was a huge thing and from what I understand, this has helped us. We have to continue working on things, and to get creative.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay, thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Kualii.

Councilmember Kualii: I might have missed it. You may have said it. In looking at all the different funds. The line item for Vehicle Equipment Lease for General Fund it goes down ninety-seven thousand dollars (\$97,000), and for the Highway Fund it goes down nine hundred fifty-two thousand dollars (\$952,000), almost a million dollars (\$1,000,000). Then for the Solid Waste Fund, it goes up one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000), and then for the Sewer Fund it goes up one million one hundred thousand dollars (\$1,100,000). Did you say, and I see your comment here, “outright purchases for heavy equipment” and then also, “equipment increase due for needs for additional equipment replacement.” Does any of it, where the fund expenditure went down from General Fund and Highway Fund, mean that you moved the expense over to the Sewer Fund and the other fund? I think it would have been interesting because you give us these broad numbers, right, from Operations, if you had made a broad summary of what all happened with that because it is a pretty significant amount of money. I know we will probably see the details department by department, but I was just wondering if you might have made an overall statement that I missed about anything more than what I just read.

Mr. Tanigawa: I can help clarify. We have had a drop in equipment being purchased because we were able to successfully able to budget for and then contract for the purchase of pieces of equipment. They vary from division to division. Solid Waste seems to have the highest demand for equipment because we have everything from trucks—regular tractor trucks to refuse collection trucks, transfer trailers—all of those are big ticket items that require constant replacement. This year because we have the transfer station revocations that are changing from rear-load types to top-load types, our budget this year will reflect the purchase of additional top-load trailers and we are phasing out the rear-loading type of trailers. That is why you have a bigger amount for Solid Waste.

Councilmember Kualii: Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Council Chair Rapozo.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you. This is on page ten (10) of your presentation. This is an issue that comes up every year and it is the sick leave abuse. I know that you said that the “division has struggled to identify sufficient pattern behavior.” I cannot remember, I think it was, maybe two (2) budgets ago, maybe even the one before that that we talked about this, and I asked if you had been in contact with the union. Even recently I have spoken with the Union representatives and they are more than willing to work with the County to address this issue. So, my question is have you been working with them to address

this issue? It is a big issue because I am not the only councilmember that is hearing it from employees that are not abusing sick leave about those that are. Have we been working with the union to come up with a cooperative plan to deal with this?

Mr. Tanigawa: We continue to have discussions. Where we see it in specific divisions, we have continued discussions with them. We have not been able to come up with an encompassing sick leave policy that has been adopted for the whole division. I think we have to do it for the entire Department.

Council Chair Rapozo: Yes.

Mr. Tanigawa: What we are hoping is... the Department of Human Resources has come up with this "sick leave buyback program" that we are hoping more employees will...

Council Chair Rapozo: But that has not worked, Troy. This buyback program, which I really did not support to begin with, that has not worked.

Mr. Tanigawa: I am not sure how many employees know enough about it. We are trying to get more information out so that people understand how it works. I think it is that type of thing that will help take "chunks" out of the problem.

Council Chair Rapozo: It is a treatment of the symptom, but the problem is the abuse. Every budget we go through this, and every budget I tell you the same thing: The union is ready and willing to work with you, but we have to work with them. What is happening is that there are two big problems with that, one is obviously the shortages that create enormous overtime costs. You actually explained that in your presentation. The other part is the morale of those that are not abusing sick leave, which is what we are hearing, or I am. I am not going to speak for the rest of the Council. I have to believe they are hearing it, too. The fact is, we do not do anything. So, I would again ask you, Troy to reach out to the United Public Workers (UPW) and even in some cases, Hawai'i Government Employees Association (HGEA) and please try to get something going because it has to be curbed. I read the UPW contract and it is very clear. It is not that difficult to implement. If we can get a partnership with the Union itself, I can see improvements will happen. So, I just ask again, please try to work on that.

Mr. Tanigawa: Thank you for bringing that up.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you, Troy.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Carvalho.

Councilmember Carvalho: Just an overview of the transfer stations, which kind of ties in...from Lihue to Kapa'a to Hanalei...because we just had the blessing for the Kapa'a Transfer station. I just wanted to make sure of the timelines overall and an update

on that part. The deflector plates and some of the other things are still not at the Līhu'e Transfer Station.

Mr. Tanigawa: That is correct. The deflector plates, from what I understand, are close to being installed at Līhu'e. At the Kapa'a Transfer Station this is a little ways away, but that is also being worked on and should be coming up fairly soon, too. I do not have exact timelines, but I think Solid Waste has a little more detail about it. They can give an overview.

Council Chair Rapozo: This is a follow-up. It is really about the improvements of the Transfer stations. By the way, Kapa'a is beautiful. Your team did a great job with redoing that place, it is really nice. I am sure you heard, and maybe this is best to ask when Solid Waste comes up, but you know the issue with the eight (8) foot versus ten (10) foot trailers. That is another critical concern, I think. Is it specific to the size of the trailer or is it the weight of what is in the trailer. I know that the statute or the Ordinance describes a weight limit that you can drop. The complaint I am hearing is that all of these people bought trailers at Costco that are ten (10) feet long and even if they are not meeting the weight restriction, they are being told that they "cannot come up here." I know that I got a response from Allison Fraley, Environmental Services Manager, and the restriction is about safety. Is there a way that we can make accommodations for those trailers that are not over the weight limit?

Mr. Tanigawa: First of all, I want to acknowledge the staff. Our Solid Waste staff worked with Keith Perry, Program Administrative Officer from the Mayor's office, and they did an excellent job getting the contractors on site and working through the steps to get to where they were. We are really proud of what they were able to do. We had looked at maximizing the amount of space that we had on property so that we could get trailers in. Unfortunately, the ten (10) foot trailers present some kind of an issue. It is getting to the drop site properly aligned so that they can discharge what they have. Two (2) feet makes a difference there at the site. Some of the other sites, like the Hanapēpē Transfer Station, maybe not so much. I think that the Līhu'e Transfer Station is kind of cramped also. So, aside from the spacial issues, the larger trailers have a tendency get abused and exceed the capacity that is in the Ordinance, which is three-quarters of a ton. We are trying to look at ways in which we can possibly avoid people having to buy new trailers and have trailers converted. However, that just brings us right back to the spacial issue. It will be difficult and potentially unsafe.

Council Chair Rapozo: So, are we allowing the ten (10) foot trailers at the facilities that are not spacially challenged, I guess is the term? For example, you said that Hanapēpē Transfer Station is one. Are we allowing the ten (10) foot trailers?

Mr. Tanigawa: We have been allowing them in the past, but we are trying to be consistent with all of our facilities to minimize confusion. At the Kekaha Landfill, the trailers can be ten (10) feet, they can be bigger trailers. We are going to try to be consistent at the transfer stations.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay, so the eight (8) foot trailer would be the maximum length at all the transfer stations.

Mr. Tanigawa: That is what we are arriving at.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay. I just need to know what to tell people, that is all.

Mr. Tanigawa: I really sympathize with the guys who already have trailers, but I think we are able to serve the large majority of the public and continue with the convenience of the transfer stations. Unfortunately, it looks like we are not able to accommodate anything above eight (8) feet.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Holland.

Councilmember Holland: Just because it came up, I also want to follow up on that. I have also been in conversations with Allison a little bit about that. There are a lot of really upset people that just bought trailers that are thousands of dollars that cannot use their trailers. I just want it to be really clear that it is going to exacerbate illegal dumping. When I did my constituent survey recently, the number one environmental concern that came back was the illegal dumping of trash, abandoned vehicles, and dumping. But because we are in this environmental crisis with the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB)...I was out in Hā'ena yesterday in the community talking about CRB, and they are concerned out there. There is no way that these community members are going to drive all the way to Moloa'a if they cannot go to Princeville— from Hā'ena. We are already dealing with illegal dumping along Powerhouse Road and around some of these areas. I am trying to work with the community to not push the illegal dumping out to a place where we do not know the location of, and to try to treat and steam those existing piles and work to our benefit of it. We really do need to come up with some sort of...at least for the green waste trailer side of things...we are going to have to come up with solutions. I do not know if that is providing a place in Hā'ena where we can take green waste and manage it. Especially on the extremities, for example, people only being able to drive to Puhi, or like Moloa'a for their green waste, is extremely problematic. It is just not going to force people into doing the right thing. So, I am genuinely pretty concerned about the effects that we are going to see because I have had a lot of emails about the concerns with the trailers. I do know that this is a spatial thing. Maybe we have to think in the future about how we can adjust that. In the interim, when we do get our curtain burner, we might want to have drop-off places to encourage people. The other thing I brought out is that, if all of these people are going to be doing illegal dumping, we will be losing whatever money we would have received from that dumping anyway because they are just going to be dumping it in the bushes. It is just something to think about, I am not asking for a solution right now, but it is definitely an issue.

Councilmember Cowden: I just want to second that. I am hearing the very same thing. Kilauea used to have a huge dumping problem. We have finally gotten rid of it. This is asking for it to return.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Are there any other questions? If not, we will move into the Budget. We will start with the Administrative Budget. Are there any questions on the Administrative Budget?

Councilmember Cowden: I have a simple one.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: The increase in the salaries is pretty significant. Is that because we have filled some positions that we have not filled before? I know we gave a raise... It seemed to have moved up quite a bit.

Mr. Tanigawa: I believe the salaries are budgeted according to the Collective Bargaining requirements.

Councilmember Cowden: So, it is not that we have hired anyone new, it is just an increase?

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: I have a question. There is an item I do not usually see money in, what is one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for commodities? Other commodities? I do not usually see that line item used much.

MICHAEL TRESLER, Fiscal Management Officer: Michael Tresler, Department of Public Works. I think that line item was added in for non-union, non-operational employees for equipment such as work boots, raincoats and other equipment.

Councilmember Cowden: The one hundred thousand dollar (\$100,000) Grant-in-Aid, is that for CRB?

Mr. Tresler: Yes.

Councilmember Cowden: That is for CRB.

Mr. Tresler: No. This is for the East and West Kaua'i Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Kualii.

Councilmember Kualii: That is the East and West Kaua'i Soil and Water Conservation Districts, is that a nonprofit organization?

Mr. Tresler: Yes, it is.

*(Councilmember Carvalho was noted as present.)*

Councilmember Kualii: This is a grant-in-aid so, it is not a grant program that is available to different entities. It is a non-competitive grant because they specifically do the work to help that department.

Mr. Tresler: Yes. Historically, that organization has been working with the Federal, State and County governments. It really helps our farmers obtain exemptions from the grading and grubbing permits. They play a very key role in it.

Councilmember Kualii: You have that one (1) vacant position, but it is dollar-funded so that is fine. On the positions, these three (3) positions near the bottom, Position 826 Executive Assistant, CIP Manager, E24 Program Administrative Officer, CIP Analyst, and 1525 Program Administrative Officer I, so those two (2) have the same title. They vary in salary range, the one at the bottom is lower and the other ones are more similar. Can you follow up and explain to me what those three (3) positions are?

Mr. Tanigawa: Can you say again, I am sorry. 1525, E24, and what is the third one?

Councilmember Kualii: 826. The one in the middle, E24, I guess because it has the "E" it means that it is appointed, but the other 826 and 1525, that means that those are regular positions, right? What is it called, "exempt civil service"? It might be more to explain, so maybe a brief overview or just follow up?

Mr. Tanigawa: We will follow up.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Are there other questions on the Administrative Budget? If not, we will move on to Fiscal. Are there any questions for the Fiscal Budget? The only item that had any significance was the six thousand dollars (\$6,000) for a computer replacement. Councilmember Cowden do you have a question?

Councilmember Cowden: Yes, in Fiscal, is this where we might be applying for grants? Do we apply for many grants in the Department of Public Works? Do we have federal grants?

Mr. Tresler: Councilmember Cowden, this Division does not apply for grants, but we do obtain grants in a couple of programs. One of the largest is the Federal Highways grant program. That goes through The Hawai'i Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). We do not necessarily apply for grants. I think we work in conjunction, our Engineering Division, with the Planning Department sometimes, to go after

Federal funds and we have a couple of really successful examples, like the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant Program for the Līhu'e upgrades or the Po'ipū project that is happening as well.

Councilmember Cowden: When we go to the National Association of Counties (NACo) Conferences, I am always looking for infrastructure opportunities, so I know there are different Federal grants out there. I know that we do get some, so I really want to applaud, for example, the Roads and Highways Division, when we have gotten three (3) significant Federal grants that I can think of in the past eight (8) to ten (10) years. I was just wondering if we have anyone in these positions that looks for grants to help the different departments?

Mr. Tresler: Yes, it is not the Roads and Highways Division, it is a combination of the Administration, the leadership in the Department of Public Works, the Engineering Division, and the Planning Department.

Councilmember Cowden: So, we do have someone who is looking for and applying for those grants, especially considering the Solid Waste Division and the Wastewater Divisions. It seems like we really need them in that area. I just do not know if we have anyone assigned to that task.

Mr. Tanigawa: Each Division does some investigating. We also have some assistance from the Mayor's office with earmarks. So, we do get some exposure on what is available from consultants that get involved with folks in Washington D.C.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Are there any other questions for Fiscal? If not, we will move on to Engineering. Councilmember Kualī'i.

Councilmember Kualī'i: On the Master, page 170 on the bottom and page 114 on the top, where we list all of the positions. I think you only have four (4) vacant positions in the Engineering Division. The top one says, Civil Engineer VI Manager vacant 129 days but interviews are scheduled. The next one, more than halfway down to the bottom, 1445 Civil Engineer I, vacant 74 days, the salary looks like on the lower end of the range. It says continuous recruitment, I am wondering because it is on continuous recruitment, does that mean a relatively easy position to fill or will it be difficult? Would you potentially be filling it in-house? 1445 Civil Engineer I, vacant 74 days, budgeted at sixty-nine thousand dollars (\$69,000).

MICHAEL MOULE, Civil Engineer VII Manager: Good morning, Chair and members of the Council. Michael Moule, Chief of Engineering, for the record. Yes, we have been recruiting for our vacant positions. We have been pretty successful over the last year. We have hired four (4) Civil Engineers and one (1) Engineering Support Technician since last year when we were here talking to you about this. We did have some staff leave, two (2) retired and two (2) departed, so we are a little bit ahead of where we were, but we do have some vacancies still. Regarding these two (2) positions that Councilmember Kualī'i is asking about, one (1) the Civil Engineer VI Manager position, there is an offer pending for that one

right now. We have had successful interviews, more than one qualified candidate, and an offer is pending for the top qualified candidate. The Civil Engineer I position that is vacant, we are also recruiting for that position. As you mentioned Councilmember Kualii, all of the Civil Engineering positions are on continuous recruitment in part because our Department and the Department of Water, although other Divisions like Wastewater may occasionally hire engineers as well, have vacancies. So, this position has been on continuous recruitment since I have been here, pretty much. We have been successful lately and we have an offer pending for that Civil Engineer I position as well. We interviewed a candidate with some Kauai ties and have an offer pending on that one. Generally speaking, we work with HR to interview any candidates that come available on those continuous recruitment positions.

Councilmember Kualii:                      The final position is the Engineering Support Technician III that you are moving to the Department of Finance, Real Property Division. Can you say a little bit on the reason for the move?

Mr. Moule:                                      We have a meeting pending in the next week or so with the Department of Finance (Finance) to finalize the discussions on that. One of the primary functions of that position is to do the addressing for the County. The incumbent retired last year. That function is one that we have been working towards making more electronic in geographic information systems (GIS). So, the discussions are moving towards being a GIS Analyst position to do that function plus potentially other functions. So, that is kind of the answer there. There may be other...

Committee Chair Kaneshiro:              Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden:                      I have a follow-up. You said that person you are making an offer to has Kauai roots. Are most of our applicants applying from off island?

Mr. Moule:                                      We get a mix. Some applicants apply from off-island, like Oahu, but have Kauai connections of some sort. They grew up here or they have families that are here or are married to someone that is here. Some applicants grew up here, moved to Oahu, and want to come back. Some applicants are in the mainland and apply. There are applicants that are here that are working in some other job on here on Kauai that are not from here but are here already. So, we get a mix.

Councilmember Cowden:                      Yes.

Mr. Moule:                                      Rather than talking about future hires, I will talk about our last hires, our recent hires, the five (5) hires that we have had over the last year. Three (3) of them were already here. One (1) person had lived here previously and wanted to move back, and the last one came from the mainland fresh, but wanted to move to Kauai.

Councilmember Cowden:                      My curiosity is about how we house them and what is the difficulty. It seems to be a chronic problem, so I am just trying to understand how we address it. Thank you for that information.

Mr. Moule: We struggle with it. We have definitely had past situations where we have made offers to people who could not find housing, did not take the job, or did not realize it was too expensive to live here. It is an issue. We all deal with it. It is an issue islandwide for lots of employers, other County Departments, and Divisions. We have been fortunate in the last year, the salary increases that were agreed to with HGEA for Engineers have significantly helped with recruitment and retention. We have mentioned that we lose some staff, but the two (2) Engineers that left, one left for a management position here on Kaua'i with the State Department of Transportation and the other moved out of the country. We have been pretty successful with folks who want to stay here.

Councilmember Cowden: So, with the HGEA increase that is not doing the “no lunch overtime,” we were just able to negotiate a higher rate.

Mr. Moule: Yes. It was a supplemental agreement with HGEA for engineering positions similar to what the City and County of Honolulu did and the State of Hawai'i did with engineers.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay, so I know that this has been a long-running problem.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Council Chair Rapozo.

Council Chair Rapozo: I do not know if I have ever noticed this before, but I now notice that the engineer positions start with an “EN” is that a separate collective bargaining class that was created for Engineers?

Mr. Moule: That is part of that supplemental agreement that we were just discussing. That “EN” is for engineers. It is not a bargaining class, per se. HR can probably answer these questions better than I can.

Council Chair Rapozo: They are civil service, though.

Mr. Moule: Yes, they are civil service. The payment classes are different. Rather than SR, they are EN because of that supplemental agreement.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay, thank you.

Councilmember Holland: Is this where the costs are reflected for the permitting process for building? Just the labor and time costs are reflected in here?

Mr. Moule: The Engineering Division does handle some Building permit reviews. The Building Division is obviously a separate division and they will have their own costs. A portion of the Engineering Division is our Regulatory Compliance Section. That role is related to reviews of building permits, reviews of grading permits, and reviews of grubbing and stockpile permits—we get plans for all of those things. Approving

those plans and then inspecting the work—we do not do a lot of building inspections except to check for flood control issues for the most part.

Councilmember Holland: And that is all reflected in salaries, because it is work. There is not independent costs broken off for any of that, right?

Mr. Moule: Not for the Engineering Division. We have our supplies and things like that, those are used for various things. They are a relatively small part of the budget. This just things related to us doing our work.

Councilmember Holland: If we wanted to add a small cost, like ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or so to some sort of program that would rapidly speed up that process for review, is that something that would be reflected and able to be spent over the next year? I am just trying to think ahead because I have a meeting organized with some of you to see this program that may rapidly improve our turnaround time for building permits. I am just wondering if that is something you could be able to, with any existing funds, support.

Mr. Moule: For building permits specifically, that would be a question for the Building Division and the Administration. We do handle that. We are one of many agencies and entities that review building permits. We continually try to make sure we are doing those quickly. Call us or call the Building Division if something is not getting reviewed quickly and we can try to make sure those are getting done.

Councilmember Holland: I am just excited that this program might really change the game for us a little bit and allow more inspection time and more capacity within existing personnel to “dive farther” than we currently get to. So, thank you.

*(Council Chair Rapozo was noted as not present.)*

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Are there any other questions for the Engineering Division?

Councilmember Kualii: One thing that sort of jumps out at me are the top two (2) positions, 1425 and 1431. We just talked about 1431 is about to be filled and you have interviews scheduled. But the gap between those two (2) positions, they are both civil service positions, or exempt...what does “EM” mean?

Mr. Moule: “EM” is excluded managerial.

Councilmember Kualii: Managerial. These are standalone positions, they are not in a bargaining unit, are they?

Mr. Moule: That is correct. They are not in a bargaining unit. They are excluded from Bargaining Unit 13.

Councilmember Kualii: So, there is a seventy thousand dollar (\$70,000) gap between those two positions. Is that just how it exists in the civil service system? It seems like a huge gap.

Mr. Moule: If you look down the list further down, you will see position 1061. That is another Civil Engineer VI manager. The way it works, and perhaps HR can answer these questions more than I can, but the way it works is that there are different ranges for the different classes, for example EM7 versus EM5, the ranges are different, obviously. Where they are within that range depends on that particular employee's years of experience working in Engineering and beyond the minimum qualifications for the position. If you look at the two (2) Civil Engineer VI Managers, 1431 and 1061, those numbers, I believe...I am not going to say...1431. I am not sure how that is based now, but with the previous incumbent in 1431, that person did have a little lower salary than the other civil engineer managers because their level of experience after meeting the minimum qualifications was a little lower. So, their salary was lower.

*(Council Chair Rapozo was noted as not present.)*

Councilmember Kualii: Realizing that some of their salaries, when they seem super high, or inflated, that it could be somebody that has been around for a long time. If you were anticipating any retirements, you would tell us and, potentially you budget at a lower level, if you would be hiring a new person at a lower level, yes?

Mr. Moule: We are not anticipating that at this time.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Are there any other questions for the Engineering Division? If not, we will move on. Next up is the Building Division. Do we have any questions for the Buildings Division?

Councilmember Kualii: Maybe a quick one.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Kualii.

Councilmember Kualii: On page 175 on the bottom and 117 on the top, just the one (1) vacant position, it has been vacant, 1001 Code Enforcement and Permit Operations vacant one hundred thirty-four (134) days. So, four or five months. A lower-level position. Is this an easy-to-fill position? I know that you said that interviews are scheduled, but do you expect to fill them right away?

LEOLYNNE S. ESCALONA, Building Code Development & Enforcement Manager.  
Good Morning Council Chair and members of the Council. For the record, Leolynne Escalona. That position that you referred to, position 1001, has been filled and the applicant will start April 1, 2026.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Are there any other questions for the Buildings Division? Councilmember Holland.

Councilmember Holland: To follow up on that Building Permit program, do we have the funding be flexible with that if it ends up working for us? This hopeful...it is kind of like prompt, Artificial Intelligence (AI) search program that we are going to do a demonstration on that would really fast-track the reviews of Building permits and “shoot out” needed changes right away. We are going to have a meeting with the Department of Water, your Division, and the Planning Department to see collectively how this could speed up our processes to identify changes that have to be made in the permitting process. I am just wondering if that is something...where that money would come from or if we should allocate for it.

Ms. Escalona: Our electronic plan review is provided by Project Dox, by Avolve. We are currently looking at a software upgrade to a version 9.5, which they tell us also has an AI component. We have not really seen a demonstration yet, but we are obviously very interested in other platforms.

Councilmember Holland: And if we have to pull money out for that, we can? There is somewhere within this for the cost of the purchase of software.

Ms. Escalona: We already have funding allocated for software upgrades but would need to see what that would look like.

Councilmember Holland: What is that reflected under?

Ms. Escalona: I believe it is in our revolving funds, which you would not see on this.

Councilmember Holland: Okay. Thank you so much.

Ms. Escalona: You are welcome.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: I have a simple question. It is pretty evident that your Division has been repaired from the flooding. I have not actually seen the improved building. I should come over there sometime and see it. Are you all back together? Is the Building Division and the Engineering Division all happy in their new home after we had to tear the whole office apart?

Ms. Escalona: I can only speak for the Building Division. We are all settled in and we are all back in one place.

Councilmember Cowden: And things are functioning more easily as a result.

Ms. Escalona: Yes.

Councilmember Cowden: And the staff is happier.

Ms. Escalona: I think so, yes.

Councilmember Cowden: I know that was a pretty big hardship and how you were in a conference room. I am hoping that productivity has gotten stronger and when we are talking about the slowness of permitting, no doubt that had to have added to it. So, the flow is better?

Ms. Escalona: I believe so. Our entry level positions have always been a challenge to fill. We recently interviewed and we have one suitable candidate that we hope will accept an offer.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay, thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Are there any other questions for the Building Division? If not, we will move on to Auto Maintenance Division. We are at Auto Maintenance General Fund first. Then we will go to Auto Maintenance Highway Fund. It should all be in order in our binder. Then we will go Auto Maintenance Solid Waste and Auto Maintenance...  
Council Chair Rapozo.

Council Chair Rapozo: I just had one question. It is kind of a broad question for all Departments. I just want to make sure we are addressing the rising cost of fuel. I do not know when this Budget was prepared, but I guarantee the prices were lower. I am not sure what price per gallon you are using for your formula. I am sure we will be over six dollars (\$6.00) per gallon very soon and I do not know how long this will last. Have we made that adjustment to the Budgets? Again, this is for all the Departments. I am curious, in our formula, what dollar per gallon have we used?

RUSSELL K. IZUMO, Automotive Equipment Superintendent Good  
morning, Council.

Council Chair Rapozo: Good Morning.

Councilmember Holland: Good Morning.

Mr. Izumo: Russell Izumo, Auto Shop. I cannot give you a definite number, price per gallon, now, since the price went up.

Council Chair Rapozo: Yes, I am assuming that we take how many gallons will be needed and then put a dollar figure to that.

Mr. Izumo: I think that it was fifteen percent (15%) per year that I go up on the fuel budget, roughly, on the total budget for gas and diesel.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay. That probably will have to be adjusted in the Supplemental Budget because the gas prices have been going up.

Mr. Izumo: I have to go figure that out.

Council Chair Rapozo: Yes. Okay, thanks Russell.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: Let me know if it needs to be on a different page.  
We are on Administration, right?

Councilmember Bulosan: Auto Maintenance.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Auto Maintenance General Fund.

Councilmember Cowden: I think that we need to have to be buying another  
place to expand the maintenance area. That has been there since 1971, is that correct?

Mr. Izumo: Yes.

Councilmember Cowden: It looks pretty small for what we need.

Mr. Izumo: It is small for the fleet.

Councilmember Cowden: It is small for what we need, so what do we have  
in the plans for getting more auto maintenance area because if something happens to you  
and your team, I brought this up during the last Budget, you are such an important “nexus.”  
If you cannot get your work done, it can really constrain all aspects of our County, not even  
just Public Works. So, I really feel anxious that we need to be looking for another place and  
we need to be thinking of expansion and I do not really see that in the CIP. Did I miss it? I  
was thinking about that, getting bigger.

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes, we are. We are actively engaged in looking  
at a piece of property. There is some due diligence that has to be done. We are looking into  
that right now.

Councilmember Cowden: We will talk about the CIP later but is that  
somewhere in the CIP.

Mr. Tanigawa: I am not certain if it is reflected there right now.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay, because I did not see it and I think that we  
have got to get that going.

Mr. Tanigawa: We are. We are actively looking.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Are there any other questions from the members?  
Councilmember Kualii'i?

Councilmember Kualii'i: Yes, on page 251.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Okay, are there any more questions on the Auto Maintenance General Fund? We are on page 181. Just to double-check, I have checked the past Budget— do not have to get back to me—there were two (2) different leased items it was fourth year out of fifth. This year we only have one (1) fifth year out of fifth. Please just double-check that we paid off...

Mr. Izumo: I think the five (5) automobiles on the bottom?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Yes.

Mr. Izumo: It is on the third of the page. Then the top two (2), 301...what were the numbers?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: 301...

Mr. Izumo: Yes, those are equipment numbers, not automobile numbers.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: 222, 061, 185, 186, 163.

Mr. Izumo: Yes, those are on the third year.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Yes, those are not in here.

Councilmember Kualii'i: What page are we on?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: 181. The lease. There was a prior year that was fourth year out of fifth year. I would have anticipated seeing it here, unless it was paid off early. I can send the question through. Just double-check to make sure we did not miss a lease because then we will end up having to put more money back in. Are there any further questions on the General Fund? We will move on to the Highway Fund.

Councilmember Kualii'i: Is that page 249?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Yes. 249 to 251. Councilmember Kualii'i.

Councilmember Kualii'i: So, on page 251 where all the positions are, still no luck with all the additional efforts by HR creating training positions? It looks like Heavy Vehicle Construction Mechanic Trainee, 1340, vacant three hundred eighteen (318) days, 1339 vacant one thousand seven hundred seventy-nine (1,779) days. Then, the one at level I is similar, and two (2) half of that, six hundred forty-one (641) days, and then the auto

mechanic...still six (positions)...you have more vacancies in mechanics than you have filled. I am sure you are struggling. Three (3) of those positions, Heavy Equipment Mechanic I, Auto Mechanic I, and Heavy Mechanic Trainee, three (3) of them that were vacant the longest. All of them over two (2) years, maybe even over three (3) years. These were half funded, partially funded in the last Budget and it looks like you are fully funding them in this Budget. Maybe it is just something they missed and it will come out differently in the next round, or has something changed and now we think we are going to fill these positions?

Mr. Izumo: We are on continuous recruitment.

Councilmember Kualii: Yes, the vacancy report says, “Continuous recruitment, no qualified applicants” for pretty much most of the positions I had mentioned, except one of them, the Auto Mechanic I at nine hundred eighty-eight (988) days vacant just says, “no recent activity with HR.” Obviously, this is a continued, overall big problem. Maybe we can get follow up with HR. Are things changing? Are they going to try something else? Potentially, these probably should not be fully funded—at least, maybe two (2) or three (3) of the six (6), even if we you were able to fill some of them, you probably will not be able to fill all of them.

Mr. Tanigawa: Thank you for bringing that up.

Councilmember Kualii: Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: I have a follow-up along the same lines. Every year we have a hard time filling these positions. They are trade skills. I do not think that Kaua'i Community College (KCC) has these classes anymore. Where do we see the future in us continuing to do this, or are there other ways or other things we can do like contract out for these services? It is always a difficult thing, difficult positions to fill, right, Russell?

Mr. Izumo: I have been contracting out some of the equipment to alleviate the workload on the refuse side. I have also been going out on my own time for the past six (6) months talking to mechanics in the field working for private companies, asking if they want to come to work for the County. Most of the responses, when you are talking about the “heavy side” is regarding the refuse. They do not want to work on the rubbish trucks. So, I tell them to call me if they change their minds. That is the number one complaint: no one wants to work on the rubbish trucks anymore. No one wants to get dirty. I still go out and...

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Is it because of the smell of the refuse trucks?

Mr. Izumo: It is just the nature of 2026 and where we are at, basically they are getting spoiled. They are not “old school,” I guess.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: I suppose that type of job is a dirty job, I guess.

Councilmember Holland: Is the salary an issue for that?

Mr. Izumo: What is that?

Councilmember Holland: Is the salary an issue for that, like, how much they are getting paid?

Mr. Izumo: I think that it is comparable to the outside companies. If anything, it will be comparable or to the low end to the private sector. They do not look at the benefits, I guess, if they come to work with the County. I explain all of that to them when I go out on my own talking to mechanics that I know can make it in the shop, but it is the rubbish trucks that scare them, I guess.

Councilmember Cowden: I have a follow-up and a different question. My understanding with the rubbish trucks is what scares them is the mix and the leachate, right? They have no idea what kind of chemicals will come together in whatever way. Different things always get dumped in those trucks. You have no idea what the mix is, right? So, what people are scared of is cancer and health issues.

Mr. Izumo: You can get anything.

Councilmember Cowden: They can get anything, so they could have bacterial...do we have any kind of personal protection equipment (PPE) for them?

Mr. Izumo: Oh yes, we have all the PPEs.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay. So, my other question is, and I ask this every year about training, when we have the training field dollar-funded, I do not understand why that is. It seems that if we are putting more emphasis on the training, I know that you get most of the training, but perhaps, if we were bringing people on and they knew they were going to get significant training funded, that builds their capacity for whatever they are doing in their career as a mechanic...

Mr. Izumo: I have had the courtesy of the bus inviting us to training and I send as many employees as I can to go from the shop for training. It is part of, when they purchase buses, the training is included in the purchase. I send everyone to training. I am in the process now of trying to get the Heavy Mechanics to go to training in Honolulu. They finally opened up something where I have a window. I might have to go...

Councilmember Cowden: And what about CDL certification? Do all of your employees have it? Do they need it? Is that part of the training that is needed?

Mr. Izumo: The trainee position is basically, you have mechanic knowledge, you come in, and during the six (6) month probation period, besides your job, the County will train you within the six (6) months to get your license. Once you complete your six (6) months of probation, you get moved up to the BC-11 position to fill the Heavy Mechanic I positions. That is the goal. We moved one person already.

Councilmember Cowden: That number, I would expect, the travel number and the training number, to be substantially more. We are getting all this really specialized equipment—whether it is fire trucks or buses or all these heavy equipment that we are buying. Most of these have electronic control units and have all these different elements in them, that I would think that we would need that training element in there pretty strongly. I am just always stunned at a dollar-funding in that line item. I just do not understand that. It seems like it would make a lot more sense if we had money set aside and we are sending them places or flying people in to be training everyone. I just do not understand.

Mr. Izumo: I think last year was funded, right Troy?

Mr. Tanigawa: Maybe...I cannot recall.

Mr. Izumo: It might be an error. Last year I had three thousand dollars (\$3,000) funded for training.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: I see in 2025 there was two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500).

Councilmember Cowden Even that is really low. It is really low when you think about training that is needed. It raises red flags for me when I see dollar-funding on training when we have such a deficit in what we need. So, we will need to bring people in and training them up to capacity.

Mr. Izumo: I will make adjustments in that area.

Councilmember Cowden: Yes, thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: I have a follow-up on that. Are you seeing more problems in the vehicles and machinery? I know that even in my dad's company, when they get lawnmowers now, it is not really things that they can fix themselves. Someone from the company they bought the equipment from has to come and do it.

Mr. Izumo: I do it on my own. I am certified in all that as well. I am a state licensed mechanic and am Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certified in all the electronic aspects of repair. I teach them whatever I can teach them, when they get stuck. We have and we are trying to buy more software that is from the factory. If you do not have the software, you cannot repair anymore. I try to acquire the software when we purchase the equipment if the vendor is willing to let it go. Sometimes, I have to use the right to repair construction and agricultural equipment. So, I finally acquired some things. Some of the things I do not have, I have to subcontract the repair to an outside shop. We cannot determine what is wrong if we do not have the software.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: I also see the diesel exhaust equipment, when it is not really a problem with the machine, it is more of a "chip malfunction," or something

similar. Then the mechanic is “stuck” and needs to schedule and wait for a technician to reset it.

Mr. Izumo: We do not have too many problems with the emission side, so far. We have had sensor problems during the COVID-19 Pandemic, due to a sensor shortage.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: I just want to also ask about succession planning. Are you the only one in the shop that has your level of certification because...I brought this up repeatedly, because, God forbid you ever get into a car accident...what would we do? So, it seems this should be something that we really need to be making sure that you have the ability to quit someday or if you were out for an extended period of time that we really need someone ready to be right behind you. You are a nexus for functioning in the County. I really hold a lot of concern that we do not have enough space, we do not have enough people, and we do not have the right training and certifications.

Mr. Izumo: I have been trying to work them up to go and get their ASE certification. We do have to see if they will do this on their own, to pay for the fee for the testing.

Councilmember Cowden: Can we pay for it? Maybe that should be in the training budget.

Mr. Izumo: If they pass it, then maybe we could pay for it. They need to make the attempt to take the testing.

Councilmember Cowden: So, that is why I wonder if we were to have this in our budget...

Mr. Izumo: Okay.

Councilmember Cowden: ...because I think we would really have a serious problem if something were to happen to you. I do not want anything to happen to you, but I want to be sure that we are not over-reliant on one individual for all of this really critical functioning. There is a compliment in there. We need you to have a back-up.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Are there any other questions? Russell, there is a two hundred fifty-four thousand dollar (\$254,000) for Auto Shop Roof. What is that for? Does it help us expand the area you work under?

Mr. Izumo: No, this roof, we just found out after this recent rain, that there are big holes in it. We just had to fix the ceiling this morning in the office because there was mold intrusion. So, we cut all of that out and had to fix it. The roof is in dire need of repair.

Councilmember Cowden:                   Where are you seeing this here?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro:           R&M Building, Auto Shop Roof, page 252. Are there any other questions? We will keep moving on. We are on Auto Maintenance, Solid Waste Fund. Are there any questions on the numbers in the Solid Waste Fund? Councilmember Holland.

Councilmember Holland:               I just want to reiterate the gasoline and diesel costs, just checking those on the Supplemental Budget as Council Chair Rapozo suggested.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro:           We will move on to the Sewer Fund. Are there any questions on the Auto Maintenance, Sewer Fund?

Councilmember Cowden:               Yes.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro:           Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden:               I see repairs and maintenance vehicles— went to fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000). It does not seem like an extraordinary number but it went from zero dollars (\$0) to fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000). What is that reflecting?

Mr. Izumo:                               This is the repair and maintenance of the shop trucks.

Councilmember Cowden:               The shop truck. So, we a few bad shop trucks that we did not have last year. Oh, no that is the original Budget. Okay, so we are adding it in. All right, that makes sense.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro:           Okay, are there any other last questions for Auto Maintenance, if not, we are going to move on. Okay, we will move on to the Department of Public Works, Roads Division (Roads). We are starting with the Department of Public Works, Roads, General Fund. Master page 179. Are there any questions on the numbers in the Roads General Fund? Councilmember Holland.

Councilmember Holland:               It is nice to see you. I have some general questions about roads and things we have been talking about this year and how we could potentially, or where that money comes from so I can try to wrap my head around it. One of the things is, as we start to look at options for steaming roadside vegetation in areas now that we have a gentleman that has the machine, has the tarps, and thinks that we can do this in high profile areas— am wondering if the money is accessible for those kinds of invasive species contracts—where that would come from to off-set the cost of the roadside treatment? I am going to give you all of my questions up front so that you can tell me what you think.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro:           Maybe if you give him all of the questions all at once he might lose track of what questions you had.

Councilmember Holland: That is a good point. Yes, can you just answer that one first.

BRYSON VIVAS, Executive Assistant to the Mayor, Department of Public Works–Roads Division: Good Morning, Council Chair Rapozo, members of the Council, Bryson Vivas, Public Works for the record. We are open to it. If we want to do steaming, we could probably do it as a pilot project or something like that. We are open to trying it out to see if that is something could work.

Councilmember Holland: Okay, and that money we would be able to deal with that, we would not have to allocate any money? We could move money around? Those kinds of contracts, can we fund those? It would not be hugely expensive, especially in its trial, but I am just wondering about that.

Mr. Vivas: I believe that we can find somewhere in our accounts to do the trial. It is not really expensive? I think we can find it in one of our special projects accounts.

Councilmember Holland: I am anticipating that it will not be possible everywhere. It might just be limited where we can use it. Also thinking about CRB treatment. As we have seen it spread into the right-of-way, it is kind of moving out of the Department of Parks and Recreation's *kuleana*, but it is also stepping into your right-of-way, and how are we going to deal with that? I am not sure if you have noticed the back road that connects around Lydgate Beach Park. I do not remember the name of that road, but it is the big loop that goes by the...

Mr. Vivas: Leho Drive.

Councilmember Holland: Yes. So, those trees are “nailed.” We might end up having to remove all of those at this point. They do appear to not be on Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL), they appear to be right in our right-of-way. As we start to deal with more of those risk factors of attacked trees that are undermined and dangerous, we are going to have to have the cost of removal but also working collaboratively with the Department of Parks and Recreation team to treat what we can save. I am just wondering if you have a plan.

Mr. Vivas: We do have a tree trimming contract. We have a contractor that cuts our coconut trees and hazardous trees. I think for the disposal of those that are contaminated, for a lack of a better word, with the bugs, we can work with Department of Parks and Recreation to see how we can dispose of them. At least for tree trimming and removal of coconut trees, we have a contractor.

Councilmember Holland: So, you think we have the flex in the existing budget to handle that response if we need it?

Mr. Vivas: I believe that, with our tree trimming contract, we have that.

Councilmember Holland: Okay. We have talked a lot this year about long-term solutions for reducing the roadside spraying. In my survey, the trash and abandoned vehicles issue was number one. Number two was wastewater concerns, and number three was pesticide roadside spraying followed by climate change. As we think about the conversations we have had about engineering our roads to not need that maintenance moving forward, with either an additional two (2) feet of asphalt when we build a new road, or when we pave a new road, or the long-term weed matting that lasts ten (10) or so years, is that the kind of things that we have worked toward being able to allocate funds to? It is obviously moving forward with the Engineering Division, so I am just wondering if this is in the Budget.

Mr. Vivas: Correct. I cannot answer for our Engineering projects, but I know for them, for their projects, there is that two-foot extension for the guardrails so that you do not have to do the spraying behind the guardrails. For Roads Division, we are following that same path that the Engineering Division has set up. When we do install new guardrails, and we have an example of one on Maluhia Road, we are going to do the two-foot extension first, before we install it, with the idea that we do not have to spray behind the guardrails. When we do spray, it is really selective. It is not our operation to spray. Our operation is to cut grass, fix shoulders...there are some sections where we would, like for signage...but it is not our main operation, it is just a part of it.

Councilmember Holland: Right, and so do we feel that those additional asphalt needs, and obviously that cost might be going up like the Mayor brought up in his opening remarks, but are those costs are incorporated in this?

Mr. Vivas: It is incorporated in our Highway Funds. Our baseyards are going to be doing these extensions of new guardrails. They are excited about doing something a little different.

Councilmember Holland: Okay, great.

Mr. Vivas: We are regrading some of the shoulders and doing this two-foot extension. We are going to do that more in-house.

Councilmember Holland: I am so thankful. Thank you very much. The money on the machinery for manual removal. I know that we have struggled with the machine and that is part of the reason that we have started spraying the side of the road by the middle school, because our machines were down. I am just wondering if we have thought about the funding for...are we good on that? Is there additional funding needed in case one of those break down? Can I buy you a second one?

Mr. Vivas: I think with the past Budgets, we are moving in the right direction. We did ask for a lot of equipment during the last Budgets and this fiscal year, now, we are going to be replacing one of our main pieces of equipment, our

“bushwackers.” So, we are hoping that once we get those, we can be more efficient in our cutting of our banks, where we would sometimes spray because our machines are not able to reach...

Councilmember Holland: And that is all in here, you do not need more?

Mr. Vivas: It is in our past Budget. So, we are moving in that direction.

Councilmember Holland: Okay, thank you so much.

Mr. Vivas: This Budget here, we are more focused on trailers. We are looking at how we are going to move our equipment better. If we go through our Budget, you will see that I am asking for trailers, low-boys, and a couple of pieces of equipment. For the most part, it is just moving our existing equipment more efficiently.

Councilmember Holland: Thank you for all your willingness to try to address these things. I really appreciate you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: Yes, I have a follow-up and then I have a new question. I know about six (6) or seven (7) years ago I was really raising the issue of...there are commercial steamers for roadsides, they use them in Australia, they use them on Hawai'i Island. Right now, doing a pilot project just to test that would be great, with this small company that is here. That is forward-looking, but I think if it does work, and if it is something that is still needed it is something we could look at. When we are talking about increase in cost for gasoline, this whole recent war started since our Budget was written. So, this change happened. Asphalt is petroleum-based as well. I am wondering when we get our Supplemental Budget, if we do a little bit of analysis to see what anticipated costs or shortages might be on the way for products for making roads. When we look at how much of a percentage the overall supply has been reduced, I think that we might find that we are going to have a lot more cost. Our timeline might be impacted. So, I do not know if those calls have been made yet, but I would think during the break between now and when we get the Supplemental Budget, you might want to look at that. I do think it is a problem.

Mr. Vivas: I am sure that there will be some impact because of our asphalt as it is oil-based. It may affect it. With our islandwide contract, I do not know how much it is going to affect our paving and our contractors getting oil so that they can continue to pave roads. I guess we will see how it comes out in the future.

Councilmember Cowden: I think it is worth an inquiry. I appreciated how the Mayor said that he has a little bit of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) over the Niunalu Bridge and the shortage of steel. I think that we are going to have a shortage of a number of different products. So, to put together an appropriate anticipated budget might be worth putting a little percentage increase on there.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: I want to follow up on Council Chair Rapozo's question, when it comes to road work type of things, I can see when we are filling up our vehicles, and we have to account for that type of increase, but when it comes to road work, I think that, at the end of the day, if it costs more, we are going to end up doing less projects. We are not going to be allocating a lot more to try and accommodate it. Projects will just get squeezed.

Councilmember Cowden: But still, then we will want to have a list of prioritized projects when we look at our CIP, because it is worth anticipating. We want to be proactive with the problem. I think that there is very likely to be a challenge.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Council Chair Rapozo.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you. I want to go back to Councilmember Holland's earlier discussion about the steaming. I am very optimistic that that can work. I appreciate you saying that your Division is open to the pilot project. I just wanted to make sure because you said, "as long as it does not cost that much." I just need to know what is "that much." I do not know what these things cost. I really want to see us pursue the steaming on a pilot project, but I want to make sure that we have the funds to do it. We do not have to talk about it now, but something that your Division can discuss to figure out what that number would be to run a ninety (90) day or six (6) month project, and to make sure that we have the funds available. If we do not then it is not going to get done. If that works, that is going to help a lot. I can see how you can just tent, even over the guardrail and steam to get rid of some of that...it is horrible right now...the State highways even the overgrowth...it is hard without spraying. It is really hard to maintain.

Mr. Vivas: I know that this has been done in the past. There was an attempt. We can revisit it again.

Council Chair Rapozo: If it was tried and failed, then we do not have to waste money. I am not aware that we tried that. I think that is a viable option if it works.

Councilmember Holland: We have not tried the same thing that we have now. Now that we have someone that has that one hundred sixty thousand dollar (\$160,000) high end steam machine...they have been doing Malae Heiau, if anyone has noticed Malae Heiau's weeds. We are really trying to experiment with how to deal with the guinea grass and they do not want to spray the *heiau* either. So, we have been struggling. We have tried natural products that did not work very well. We have tried multiple things, but the steaming is really working, especially if you put something down after, like a matting. So, it would be an upfront investment, but you would not have to maintain that roadside for ten (10) years. In theory, it would save us a "ton" of money in the long run. Also, you would not be purchasing the chemicals. I think the difference is not internalizing it within the County and not trying to train someone on how to use that machine. The one that Dr. Lee Evslin had was a "hose" that we tried with the Department of Parks and Recreation, and it works, but it is just more time consuming. That is very different for roadsides. Obviously, some roadsides are going to be high-traffic, dangerous, and we will not be able to do it there.

So, that is why I love the thought of developing an “engineering forward” to where you do not have to worry about this. I do think that we have to try it as a contract, not trying to hire someone and to get our employees to learn how to use it. The steam out of this machine that he has comes out at over three hundred (300) degrees. So, it is also a safety issue to have any of our team trying to figure out how to use it. To Council Chair Rapozo’s point, I do think we should be allocating some funds to think about how to try this in a serious way. We also never tried it with the tarp enclosure where it really just soaks everything and sterilizes the ground.

Mr. Vivas: To add to that, I think that there are sections of our roadside shoulders are really wide. County road shoulders are tight, so, to fit a tarp and a steamer there may be some challenges. That is why I have said that we are open to just trying it. To do a whole invest into something like this, I think we should definitely have to look into that.

Councilmember Holland: Yes, we will continue to work on this. I appreciate it.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: I have a short follow-up on that, too. When I first came into office, I was really pushing on this. I was working with the Department of Transportation, and they were actually really receptive. They used salt and they used steam. There were ways and they took two (2) years where they did not use any pesticides. So, it is bigger than this budget discussion right now. It should be a different meeting. There has been work on it and there really is equipment that is designed for the side of the road. Which is different that to have to do a tarp.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Holland.

Councilmember Holland: I wanted to go back to the cost of asphalt. Is there anyone internally looking at what point it becomes cheaper to go to concrete? I ask that also because most tropical areas in the world do not use asphalt because it melts. Under heat it falls apart more than what concrete does. With all the pot-hole patching that we do, that must cost us a huge amount in the Budget, so I am wondering if we look at maintenance and potholes, plus the cost of asphalt, if we have some sort of equation where we hit a point where it becomes better and cheaper to go to concrete.

Mr. Tanigawa: I do not know that the Engineering Division specifically looked at details. I think that they have looked at it because Puhi Road is concrete.

Councilmember Holland: Right.

Mr. Tanigawa: Typically, Puhi Road is exposed to higher loads because of the large trucks that use the industrial properties there. I imagine that,

previously, looking at asphalt pricing it was a lot more expensive than what we have been getting recently, since 2018. It is more affordable now, I believe, than concrete, but in cases where roads are experiencing frequent higher loading, that is another consideration that we need to make.

Councilmember Holland: It would be really interesting to see what the maintenance costs would be and balancing it out with not having to fill potholes.

Mr. Tanigawa: But concrete...you know...I guess there are different things that can happen in a construction project. On Kapule Highway, there are some failures that have happened, while other areas of the highway is really holding up well.

Councilmember Cowden: There is the aggregate challenge, too, getting the right amount of sand.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Kualii.

Councilmember Kualii: On a separate item, Other Services. So, for years 2023, 2024, and 2025 and the eighty thousand twelve dollars (\$80,012), four thousand two hundred forty-one dollars (\$4,241), and one hundred sixty-four thousand one hundred seventy-seven dollars (\$164,177), last year and this year is one million five hundred seventy thousand dollars (\$1,570,000), so I know that this is for the fire mitigation efforts. Can you provide a quick overview of what that is and follow up with a summary report on the type of expenditures involved. Will there be a few big expenditures, or a many different ones? I would imagine that, and I know in the narrative that you talked about a “supporting role to the Kaua‘i Fire Department and the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) fire crews during fire response,” but in that summary report you could share about staffing...I guess some of it is actual cost, but some of it could be “in-kind,” right? If one department is helping another department, we are not charging each other, right? They are just showing up and helping. So, staffing, equipment, actual cost versus in-kind, rented equipment versus equipment provided by the County, and whether you are involving private contractors and consultants, community nonprofits and government. Maybe government not only includes our County but also the State as well. If you could give some sort of summary on how the one million five hundred seventy thousand dollars (\$1,570,000) was spent last year, and how you anticipate it being spent in the future year. I know it may not be exact because, maybe it is like insurance where if a big fire does not happen we may not need to expend it, but we want to have it available. Thank you.

Councilmember Cowden: I have a point of order question.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: We are supposed to go to the police swearing-in?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: We are breaking at 11:00 a.m.

Councilmember Cowden: We are breaking at 11:00 a.m., okay.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Are there any other questions on the Road Maintenance General Fund? If not, we will move on to the Road Maintenance Highway Fund.

Councilmember Kualii: What is the page number?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Master page 230.

Councilmember Kualii: I have one (1) question.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Kualii.

Councilmember Kualii: So, regarding the one vacant position number 924, at the top of page 230, the Highway Maintenance Manager. This has been vacant for quite a while, one thousand five hundred three (1,503) days, and the comment from HR is "No Recent Activity with HR." Last year, I believe partially funded at fifty percent (50%) so half funding. What is your plan for this position? Is it a position that is hard to fill? When will you open recruitment if you plan to fill it? What are the plans?

Mr. Tanigawa: At this point, Bryson's position is Executive Assistant to the Mayor. This is a position for Bryson to move into, in the event that we have change in policy.

Councilmember Kualii: Okay, for at least the remainder of the term, this does not need to be fully funded.

Mr. Tanigawa: I believe that we wanted to keep it funded so that we have the full amount of funds for the next fiscal year.

Councilmember Kualii: Alright.

Council Chair Rapozo: I know that there are more than one of these circumstances. Are the two (2) positions fully funded?

Mr. Tanigawa: Which positions were those?

Council Chair Rapozo: Well, Bryson's Executive Assistant to the Mayor is a fully-funded position.

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: You also have this one, that is a fully-funded position.

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: So, if for whatever reason, the Executive Assistant should go away, those funds that remain in that account could be transferred to this account, right? I mean, you are paying two (2) positions for one (1) body. If you dollar-fund this...executive assistants all have "return rights," right?

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: So, when they return you just transfer the...yesterday I did ask for a list, not yesterday, but on Friday I did ask for a list of all of the different Exempt, Executive Assistants, and Contracts because if we are double funding positions, we are basically wasting money.

Mr. Tanigawa: I will just say that I believe this Administration was thinking about the next Administration and providing as much flexibility as possible.

Council Chair Rapozo: Yes, I know, but regardless of what happens next, we are paying for two (2) positions that we need to pay for. We only need to pay for one (1) position. Someone correct me if I am wrong. Hypothetically, if his Executive Assistant to the Mayor position goes away and he says "I want my return rights to come back here," those funds would just transfer.

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes.

Councilmember Kualii: Can they just transfer?

JANINE M. RAPOZO, Human Services Manager III: Good Morning, Janine Rapozo, HR Manager. So, not all of the Executive Assistants have return rights, if they did not come from a civil service position. So, in Bryson's case, he came directly into the position as an Executive Assistant. Going forward, it will depend on what the next Administration wants to do, as far as keeping an Executive Assistant to the Mayor, or possibly, having the Highway Maintenance Manager position filled, as well as in the past, there used to be an assistant. So, there may be the need for two (2) positions, but that would depend upon the next Administration.

Council Chair Rapozo: Right, and the next Administration could, if this position is dollar-funded, could fund that position elsewhere, I mean from somewhere else. I just it does not make sense to have two (2) positions funded, knowing that you will not use them both.

Ms. Rapozo: Not, maybe, for the full...if he is not going to use it for July through December or November.

Council Chair Rapozo: Yes, and I do not want to make this about him. It is just about the concept itself. We are paying two (2) positions for one (1) body. Where the Mayor or the Council has the ability to move funds at any time.

Ms. Rapozo: Yes, the funds can be moved, that is correct.

Council Chair Rapozo: So, I think that it is...and I will see the list...it is a lot of money if you add up all of those positions that have “companion positions” that are not being filled, right? Is every Executive Assistant to the Mayor position have a companion position in the Budget that is fully funded?

Mr. Tanigawa: No.

Ms. Rapozo: No.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay.

Ms. Rapozo: I think that this is the only one.

Council Chair Rapozo: Oh, his is the only one?

Ms. Rapozo: I think so.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay. So, what happens to the other ones?

Ms. Rapozo: It is just an Executive Assistant to the Mayor.

Council Chair Rapozo: So, it is “*adios*.”

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

Ms. Rapozo: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Are there any other questions? Roads Administration Highway Fund.

Councilmember Kualii: What page is this on?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Page 230. If not, we will move on. Roads Administration General Excise (G.E.) Tax Fund.

Councilmember Kualii: What is the page number?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Page 261 and 262.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: When I look at Other Services, where it has really jumped to thirty-six million three hundred thousand dollars (\$36,300,000), I am assuming that is more due to road work and probably based on increased G.E. Tax availability? Is that correct? It has gone from seventeen million six hundred thirty thousand seven hundred twenty-four dollars (\$17,630,724) in 2025, to thirty-six million three hundred thousand dollars (\$36,300,000) in 2027. Is that from more available funds? Is that why we have a bigger amount from the G.E. Tax funds?

*(Councilmember Bulosan was noted as present.)*

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: It is the islandwide resurfacing account.

Mr. Tanigawa: It is for, basically, to fund islandwide road resurfacing and other Roads Division projects, or transportation projects, I should say.

Councilmember Cowden: But the main reason that we have doubled the dollar amount is because we have twice as much money?

Mr. Tanigawa: The available funding...

Councilmember Cowden: The limiting factor.

Mr. Tanigawa: ...is portioned and this is the portion that is available for this type of work.

Councilmember Cowden: So, that is really exciting. We are going to get almost twice as much resurfacing?

Mr. Tanigawa: We contract out as much resurfacing as possible and we use the funds for other transportation related projects. This is good, to make sure that we have our infrastructure maintained and repaired to the extent that is needed.

Councilmember Cowden: In the Mayor's State of the County Address, I really appreciated how he was trying to get as much done as possible. He talked about how much roadways have been fixed and how much more...there is a lot more dollars here...it is just because G.E. Tax funds have gone up, was really what my question is.

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: I think that it is a combination: G.E. Tax goes up but then, every year they allocate a certain amount, either to Roads and Highways or to Transportation, and it just depends on what the "break-out" is, and I think this year it was a seventy (70) thirty (30) break.

Councilmember Cowden: For Roads...

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Seventy percent (70%) went towards Roads and thirty percent (30%) went towards Transportation.

Councilmember Cowden: Does Roads typically get the majority?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Yes.

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: It depends each year, what the break-out is and on the project. Councilmember Carvalho.

Councilmember Carvalho: For the one hundred ninety-eight fifty-six thousand dollars (\$198,056) for the IT Arrangement, is that for Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR), just for clarification?

Mr. Vivas: So, LiDAR is a road inventory program that we had with the Hawai'i State Department of Transportation (HDOT). That is for getting information of the roads, the right-of-ways, and the infrastructure within both the State and the County. That is just our portion paying into that program.

Councilmember Carvalho: So that is the clarification, overall, for working together, right?

Mr. Vivas: Right, working together.

Councilmember Cowden: I have a follow-up.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: I do not usually think of LiDAR for making roads. How do we use LiDAR for roads?

Mr. Tanigawa: It provides topographical information.

Councilmember Cowden: It is aerial and looking down. Mike is coming.

Mr. Tresler: Michael Tresler for Public Works. The LiDAR program has been going on for a while. It is a statewide program and we participated with the State to give information to the State and counties about road conditions and signage reflection. So, we are not really sure if they are going to do another one this year, but it also gives road condition information back so that it can help us make decisions on our road resurfacing priorities. That is what that LiDAR program is about. It may change going

forward. They may have different technologies. There is so much more information available now.

Councilmember Cowden:                      Okay. Thank you. I guess what I was hoping was not doing citizen evaluation, you know, some of those LiDAR cameras sit there and they have cameras and all sorts of things. I know on O‘ahu they use that, but that is more enforcement there. It might be of value to know how fast people are driving in elements like that. So, you are not aware of that.

Mr. Vivas:                                        I do not think that is a part of the LiDAR program.

Councilmember Cowden:                      Okay.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro:                Are there any other questions. I just have a general question on our islandwide resurfacing. When we first passed G.E. Tax funding, it was a huge project on estimating how much roadways we need to “hit,” the cycle, and which ones need to be done right away. In general, how is that program going? I know that with the money we have we can be a little more proactive in filling in cracks in roads versus resurfacing the whole thing. I am pretty sure we have done that in the past. Is that making the roads last longer?

Mr. Tanigawa:                                 We have been improving. All of the paving that we have done has addressed in bad condition. Moving forward, we are looking at paving roads much quicker. We have a bunch of roads that still need to address—older roads. They are the type of repairs or maintenance that is very “shallow” than what we have had deal with in the past. We have caught up a lot and have more to go. The road conditions that we are encountering are much better than what it was. Moving forward, hopefully, we can get this funding source extended so that we can continue with other things. There are other areas that, other elements of the infrastructure that are not being addressed that we really need to look at, too. For example our drainage systems and the culverts—those types of things that we have seen failures that have resulted in sink holes and that type of thing. There is a need for to have that money extended.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro:                Yes, we definitely have a need to have that money extended because...in the past...how would you spend one million dollars (\$1,000,000) versus thirty-six million dollars (\$36,000,000) would be the question. I think we only budgeted one million dollars (\$1,000,000), waited two (2) years, and went out to bid and two million dollars (\$2,000,000) was our Roads Budget in the past. I believe our road complaints significantly since we have had G.E. Tax funds over the past years.

Mr. Tanigawa:                                 That has really helped our roads maintenance crews in Bryson’s areas focus on other things overall, resulting in much better road conditions— and quality of ride.

Mr. Vivas:                                        Again, I can confirm that. Our team having to address potholes weekly, twice a week—that went down drastically. The more roads we pave,

the less we have to do road repairs, we can then concentrate on vegetation maintenance. On the roads maintenance side, we have definitely been seeing the benefit of the roads getting paved.

Council Chair Rapozo: Can I just ask a really quick question? Haleʻilio Road, when are they going to finish? They did Nonou Road they just stopped, went home, and never came back? Do you know what is going on with Haleʻilio Road? Was it personal because I live up there?

TODD OZAKI, Executive Assistant to the Mayor, Department of Public Works: Todd Ozaki, Public Works. Haleʻilio Road is...

Council Chair Rapozo: Let me say this: they started and they created all of these “bumps” now, and I wish they did not do that. Then they never came back.

Mr. Ozaki: Haleʻilio Road was scheduled to be done a long time ago, but Hiʻilawe Construction is moving their batch plant and due to the weather and other unforeseeables, it was not completed before they were able to finish before moving their batch plant, so that is what they are doing now. They are moving their batch plant, as soon as they are done, Haleʻilio Road is the first priority.

Council Chair Rapozo: When? They started, that is what gets me, they scraped to expose all of the little manholes, so it is like a “minefield” that you have to drive.

Mr. Ozaki: Yes, we definitely wanted to finish it by now and before they even moved the plant, but they are moving the plant now. They are waiting on a generator repair and then they will be up and running.

Council Chair Rapozo: Can you give any time estimate, because I get all of the calls.

Mr. Ozaki: We get all of the calls, too. The residents are calling us, too. The date keeps getting pushed back. I do not have a date. It could be next week, it could be a month.

Council Chair Rapozo: Do we get a credit from them when that happens? No? Okay.

Mr. Ozaki: No. We could pursue the liquidated damages if we really wanted to.

Council Chair Rapozo: If the County caused the delay, then we pay them, right? If they cause the delay, should they not pay us? That is just a question to think about.

Mr. Tanigawa: I think in this type of contract, if they do not exceed the overall period of performance, than there is no avenue for liquidated damages. Maybe in the future, future contracts can be more refined.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay, thank you.

Councilmember Carvalho: Okay, I would like to move from Wailua Houselots to Wailua Homesteads. Pu'u'opae Road, and we talked about this Mr. Tanigawa. Just an update. It was a big thing happening up there.

Mr. Tanigawa: Do we have any plans for Pu'u'opae Road?

Mr. Vivas: Can I get back to you? I believe it is contracted.

Council Chair Rapozo: I feel better that it is not just me, it is also you.

Councilmember Cowden: I will jump on that one, too. How about Kilauea Road and Weke Road?

Mr. Ozaki: Weke Road, specifically, has been on our radar for years. The reason why that has not been paved yet, because there is a larger...not larger...

Councilmember Cowden: The water...

Mr. Ozaki: Department of Water (DOW), yes, the waterline project going on. So, we did not want to pave that road just to have them come through and trench it. Once that project is complete, which they are working on now, we are working in coordination with DOW to pave at the same time.

Councilmember Cowden: Is the pipe going in yet?

Mr. Ozaki: I do not know the status, but I do know that construction has started.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay, and Kilauea Road? I tell people by the time your toddler graduates from high school it will be fixed, just so that they are okay. Do we know?

Mr. Ozaki: The lighthouse road...

Councilmember Cowden: And the part that goes down to the lighthouse. It used to be a cane haul road, it is like a paved cane haul road. So, it falls apart.

Mr. Ozaki: That is part of the improvement project that the Engineering Division is working on, so that is, I believe it is a 2027 construction.

Mr. Tanigawa: That is a project that is, pretty much, being administered by Central Federal Lands.

Councilmember Cowden: It is federal funding.

Mr. Tanigawa: We jumped on it and we were able to benefit from them doing the whole project because a good portion of it is leading up to the Lighthouse, which is a Federal facility. We can actually get back to you with some of the details that you are looking for.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Are there any other questions? I am thinking that we are going to stop on this one and pick up the baseyards when we get back? Are there any other questions for Roads Administration? If not, we will take our recess right now and be back at 1:00 p.m.

There being no objections, the Council recessed at 10:58 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 1:36 p.m., and proceeded as follows:

There being no objections, the rules were suspended.

*(Council Chair Rapozo and Councilmember Holland were noted as not present.)*

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Welcome back, we will begin where we left off. We are on Hanapēpē Baseyard Highway Fund. Do we have any questions on the Hanapēpē Baseyard Highway Fund? Councilmember Kualii.

Councilmember Kualii: On the vacant positions. The position that is 859, Equipment Operator has been vacant for one thousand thirty-four days (1,034). The HR comment is “No Recent Activity.” So, what are the plans for this filling this position? I did notice that last Budget it was half-funded and this Budget you are fully funding it.

Mr. Vivas: So, for position 859, that equipment operator position, we went out, open to the public to try to fill that position. We were unsuccessful in filling that position during this go around, but we do have a plan fill it. We have a possible applicant that could possibly fill this position. We are also going through a training and a licensing for the equipment operator positions at the Hanapēpē Baseyard and that is on-going right now.

Councilmember Kualii: Okay, then the only other one is on the bottom, 1805 Laborer I, vacant for two hundred fifty-seven days (257). It says “labor registration list; no selection made” so, does that mean that you already have a group of people and you are going to pick from there?

Mr. Vivas: That is correct. We have a labor list, we are setting up interviews, and we are going to select for that position.

Councilmember Kualii: So that will more than likely happen sooner rather than later.

Mr. Vivas: Correct.

Councilmember Kualii: During this Budget?

Mr. Vivas: Correct, during this Budget.

Councilmember Kualii: Okay, thank you. Thank you, Chair.

*(Councilmember Holland was noted as present.)*

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Are there any other questions on the Hanapēpē Baseyard Highway Fund, if not we will move on. Hanapēpē Baseyard, G.E. Tax Fund they are not spending any G.E. Tax money on it so we will move on to the Kapa‘a Baseyard.

Councilmember Kualii: What is the page number?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Pages 236 and 237.

Councilmember Cowden: I have a small question.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: So, when it says “tractors and other heavy equipment” it dropped back quite a bit. Is that because we ordered what we needed and now we do not need more? It went from three hundred forty thousand five hundred dollars (\$340,500) last year, seven hundred seventy-seven thousand dollars (\$777,000) the year before, and now it is one hundred sixty-five thousand dollars (\$165,000), is that just that we have what we ordered and we do not need to buy new?

Mr. Vivas: That is correct. During the last couple of Budgets, we went ahead and ordered a couple of large pieces of equipment and this year it is just trailers.

Councilmember Cowden: What kind of trailers are we getting?

Mr. Vivas: I am going to call it a “large trailer” and a “medium-sized trailer.” The larger trailer can, pretty much, carry a majority of our equipment.

Councilmember Cowden: This would be like a backhoe or excavator.

Mr. Vivas: Backhoes and excavators would go on our larger trailer. Medium-sized trailer would be for rollers, riding mowers, and forklifts. We have our smaller trailers, too, which are for our riding mowers.

Councilmember Cowden: So, we are buying two (2) new trailers.

Mr. Vivas: Two (2) new trailers for the Kapa'a Baseyard, a large and a medium-sized trailer.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Kualii.

Councilmember Kualii: Just confirming then, the two (2) laborer positions, position number 1806 Laborer I, two hundred fifty-seven (257) days vacant, and Laborer II position number 904, those will be selected off of the labor registration list?

Mr. Vivas: Correct. We have two (2) applicants in mind that we are going to fill those positions with already.

Councilmember Kualii: So, both positions will be filled?

Mr. Vivas: Yes.

Councilmember Kualii: Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Are there any further questions? If not we will move on. Kapa'a Baseyard is also not using any G.E. Tax Funds, so we will move on to the Hanalei Baseyard. Are there any questions for the Hanalei Baseyard?

Councilmember Cowden: I have a general question.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: It is really nice that we finally have a built environment there. How is that affecting our work? Do you know how we fixed it up out there, built a building out there at the base yard a couple of years ago, has that had greater efficiency? Are people happier at least?

Mr. Vivas: The building of the new facility?

Councilmember Cowden: Yes.

Mr. Vivas: It has been working out. It is a nice facility. The workers have a nice place to go back to and store their equipment.

Councilmember Cowden: So, the equipment is aging better.

Mr. Vivas: It is covered. It is doing well.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Are there any other questions?

Councilmember Cowden: What are we renting? We have an increase in our rentals.

Mr. Vivas: We have rental contracts with different companies. For the Hanalei Baseyard specifically, it could be from a backhoe, when our backhoes go down. A truck, if one of our trucks goes down and to continue to service, have our guys go on the roads and move our workers, we rent a truck sometimes. For Hanalei, it is usually a backhoe and a labor truck.

Councilmember Cowden: So, its usually when something is broken or if we need an extra.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Up next is our Sign and Roads Marking.

Councilmember Kualii: What page?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Pages 243 and 244. Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: We bought new equipment for that last year or a year before? I have watched them do signage on the road in Kilauea and it all looks pretty new.

Mr. Vivas: We did buy new equipment for our special construction crew. This year, if you see, we are asking for a low-boy trailer and an end-dump or a super-dump. Again, just for movement and moving material.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: If there are no other questions we will move on to Roads Maintenance Other. This is the Highway Fund.

Councilmember Kualii: What page number?

Councilmember Cowden: Page 246.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Page 246 to 247.

Councilmember Cowden: What is "other"? When we say "Roads Maintenance Other" what do we mean? If we have a million dollars (\$1,000,000) in indirect costs...?

Mr. Vivas: So, if we look at Other Services it would be for contracts, contracts with different contractors. Under that line item would be items like tree

trimming contracts and guardrail maintenance. We purchase the flashing beacons that we put at our crosswalks and also for the river mouth opening.

Councilmember Cowden: So, this is across the island.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Bulosan.

Councilmember Bulosan: Following up on the flashing beacons, do we purchase and stock them and have them on deck?

Mr. Vivas: We do. These past couple of years, we have been trying to build up our stock, but as we build it up, we have been installing in new locations. When these beacons get hit, we need to replace them and we are not always able to replace parts, so we just replace the whole set of beacons. We do have a stock, but every year, we try to keep our stock up so we can easily replace beacons when we have to.

Councilmember Bulosan: They are solar powered. They do not need direct power.

Mr. Vivas: The ones that we install have solar-powered batteries.

Councilmember Bulosan: Just to follow up on that, sometimes we get community requests and it goes through the process...that would not be budgeted. Is that something...so, when someone says, "Hey, I think my street needs it," and they go through the community process with your Department, would that be outside of Budget?

Mr. Vivas: I would say that the community should try to reach out to our Engineering Division to see it will fit best with the community. With that, we can go ahead and install it if it makes sense for the community.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: When we put in speed humps or traffic-calming devices after the fact, does that go in Other? Where is that one reflected. Is that more in CIP?

Mr. Vivas: That one would likely be under the General Fund.

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes, that would be in the G.E. Tax Fund.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay.

Mr. Vivas: Under the islandwide contract.

Councilmember Cowden: Under the island-wide contract. We have been putting a lot of those in and I know that there are a lot more requested and they make a big difference.

Mr. Tanigawa: The bids go out with the line-item costs for those particular ones that are already planned. So, you have a price that you can gauge, cost-wise. Different locations will have different intricacies that you must consider. That is something that we already have our guidance based on what we get in the bids for pricing. So, we can anticipate what kind of price range we should get when we get the response back from contractors.

Councilmember Cowden: So, when someone requests them, I know I have passed over a handful of requests to you, thank you for helping people. What is the timeline most of them should anticipate? Is it more the design on it, or is it the pricing, or does it need to go on next year's Budget? Would it be more than a year, or do we have the flexibility to do it in the middle of a Budget season.

Mr. Tanigawa: You are asking about traffic calming, speed tables and speed humps?

Councilmember Cowden: Yes.

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes, that has to go through a process with the Engineering Division. People will typically call and make a request. You have to get on a list and then the Engineering Division has to go through their studies to verify if it suitable for traffic calming in that particular location.

Councilmember Cowden: But, it can fit into an existing Budget. When people call and ask for it...

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes.

Councilmember Cowden: ...typically, they seem to think they will get it next month. It somehow figured into this year's Budget for "X" amount of putting those in.

Mr. Tanigawa: There is a budget for it. Once Engineering is done with the process. Then we will either come to the Council for a resolution to install speed humps, like we did recently with I believe it was Hauiki Road. Or, in some cases, there are emergencies that come up. Kōloa Road is one good example and we draw from our existing funding to pay for it.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay, thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: The Engineering Division, I believe, does a full-on study before they even put in a speed bump. They put out traffic sensors to detect speeds and they are needing to justify it first.

Councilmember Cowden: Yes, I would like them to hear that.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: I have a question on the river mouth opening. Is that money for Waimea specifically?

Mr. Vivas: No, that one is there is used for Waimea, Wailua and Keālia. Lately, the Waimea River, with the installation of the pump house, as well as the fixing of the flood gates, we do not call out the contractor to dig. We have mostly been calling out for the Wailua River mouth, but it has gone down a lot.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: I was going to mention, we were getting a lot of calls about the Waimea River and flooding of the whole neighborhood and I have not been getting calls like that or hearing about issues like that recently.

Mr. Vivas: It has been, with the repair, it has been great for us, because we have not been calling him out. We used to call him out maybe, twice a day if the river mouth closes and floods the subdivision, but we have not been getting any.

Councilmember Kaneshiro: Councilmember Carvalho.

Councilmember Carvalho.: You have been really consistent with the Wailua River. We have been going back and forth...just having the drain there on-site...it has been really working well.

Mr. Vivas: It has been working well. We have a close relationship with our contractors, so when we do need them to get there, they will get there.

Councilmember Carvalho: So, we are good with the Budget.

Mr. Vivas: We have a contract set for the next couple of years.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Are there any other questions? If not, we will move on. I think the next item with actual money in it is the Beautification Fund. Page 291 and 292. Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: Just to cover that again with the Beautification Fund, is that clean up on the side, is that the plants, what is the beautification? I know that we have a Department of Parks and Recreation Beautification Fund, but what does the Roads Beautification Fund cover?

Mr. Vivas: That one there could be for more roads related projects. Let us say that we wanted to...a sidewalk that has planters, or instead of putting back grass we can put back hardscaping, just so that we do not have to do continual maintenance. That is were we can pull from that kind of projects, where it is not necessarily grasscutting, but it is trying to be creative in ways where we can do a project to maybe eliminate the grasscutting and do more of a beautification project.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Beautification also covers the disposal of abandoned vehicles, too.

Councilmember Cowden: Oh, so that does not seem like it would be enough, then.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Three hundred twenty-four thousand dollars (\$324,000)?

Councilmember Cowden: Three hundred twenty-four thousand dollars (\$324,000)? I guess. Is it, like, one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) per car? Is that right?

Mr. Tanigawa: It is just a part of the Budget that funds the contract. Beautification Fund and then there is the Solid Waste Fund that kicks in.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Are there any other questions on that fund? If not we will move on to the Roads Maintenance Solid Waste Fund. This is only salaries. Okay, if there are no questions on that, then we are done with the Department of Public Works Roads Division.

Councilmember Cowden: Thank you.

Mr. Vivas: Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: We will move on to the Wastewater Division.

Councilmember Cowden: Is Council Chair Rapozo coming back for this, he has such strong feelings for this...

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: If he comes back, he will be back. So, we are on the Wastewater Division Sewer Fund. Page 327. Let me just get everyone on the same page. Page 327, 328, and 329. Page 327 is the main page. Okay.

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

DONALD M. FUJIMOTO, Civil Engineer VII Manager: Donald Fujimoto, Chief, Wastewater Division. Wastewater Management Division's mission statement: to protect the public's health, safety, and environment by developing and operating the County's wastewater infrastructure. So, the Wastewater Management Division's budget primary focus is on deferred maintenance, increasing operation efficiency, and any potential liabilities to address compliance requirements.

*(Council Chair Rapozo and Councilmember Holland were noted as present.)*

Our FY 2027 Operating Budget request is for nineteen million four hundred eleven thousand six hundred ten dollars (\$19,411,610) and reflects a five point four percent (5.4%) increase, which is just over one million dollars (\$1,000,000) over last year's budget. The Budget was developed with input from our Wastewater Administration, operation managers, wastewater treatment operators, wastewater electricians, wastewater mechanics, wastewater line crew, chemists, and accounting staff. With that, I will answer any questions you have.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Kualii.

Councilmember Kualii: On page 329, the vacant positions. Starting at the top, the second position number 1937, Civil Engineer V, vacant for five hundred seventy-six (576) days on the vacancy report on March 15, 2026. The status was just listed as "continuous recruitment." So, what is the status of filling this position?

DONN KAKUDA, Civil Engineer VI Manager: Donn Kakuda, Civil Engineer. Yes, we have had that position on continuous recruitment for a while and we have not had any applicant to interview. We hope that we can find someone.

Councilmember Kualii: It is open. It is out there, but no one is applying.

Mr. Kakuda: We have not had one person to interview. I do not remember when we listed it as continuous recruitment, but it has been that way for a long time.

Councilmember Cowden: I have a follow-up on that.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: How are you outreaching? Are you just putting it in the HR element, or are you...it seems like we really need that...we learned from the Auto Maintenance Shop that people do not want to clean the solid waste refuse trucks. Do we know why we cannot get anyone in this? How are we recruiting for it.

Mr. Kakuda: For us, we just have HR handle this. A lot of times, the Engineering Division goes out and they try to get the lower-level positions filled, but even then...they have a difficult time getting higher-level positions filled.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay, she is coming up. So, yes, I am just wondering where we are promoting vacancies.

Ms. Rapozo: For the past year or two (2) we have been going to the University of Hawai'i (UH) engineering fair both in the spring and in the fall semesters. We have a lot of Kauai students who are at UH that talk about wanting to come back home

at some point, but not necessarily right away. You have to remember, too, that they are also competing with their own Engineering Division as well as with the Department of Water. I believe we do have a request for them to look at a different strategy to try to fill this position and maybe go with a Project Manager and try to fill it that way. That is the latest that has come in as a possible way to try to fill it.

Councilmember Cowden: Is there any kind of certificate type of study that comes out of KCC that can be bringing them into a direction that can get trained up once they get to the County?

Ms. Rapozo: We have...

Councilmember Cowden: Not for an Engineer V, but for some of these others, like the Plant Operator...

Ms. Rapozo: What we usually do is bring them in as possibly bringing them in as an Engineering Support Technician and then we do allow some of that time to count toward a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering (B.S.C.E.) degree for civil engineering, so that would be like a progression for someone who did not go get a Bachelor's degree—us. But if they had that type of work experience outside as well, we would look at counting it, but they would have to start at a lower level.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Kualii.

Councilmember Kualii: Yes, the other two (2) positions: Electronics Tradesperson, vacant for one hundred sixty-nine (169) days, also listed as continuous recruitment, and Wastewater Plant Working Supervisor position number 1852, that one is vacant for only one hundred four days (104) and continuous recruitment.

Mr. Kakuda: So, for the Electronics Tradesperson, I interviewed one (1) person and he turned us down. We have been talking to someone who does not have their electrician's license. I think that the plan is to drop the position to a lower level to try to hire this person, hopefully train him up, and eventually he will be an Electronics Tradesperson after three (3) years. For the Wastewater Plant Supervisor, we have someone temporary assigned (TA) to it. The last time I spoke with him, he said that he was not interested in the position at this time, so we are going to continuously recruit for now.

Councilmember Kualii: And then, the Plant Operator, the Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator VI, did you make an offer?

Mr. Kakuda: Which one is that?

Councilmember Kualii: Position number 1858.

Mr. Kakuda: That position, we just dropped it to an assistant operator to get it filled. That person will start on April 16, 2026.

Councilmember Kualii: Next month. Thank you, Chair.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: Under repairs and maintenance for building and equipment, you have two hundred eighty-seven thousand dollars (\$287,000) and three million two hundred eighty-eight thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,288,500), roughly three and a half million dollars in there. We had a few weeks back, in that flood, almost a three hundred thousand gallon (300,000) raw sewage spill in Waimea, correct? And that was due to inundation and inflow (I & I)? So, that is again, as I said last time, *pukas* in the pipes, that is the main problem that has to get fixed?

Mr. Fujimoto: So, that is a CIP project.

Councilmember Cowden: CIP, so we will see that in this next year's budget to try and fix that there? We can look when we get there, but these repairs, these must be relatively small repairs, because we occasionally have to approve one million six hundred thousand dollars (\$1,600,000) or something for a pump piece. So, what do these repairs reflect.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Half of the amount is for the Wastewater Treatment Plant, Underground Injection Control (UIC), while cleaning for the Lihu'e Wastewater Treatment plant is about one million four hundred thousand dollars (\$1,400,000). The other items are in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: This is on page 331, the bottom of page 331.

Council Chair Rapozo: I have a question on page 332.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Council Chair Rapozo.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you, Donald, for being here. I just want a better understanding of how these loans, I am assuming this is the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program (Revolving Fund), on these loans that you have on the middle of the page. There are five (5) projects for Wailua, for the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Are these loan payments? Is this just our annual payments to repay the loan?

Mr. Fujimoto: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: So, all of these projects were completed prior?

Mr. Fujimoto: Some of them are just starting, like Sewage Pumping Station (SPS) Number 3.

Council Chair Rapozo: What is the SPS Number 3?

Mr. Fujimoto: That is the rehabilitation of pump station 3 which is on Papaloa Road.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay.

Mr. Fujimoto: So, that project had just started, actually.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay, I got it, thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Are there any other questions from the members? If not, we will move on to the Solid Waste Division.

Council Chair Rapozo: I guess I have a question on page 335, under the Equipment section, you have WWTP new Aerzen Blower Assembly, and that is for one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000), is that not included in the scope of work for the bid that we just went over last week?

Mr. Fujimoto: Yes, this is not included.

Council Chair Rapozo: This is separate?

Mr. Fujimoto: Yes, maintenance.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Are there any other questions? If not, thank you. We will move on to the Solid Waste Division. We will start with the Solid Waste Disposal section. Pages 295, 296, and 297.

Council Chair Rapozo: I have a question.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Council Chair Rapozo.

Council Chair Rapozo: On page 298, and I think we covered this last year, I cannot remember clearly. The cover soil for one million three hundred twelve thousand dollars (\$1,312,000). I thought that we got the soil donated. Was that a "one-time" thing?

ALLISON A. FRALEY, Solid Waste Division Chief: Good afternoon, Councilmembers. I am Allison Fraley, for the record, Solid Waste Division Chief. Yes, we did get the soil donated, it is the hauling of the soil that costs. Last year's budget reflected a lesser price on a prior contract. This year's budget has the actual price for the contract that we are in right now.

Council Chair Rapozo: On which? Are you talking about the tire...

Ms. Fraley: You said soil, right?

Council Chair Rapozo: The cover soil.

Ms. Fraley: Yes, the cover soil—the hauling of the cover soil.

Council Chair Rapozo: So, we get the dirt for free and it costs us one million three hundred twelve thousand dollars (\$1,312,000) to haul?

Ms. Fraley: Yes. That is quite a bit of soil and it is thirty-four dollars (\$34) per ton to haul it all the way to the Landfill, and last year the contract price was nineteen dollars (\$19) per ton. We went out to bid, it was a competitive bid.

Council Chair Rapozo: And it went almost double.

Councilmember Cowden: Do you know why it doubled?

Ms. Fraley: That was the lowest bid. There were much higher bids. I want to mention, if we are talking about that soil, that does include a soil program where we are looking for new soil sources and testing them—that is critical to using the cover soil under the regulations—we have to make sure that they are free of contaminants, so there is a cost to that as well.

Council Chair Rapozo: So, that line item covers the testing as well?

Ms. Fraley: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Kualii.

Councilmember Kualii: So, you are saying also, that the current source is running out and we need a new source?

Ms. Fraley: No, the current source will go through the end of the next fiscal year, but we will be looking for new sources, yes.

Councilmember Kualii: The positions—just two (2) vacancies—the Solid Waste Superintendent, you say you had a test on March 18<sup>th</sup>, so you have a couple of candidates that you can potentially hire?

Ms. Fraley: Yes, we have interviewed and recommended for hire.

Councilmember Kualii: The other one, Landfill Operator II, one hundred eighty days (180) vacant, it says “No recent activity with HR.” What is your plans for filling that position?

Ms. Fraley: For that position, there is someone internally who has been working to get trained on their CDL, and they are almost finished. We hope to hire that candidate.

Councilmember Kualii: Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: How are our scales working? Do we have still two (2)?

Ms. Fraley: Yes.

Councilmember Cowden: ...and are they both working right now?

KEOLA R. AKI, Solid Waste Manager: Keola Aki, Solid Waste Manager, thank you Council Chair and Councilmembers. Yes, both scales work well. We are looking at updating some of the equipment on it, but the actual readouts, we certify them every year, so they are working fine.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay, that is good.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: I have the “million dollar question,” where are we on our landfill as far as capacity? Is there any future additional space or are we looking at another location?

Ms. Fraley: Capacity of Phase II, the current active landfill, is scheduled to reach capacity in November of 2030. We are pursuing a new landfill site. That will take about ten (10) years, and so we will be doing what we call a “Cell 3 expansion” which is vertical over the unlined Phase I. We have been working with a consultant to start the process of doing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for that site, for that expansion, I should say. It is going to be eighty-five feet (85) above mean sea level. We do have a permit for that. Right now it is at fifty-five feet (55), so that would give us sixteen years (16) of life. We would not necessarily use all of that life if we were to get the new landfill constructed before then.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: The new landfill would take at least ten (10) years, you said? No, Cell 2 will take at least ten (10) years?

Ms. Fraley: No, Cell 2...

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: No, Cell 3 will take at least ten (10) years...

Ms. Fraley: Cell 3 will be ready to go before Phase II fills.

Council Chair Rapozo: That is provided we get approval, right?

Ms. Fraley: We do have the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) approval.

Council Chair Rapozo: I am not concerned about DLNR, I am more concerned about the Department of Health.

Ms. Fraley: Yes, we have been in contact with the Department of Health as well, they know our plans.

Council Chair Rapozo: That does not mean it is approved, right?

Ms. Fraley: Correct.

Council Chair Rapozo: That is my concern. You will still have to do an EIS?

Ms. Fraley: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: I expect a lot of opposition for that. That is my concern. Can I ask just one more? We did the request for proposal (RFP) for Waste-to-Energy, or Alternative Technologies, whatever you want to call it, where are we on that?

Ms. Fraley: We are at the Step 2...we are working on the Step 2 to put it out. We did get a short list of candidates.

Council Chair Rapozo: What is Step 2?

Ms. Fraley: It is the second stage of the procurement...

Council Chair Rapozo: I can figure that out, but what...

Ms. Fraley: It is a procurement so I cannot really say too much...

Council Chair Rapozo; I just want to...okay, so Step 1 is that you get the proposals?

Ms. Fraley: Yes...

Council Chair Rapozo: Step 2 is what? You go through the proposals?

Ms. Fraley: ...more detail. We have already gone through the initial set of proposals, but the Step 2 process has more detail about financial status and other things like that.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay. So are you are going all of that stuff, or are you asking these people to submit...I am just trying to figure out how far we are on that.

Ms. Fraley: We are almost through with getting that thing out...getting Step 2 out.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay. So, Step 2 requires you to send something else out and then get more information from the “short list,” is that what that is?

Ms. Fraley: Correct.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: I have a follow-up question. So, I have talked to two (2) applicants, just loosely, we have not talked about anything technical, but they do not know if they have been...they have not heard back. So, would people who have applied and then not gotten a response, does that mean that they are not accepted?

Ms. Fraley: We have responded to everyone—those that were and were not accepted.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay, so they should know.

Ms. Fraley: They should know, yes.

Councilmember Cowden: So, Step 2, you will say, “we need to have more information.”

Ms. Fraley: Yes, and they are aware of that as well.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Carvalho.

Councilmember Carvalho: The consultant services at one million four hundred thirty-eight thousand six hundred eighty-two dollars (\$1,438,682), please provide just overview on this.

Ms. Fraley: There are several different contracts here. The maintenance of the “GCCS” is the Gas Collection and Control System (GCCS) at the landfill—that is pumping gas into the flare. Consultant erVICES for Kekaha Landfill is the next line item. That is our contractor that helps us maintain compliance. They do

groundwater testing and surface water testing. The aerial flyover and land surveying is how we find out how much capacity we have. It is an annual flyover and then there is an analysis to find out how much life we have left in the landfill. The next one is a Disaster Debris Management plan which we are updating, and we are also designing a tire wash at the landfill to make sure we are not tracking mud outside of the landfill.

Councilmember Carvalho: So, these are in process...

Ms. Fraley: Those are different contracts.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Do you have any follow-up questions? If not, we will get Councilmember Kualii's question.

Councilmember Cowden: We can get someone else's question.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Kualii.

Councilmember Kualii: When you were talking about Phase II to November 2030, in the Budget, where it says, "Kekaha Lateral Expansion Cell 2," is Cell 2 and Phase II the same thing?

Ms. Fraley: I am sorry, which line item are you on?

Councilmember Kualii: Master page 300 under Loans. You have Kekaha Gas Collection and Control System, two hundred fifty-six thousand eight hundred forty-nine dollars (\$256,849), Kekaha Lateral Expansion Cell 2 seven hundred fifty-five thousand, five hundred seventy dollars (\$755,570).

Ms. Fraley: That is a repayment of a state revolving fund loan for the current, active area, which is called Cell 2, and it is the space in between Phase I and Phase II, where we are currently depositing waste.

Councilmember Kualii: So, the Phase II that will be good until November 2030, is that in place and paid for, or do you need a budget for that, too?

Ms. Fraley: No, that is in place and paid for.

Councilmember Kualii: Okay. You said that the new site would take ten (10) years, is it budgeted anywhere to pay for that?

Ms. Fraley: In the CIP.

Councilmember Kualii: Okay, we will see that later. Then the last part is when you talked about the Cell 3 expansion, is the Cell...Cell 2 says, "lateral expansion," did you say that Cell 3 was vertical?

Ms. Fraley: Correct.

Councilmember Kualii: ...going up higher. Is there a line item to pay for that?

Ms. Fraley: In the CIP.

Councilmember Kualii: Oh, that is also CIP.

Ms. Fraley: Correct.

Councilmember Kualii: Okay, but the plan there is that it would give an additional sixteen years (16) of life, whether we need it all before we get to the new place.

Ms. Fraley: Correct.

Councilmember Kualii: Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Cowden and then Councilmember Holland.

Councilmember Cowden: On page 298, Financial assurance about the landfill closure, is that pre-paying...what is...this is every year, right? This goes in every year?

Ms. Fraley: Yes, this is every year.

Councilmember Cowden: Remind me again what that means?

Ms. Fraley: Yes, sure of course.

Councilmember Cowden: This one million four hundred forty-three thousand dollars (\$1,443,000).

Ms. Fraley: We have an estimated cost of closing the landfill.

Councilmember Cowden: The Kekaha Landfill.

Ms. Fraley: Yes, the Kekaha Landfill. Two (2) years ago, our consultant put together a detailed analysis on the cost of closure which was twenty-seven million dollars (\$27,000,000) and so, what we did was to adjust for inflation at the time closure in 2030, so it is going to be about thirty-four million dollars (\$34,000,000). So, every year we put aside funds and right now we have twenty-five million five hundred thousand dollars (\$25,500,000) saved. So, we need an additional eight million seven hundred thousand dollars (\$8,700,000).

Councilmember Cowden: Is that sitting in one of the funds that we get a good return on investment through our Treasurer? Do you know how we are doing well with that money?

Ms. Fraley: I am not aware of the interest rate. I will have to get back to you on that.

Councilmember Cowden: She seemingly has done pretty well. So, if we have twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000) sitting somewhere...and then...the “Postclosure: Maintenance of Halehaka Closed LF,” that one hundred forty thousand dollars (\$140,000)...inflationary adjusted...will that be from here on out? We always have to take care of that. Is that ever going to be done, or will we have cost every single year?

Ms. Fraley: We are at about thirty-two years (32) since it has been closed. So, we are looking at that going down. The consultant has sent us a draft plan of what getting out there will be, so we are going to be working on that. So, perhaps it will not be that ongoing cost in the future.

Councilmember Cowden: What do we do for that one hundred forty thousand dollars (\$140,000)?

Ms. Fraley: They are testing the gas and the groundwater.

Councilmember Cowden: Alright, that makes sense.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Holland.

Councilmember Holland: If we were to get some sort of, God forbid, hurricane or incredible storm like O’ahu is dealing with right now—they are really worried about their landfill filling up quicker. Do we have, in the emergency plan, some sort of idea of what that would look like? How many years that would shorten our sixteen (16) year window of Cell 3?

Mr. Fraley: A landfill, traditionally, would fill about four (4) years of space—four (4) or (5) five years.

Councilmember Holland: A big hurricane—four (4) or five (5) years?

Ms. Fraley: A hurricane, yes.

Mr. Tanigawa: When Hurricane ‘Iniki hit, that was the most severe storm, with the strongest winds that this island has experienced. At that time, there were not as many buildings and structures that we have nowadays with hurricane reinforcements. At that time, I believe the estimate was three (3) years capacity was consumed by all the debris that had to go into Phase I and Phase II. We are hoping that, with all of the improvements with hurricane reinforcements required for structures, that

number will be significantly lower. Definitely, something like that will put a big hit on landfill capacity. We may be looking at emergency to get more capacity.

Councilmember Holland: That is a tight window with our ten (10) year capacity. I am sorry if I missed it, but do we have an estimate on when we might know if we are moving on this new landfill location and when that might start? Are we one (1) or two (2) years out of approvals on that?

Mr. Tanigawa: I can say that we are actively pursuing what we need to do to get a new site confirmed. We have been doing work with the Hawai'i Department of Transportation (HDOT), who played an integral part in making sure that the State's interests were being addressed in the prior landfill siting efforts that we have had at the Ma'alo Road site. Since then, we have had very positive results with HDOT and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). We are looking at reaffirming and updating the information that we have, as far as addressing the wildlife hazard issue that they have had. We are hoping that, in the near future, we will have enough information that we will get a positive result from HDOT, Airports Division, that will allow us to fully pursue the Ma'alo Road site.

Councilmember Holland: We really do not have an idea of how many months or how long...

Mr. Tanigawa: I cannot give you a date, but what I can say is before the end of the year, we are hopeful that we have more definite answers to this question.

Councilmember Holland: I have one more question. In relation to our attempts to create those bait trap stations at the green waste transfer facilities, I am wondering where and if we are good on budgeting for that if we ever decided to move on that.

Mr. Aki: We are working on multiple permits that we have to update and I am going to include the bait station in those updates. I am sure that we can make it work with our existing budget in the green waste processing.

Councilmember Holland: Okay, thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Are there any other questions from the members? If not, we will move on to Solid Waste Collection Division, page 302 and 303.

Councilmember Kualii: I have position questions.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Kualii.

Councilmember Kualii: Vacant position 954 Solid Waste Working Supervisor—this is a brand new vacancy. What is your plan for filling this position?

Mr. Aki: It is currently posted and we are looking to hire as soon as possible.

Councilmember Kualii: This has not necessarily been one of those difficult positions to fill, has it?

Mr. Aki: No, it only recently popped up, but we do not envision it being hard to fill.

Councilmember Kualii: Then, position number 1013 Operator, selection made, that one is no problem. Position number 841, Refuse Collection Equipment Operator, that one was vacant for over one (1) year, but HR says “performance test scheduled on March 27. What is today? Did that just happen the other day?”

Mr. Aki: Yes, I believe that one is moving along. We have an applicant and we are going to interview, hopefully this week. Yes, this is an internal candidate.

Councilmember Kualii: Okay. The last one, down at the bottom, position number 1011, Solid Waste Worker II, vacant for one hundred thirty-four (134) days, it says, “re-recruit, no qualified applicants.” So, will you just restart another recruitment?

Mr. Aki: We are working with HR, we have some internal interest, and we are just working on training them up so that they can qualify and continue to move forward.

Councilmember Kualii: Okay. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Are there any other questions from the members? I have a question on the five (5) Live View Technology Surveillance Camera Systems for one hundred ninety thousand (\$190,000). On the top of page 305.

Ms. Fraley: Yes, those would be placed at all of the transfer stations and at the Kaua'i Resource Center. That would provide continuous monitoring of those sites, especially at night, because we have had a lot of trespassing, illegal dumping, vandalism, break-ins, and all of that. So, this targets high-risk areas and changing site conditions. We have had one at the Lihue Transfer Station to test it. It has been very successful—we have arrested a couple of people. We had ongoing theft and vandalism for a really long time.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: That is good. I have another question on the Refuse Route Hardware, one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000). That is on page 306.

Mr. Aki: We are ready and hoping to move forward on this and getting a lot done for our workers. The system we are shooting for would be able to photograph any issues or concerns that our drivers have as they are going through the

community—especially for missed trash or if they overloaded, we can take pictures of this. It can help our back-up drivers that might have to jump on the route, it will assist them on telling them where to go and to make the best turns. We were fortunate this year that we have a new hire, our Administrative Assistant II came from the Transportation Department who has expertise or familiarity with that type of program. She is helping us along with getting it implemented.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro:           That gets installed in every refuse truck?

Mr. Aki:                                   Yes, and we are hoping to get them installed in most of our other trucks if it goes well in our refuse trucks, so that we can track what we are doing every day—our loads and get a lot of data about what we are doing day to day.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro:           Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden:           Just thinking about the refuse trucks and what we were hearing from the mechanics that they cannot find mechanics because mechanics do not want to work on those trucks, when we rinse those out, where does that happen? Do we ever look at the leachate for what is in it? What are we doing to make it be less toxic so that we may have people more willing to work with the trucks?

Ms. Fraley:                           Troy mentioned that we have and did install a truck wash at the Kapa‘a Transfer Station and the renovations will be installing truck washes. That will allow us to do more cleaning. Previously, it was recommended that we do “dry cleaning” because the leachate cannot go into the ground. So, now we have proper leachate systems at Kapa‘a Transfer Station—it is right by the baseyard where we store the trucks. We are starting this new system where we are going to be keeping them much cleaner.

Councilmember Cowden:           I think that has been a concern for a long time, especially once we changed trucks from where trash would be thrown in the back of the trucks...the workers would tell me...they already knew who would be putting paint or things that should not be...so they would always set it down when they were at a house that worked on those things. Since they have the automated dump system, there is nothing that can control what goes into the refuse carts, when they are picked up. This is where it gets mixed up at a much more toxic level. I do not know if we have anticipated that, but it is good if we are finding a way to capture and manage whatever is the problem in there.

Ms. Fraley:                           We send reminders to people to not put liquid waste in their trash, but whether or not they actually listen to that advice is tough. The trucks do have a camera so that the drivers can see what is going in. We are hoping that this new program can help our drivers to monitor—so if they see something wrong, they can note it on the route and then we can reach out to the customer, too. That would help us to do that.

Mr. Tanigawa:                       I would also like to clarify, the terminology “hazardous” is something that I think needs clarification so that people understand that our facilities and operations here at the County—we do not manage hazardous waste in our

refuse collection operation—at the landfill or at the transfer stations. People who have hazardous waste, toxic waste like poisons, that type of thing, should hold on to them. They should keep them in the containers that they bought them in. Every year, I think it is twice a year now, we have a Household Hazardous Waste Collection that those items can be brought to. So, do not put them in the trash. Do not mix it with anything that you place in our trash cart, or bring to the transfer stations, please. The thing about these trucks...I would not consider it hazardous as much as it is very undesirable. A lot of people do not want to be around it. This is something that we hope we can improve on with our new wash-down facilities.

Councilmember Cowden: I did not consciously choose that word, it just came out. I just mean that when you mix these, you never know what is all going into the container collectively. So, they can have chemical reactions within the back of the truck. I learned this from the workers, they are the ones who really pointed out to me what can mix in there. No one knows what is really in there because of how they go in separately.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Are there any other questions for the Solid Waste Collection Division? If not, we will move on to the Solid Waste Recycling Division, page 308.  
Councilmember Kualii'i.

Councilmember Kualii'i: It says interview scheduled, so you must be about to fill this—position number 1992, Recycling Program Coordinator?

Ms. Fraley: Yes, we are in the process of hiring.

Councilmember Kualii'i: Then the other one, oh, it is grant funds, the Recycling Specialist III.

Ms. Fraley: Correct.

Councilmember Kualii'i: What is your status for filling that? It has been vacant for sixty-four (64) days.

Ms. Fraley: Yes, that is grant funded and there is a Worker's Compensation Claim on that position.

Councilmember Kualii'i: Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: On two (2) of them?

Ms. Fraley: Just one (1).

Council Chair Rapozo: One is filled, right?

Ms. Fraley: Yes, yes.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: When I am looking at Other Services, those are contractors that we bring in to do the recycling?

Ms. Fraley: Correct.

Councilmember Cowden: I am actually surprised that this is a really good rate, five million five hundred sixty-seven thousand five hundred thirty dollars (\$5,567,530), it seems like we are handling a lot. Garden Island Disposal, are they in here, too?

Ms. Fraley: Yes, they have two (2) contracts. That is the Kaua'i Recycles Residential drop-bin program. There was an increase in that contract that is built into the contract. Also, the commercial recycling is also the Garden Island Disposal's contract. All of the HI-5 recyclables and the cardboard recycling. That contract has escalation built in, too. The first-year escalation is six percent (6%), after that it will be a four percent (4%) year escalation.

Councilmember Cowden: Our cars are even in this. That is Puhī Metals, I guess?

Ms. Fraley: Correct. That is a portion of the contract cost and also the Beautification Fund pays a portion of the contract cost.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay, thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Kualī'i.

Councilmember Kualī'i: What is the Kaua'i Recycles Residential Drop Bin Program?

Ms. Fraley: Yes, that is the eight (8) recycling bins that we have throughout the island where we accept (*inaudible*), separate them...

Councilmember Kualī'i: Locations.

Ms. Fraley: Yes, eight (8) different locations.

Councilmember Kualī'i: You said eight (8)?

Ms. Fraley: Yes.

Councilmember Kualī'i: Eight (8) different sites.

Ms. Fraley: Yes, correct. They supply the bins and they do the hauling and processing for all of those locations.

Councilmember Kualii: What does that mean, supply the bins?

Ms. Fraley: The green bins that are out there—each location has four (4) different bins. Those are provided by the contractor.

Councilmember Kualii: Not to someone’s house.

Ms. Fraley: No.

Councilmember Holland: Those big recycling bins.

Councilmember Bulosan: That would be like the ones behind Target.

Ms. Fraley: Have you not been to “the bins”?

Councilmember Holland: Where you take your own recycling and sort them.

Councilmember Kualii: Oh, okay.

Councilmember Cowden: They are also at Anaina Hou and places like that.

Councilmember Kualii: Oh, for the cardboard. Like the ones near the Kapa‘a Ball Park...Baptiste Complex.

Ms. Fraley: Yes.

Councilmember Kualii: Okay, okay. Do you still do the compost bins?

Ms. Fraley: Yes.

Councilmember Kualii: Where are you funding that?

Ms. Fraley: We only fund it every couple of years. We get a full shipment container; we got a shipment container recently so, we do not...

Councilmember Kualii: So, people can get that for their homes or yards?

Ms. Fraley: For their homes, for free.

Councilmember Kualii: If someone gets one and over time it deteriorates, how long before they can get another one?

Ms. Fraley: They generally last about ten (10) years, so people do not request another one that often.

Councilmember Kualii: Then they just have to go through the training program again?

Ms. Fraley: Yes, we have a video that they can watch on the County's website.

Councilmember Kualii: Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Follow-up.

Council Chair Rapozo: I would guess that a lot of people, after they go and pick it up—they are excited, and then they realize that it takes some effort. I have seen, not a lot, but I have seen these composting bins in the backyards of houses that...

Ms. Fraley: They are not using?

Council Chair Rapozo: ... are currently not being used. I have a composting question, because I got the unfortunate message a couple of weeks ago that Compost Kaua'i is shutting down.

Ms. Fraley: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: I am a very happy customer. There are two (2) more pick-ups and then there will be no more. So, when we had our prebudget meeting with the Mayor, I did not bring it up this time, but I did bring it up on the last Budget...do you see a possibility that we could, somehow, subsidize composting on Kaua'i? It is "low-hanging fruit," I guess I should say. It is very low-hanging fruit. You see that we subsidize a lot of recycling efforts and I think that composting, to me, makes the most sense. This is not a plug for Compost Kaua'i because they are already going out of business, but every month I get my little thing about how much compost I have in the bank that I can get, how many pounds of trash I have diverted—when you see that, one little household with two (2) people can divert that much from the landfill—I just think that we should do something as a County. I do not know if it is too late for Compost Kaua'i, or somehow get some money out to these companies that are doing it, it just makes sense. It really does.

Ms. Fraley: Yes. We were supporting Compost Kaua'i and it is just unfortunate that they just could not make it. They wanted to do other things and that is their prerogative. This just came up before the Budget season. Perhaps, at some point it could be something, but we are focusing on a lot of other programs right now.

Council Chair Rapozo: Yes, I know. However, when I look at these programs, I think, one that every household can contribute, every household, if they did not have to pay thirty-two dollars (\$32) a month like we did with Compost Kaua'i—that equates to a lot of diversion. That is a lot of diversion from the landfill. What is our food waste, food in the waste stream study?

Ms. Fraley: There is a waste characterization study that the State is funding right now. They have done the first sort—they are doing it statewide on every island, and they are doing the second sort in April, so hopefully we will get results in a few more months and we will know what it currently is, but in the last study it was ten percent (10%) of the waste going into the landfill, was food waste. This is actually lower than other municipalities, which is kind of interesting. Ten percent (10%) though, is ten percent (10%). The way that we have been managing that has to be giving out those home composting bins.

Council Chair Rapozo: Yes, but you will never get me using that, and I think that most people are lazy like me...Councilmember Kaneshiro, do you have one?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: I used one for a long time.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember Carvalho, do you have one?

Councilmember Cowden: Mine works effortlessly. But, it is probably because I am in a wetter area, I mean, it just melts and never fills up. It is just always gone.

Councilmember Kualii: I leave the cover off, I just throw stuff in there, I never turn it, I never add water, and I never follow the...I guess maybe with the chickens' help and with disintegration, it disintegrates. It is never filled up.

Councilmember Cowden: Yes.

Councilmember Kualii: And all I am putting in there are vegetable peels...it is all natural things anyway.

Council Chair Rapozo: I eat more than vegetables, that is why...

Councilmember Kualii: There is an easy way to do it. It does not make compost but it takes care of that.

Councilmember Cowden: That is how mine is.

Ms. Fraley: That is how mine is.

Council Chair Rapozo: Well, it is still diversion...

Councilmember Kualii: But it is diversion.

Councilmember Holland: I hate to...can I say something?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Holland.

Councilmember Holland: I hate to be the one to have to say this, but you better be checking those for CRB. We have had multiple people, including staff members here with us, who have sent me pictures of CRB inside of their “Darth Vader” compost bins.

Council Chair Rapozo: That is where they live.

Councilmember Holland: So, I am a little worried that if you are not turning your compost, Vice Chair Kualii, you might be breeding CRB in Anahola.

Councilmember Kualii: I do not think there is enough. The chickens will eat it.

Councilmember Cowden: It is just gone in there. You just put it in there and it just never builds up.

Councilmember Holland: It is amazing how that works. It is like incineration.

Council Chair Rapozo: I think those beetles actually eat the chickens.

Councilmember Holland: I definitely think...I got an email from your staff this morning about including netting when we give them out as a...if they are totally brand new and sealed, it does not look like an ideal place, but this is another plug about why you should also have a CRB trap that is more attractive than your food waste because they are most attracted to palm fronds that are rotting, but it is a potential...that if you do not have any other composting sites on your property or on adjacent properties that you actually have a breeding site going on. I would encourage people to keep an eye on that and I will get back to your people on the netting issue.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Bulosan.

Councilmember Bulosan: I want to echo what Council Chair Rapozo has said that we kind of “missed the boat” on composting and supporting that process. I want to get back to the vehicle pick-up program. Is that in conjunction with cars that are tagged as abandoned?

Ms. Fraley: No, it is separate. This is for low-income individuals who have cars on their properties that they are not able to tow away themselves.

Councilmember Bulosan: Okay, so private properties, private cars that they cannot afford to remove, they can apply the program. Does that full value get used every year, or is that always...

Ms. Fraley: It did not last year, so we reduced it. We did not have a lot of people applying for that.

Councilmember Cowden: Oh, that is such a great program.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: It was one hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$120,000) last year and it is reduced down to twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000).

Councilmember Bulosan: It feels like we actually have more cars...

Mr. Aki: Yes, we reduced it down to approximately what we processed.

Councilmember Cowden: Follow-up. Do you think that it is because people just do not know that they can use it? Because there are cars lying around in all kinds of yards that I see. Maybe they just do not know.

Mr. Aki: Once we are fully staffed with our Recycling Coordinator, we will work with our Solid Waste Public Information Officer (PIO) and really push the program. Other things that we have seen when we were running the program though is people start the process, because it is very easy—you go online and submit the application, but then there is follow-up. We need pictures, we need coordination with them where there is some work and that is where the drop-off is. We will continue to work with the residents that need the service.

Councilmember Cowden: I have one small question. What do we call the garbage cans? Carts?

Ms. Fraley: Yes, correct. carts.

Councilmember Cowden: Garbage carts? Refuse carts?

Ms. Fraley: Refuse carts.

Councilmember Cowden: Refuse carts? I still have my original one and it is in really, pretty good shape so how many years has that been? Maybe ten (10)?

Ms. Fraley: Maybe ten (10), yes.

Councilmember Cowden: I do see some that get overloaded all the time, so they start to crack. If someone's refuse cart breaks, do they just call and get another one?

Ms. Fraley: Yes.

Councilmember Cowden: We just come out and deliver them another one?

Ms. Fraley: Yes...well...yes.

Councilmember Cowden: Within reason?

Ms. Fraley: Within reason.

Councilmember Cowden: I do not see replacement carts on here.

Ms. Fraley: Yes, it is under Collections.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Page 305, refuse carts and parts.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Other supplies.

Councilmember Cowden: One hundred ten thousand dollars (\$110,000). We give out about one hundred ten thousand (110,000) parts a year?

Mr. Fraley: No, that is the dollar amount. So, we are budgeting for more one thousand (1,000) 96-gallon carts. The contract still has an encumbrance for the 64-gallon carts that we need. So that is kind of aggressive because like you have said, people have had them for ten (10) years. Some of them...the lifespan is about ten (10) years...so they are cracking, not because they are overloaded, but just because they are old. So, we are having to replace them.

Councilmember Cowden: How much do those cost?

Ms. Fraley: They are, I think, ninety dollars (\$90) each?

Mr. Aki: Yes, they are close to one hundred dollars (\$100) each, including all of the shipping and other costs.

Councilmember Cowden: Well, ten (10) years of life is pretty good.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Bulosan.

Councilmember Bulosan: To circle back to the Vehicle Pick-Up program, what is the threshold that qualifies someone to utilize that program?

Mr. Aki: We are following the Housing and Urban Development, Section 8 Program qualifications.

Councilmember Bulosan: Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Are there any other questions for the Solid Waste Recycling Division? I have a question. I kind of know the answer, but we always get asked about recycling pick-up at private homes. For me, I feel like it will cost a lot of money to have to send our collectors back out for cans, paper, or bottles. Have we ever looked at trying to do curbside recycling?

Mr. Fraley: Yes, we did. There was actually a Council question on this and we sent the answer. We also posted it on our website. Recently, we did a study on the curbside collection program and building a materials recovery facility because you need both. You need the materials recovery facility to sort the material. So, there are detailed costs analyses on both of these areas. First of all, for the materials recovery facility we need a location and we need to build the infrastructure. For the collection, we need a whole new crew of collectors and trucks. So, when all is said and done, the estimated cost per year, and this includes amortizing the cost of the facility over a twenty (20) year period, is fifteen million five hundred thousand dollars (\$15,500,000) a year. We are already getting a fair amount of diversion with our existing programs, like the drop bins, commercial recycling, and other things. This is just for the recyclables that you generate at home. With the set-out rate that is anticipated at about sixty percent (60%), because that is what they get in other communities, that is what they get on O'ahu, and that is what we got when we did our pilot program—the net new amount of recyclables that we get would be about two thousand tons (2,000) a year. That would be for that cost of fifteen million five hundred thousand dollars (\$15,500,000), where in the meantime, we are disposing of about ninety-two thousand tons (92,000) into the landfill. So, it would be about two percent (2%) new diversion for half of our entire budget, so, it is very costly.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Thank you.

Councilmember Holland: Can I follow up on that?

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Councilmember Holland.

Councilmember Holland: Just a follow-up on the conversation on the Resource Recovery Center. It is my understanding, after meeting with some of the people who are advocating for waste-to-energy incineration solutions, that the only way to exclude polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and microplastic from being pushed out of these things because the filters do not actually take that out—the only way to do that would be to have a resource recovery center anyway, to take out the plastic and take out all of the things would actually create microplastics and PFAS into the atmosphere, and you end up with very little. So, is that your understanding as well, for waste-to-energy treatment of any kind, we would also need some sort of resource materials recovery center?

Ms. Fraley: Well, some of those proposals do include a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) at the front end, it is called the “dirty MRF” where it is not separating things, not clean recycleables. Yes, some systems do have MRFs. I had not heard that about the PFAS, though.

Councilmember Holland: That is my understanding is that the filters do not take it out and you would have to come into collaboration with a resource facility anyway. Thank you.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Are there any other questions? If not, this is our last department. We are at 2:50 p.m. I am thinking that we would go to 3:30 p.m. to try to go through some CIP items? Councilmember Bulosan.

Councilmember Bulosan: Yes, I want to reach around back to the vehicle program. If you could consider looking at it and potentially increasing that. Not back to what it was last year, but I just feel like, if we can get the cars off of the road before we have to pick them up when it is abandoned, I feel like it would save us a lot of money in general. I can understand the reduction because you do not have personnel. I am hoping that you are able to get personnel. If you can look at that possibly for the budget, a little more than twenty-two thousand dollars (\$22,000) that would make me feel like we were trying.

Councilmember Holland: Maybe that is something that the PIO could also help get information out. To Councilmember Bulosan's point, we have a lot of complaints on the abandoned vehicles and if we can catch them on the front end more, that would be helpful.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Are there any further questions? We started at 1:30 p.m., we would actually take our break at 3:30 p.m. I am thinking, let's work to 3:30 p.m. to see how far we get into the CIP Budget then we have all day tomorrow to finish CIP, but I do not think we should stay here until 4:30 p.m. working on CIP when we have all day tomorrow, too. Is that a plan?

Council Chair Rapozo: Or, we could do CIP tomorrow.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: All CIP tomorrow?

Councilmember Carvalho: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: Honestly, as I am looking at this CIP list, there are a lot of questions that I do not think...we will probably make a little dent in. If you only want to go to 3:30 p.m., I would say just come back tomorrow.

Councilmember Kualii: The schedule says Operating and CIP continued. Operating will be done.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: We are done with Operating. We are not going back. It will just be CIP.

Councilmember Kualii: Let's start with CIP.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: I am good with that. Okay, if there are no further questions, we completed the Operating Budget. We will be back tomorrow for the CIP Budget. We will reconvene at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow, Tuesday, March 31, 2026, when we will hear from the CIP Budget.

There being no objections, the Committee recessed at 2:53 p.m.