

## COUNCIL MEETING

OCTOBER 15, 2025

The Council Meeting of the Council of the County of Kaua'i was called to order by Council Chair Mel Rapozo at the Council Chambers, 4396 Rice Street, Suite 201, Līhu'e, Kaua'i, on Wednesday, October 15, 2025, at 8:35 a.m., after which the following Members answered the call of the roll:

Honorable Addison Bulosan  
Honorable Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.  
Honorable Felicia Cowden (*present at 8:44 a.m.*)  
Honorable Fern Holland  
Honorable KipuKai Kuali'i (*present at 8:39 a.m.*)  
Honorable Mel Rapozo

Excused: Honorable Arryl Kaneshiro

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

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Councilmember Carvalho moved for approval of the agenda, as circulated, seconded by Councilmember Bulosan.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is there any discussion or public testimony on the agenda?

There being no public testimony, the meeting proceeded as follows:

The motion for approval of the agenda, as circulated, was then put, and carried by a vote of 4:0:3 (*Councilmember Cowden, Councilmember Kaneshiro, and Councilmember Kuali'i were excused*).

Council Chair Rapozo: The motion carries. Next item, please.

### MINUTES of the following meetings of the Council:

September 17, 2025 Council Meeting  
September 24, 2025 Council Meeting

Councilmember Carvalho moved to approve the Minutes, as circulated, seconded by Councilmember Bulosan.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is there any discussion or public testimony?

There being no public testimony, the meeting proceeded as follows:

The motion to approve the Minutes, as circulated, was then put, and carried by a vote of 4:0:3 (*Councilmember Cowden, Councilmember Kaneshiro, and Councilmember Kualii were excused*).

Council Chair Rapozo:                      The motion carries. Next item, please.

INTERVIEW:

BOARD OF ETHICS:

- Chloe Waipa (*Ex-Officio*) – Term ending 12/31/2027

ELLEN CHING, Boards & Commissions Administrator: Good morning, Council Chair. Ellen Ching, Boards & Commissions Administrator. Today, I am pleased to introduce Chloe Waipa.

Chloe was born and raised on Kaua'i and attend Elsie H. Wilcox Elementary School and Chiefess Kamakahelei Middle School. She is currently a senior at Kaua'i High School, and to add to her busy senior year, she joined the Key Club. The Key Club is an international student led organization that develops leadership, builds character, and promotes caring through service to others in the community and school. Members participate in diverse service projects and learn leadership by planning projects, running meetings, and holding elected positions. The club's motto—caring for our way of life—emphasizes its focus on giving primary to human and spiritual values over material ones. At the end of the month, the Key Club will be assisting us with the County's Spooktacular event. When she is not busy with school, filling out college applications, and Key Club service projects, as a freshman, Chloe followed her big sister into paddling. She paddles with her high school team and the Kai'ola Canoe Club. Through it all, she has also been a member of the Girl Scouts for the past twelve (12) years. Like all teenagers, she still finds time to hangout with friends, enjoys reading, and going for runs at the Marriott's Kaua'i Beach Club.

Chloe enjoys traveling and has visited quite a few states on the mainland—California, Oregon, Washington, Utah, New York, and Florida. Her dream trip would be to Disneyland Paris. She is also a foodie, although she is not a cook, she is willing to learn. Her favorite dish—king crab. Chloe is the daughter of proud parents Chelsie and Kory Sakai, Chloe is the youngest of three (3) with two (2) older sisters. When Chloe learned about the opportunity for students to become a member of a Board or Commission, she jumped at the chance, and submitted her application. With the current state of politics, the Board of Ethics is more important than ever. It is the vanguard of maintaining the public trust and ensuring that all County officers and employees adhere to the Code of Ethics. I am so grateful that Chloe is willing to contribute her time during her busy senior year to join the Board of Ethics.

Council Chair Rapozo:                      Thank you, Ellen. Chloe, would you like to add anything to that amazing introduction?



CHLOE WAIPA: I would like to thank you for the opportunity and for allowing me to be here. I am excited to learn more as this goes on.

*(Councilmember Kualii was noted as present.)*

Council Chair Rapozo: Awesome. Thank you. Are there questions for Chloe? Councilmember Bulosan.

Councilmember Bulosan: Thank you again for serving. How did you become interested in serving?

Ms. Waipa: I recently went to this program called the Close Up Foundation in Washington, D.C., where we learned about political engagement and when I saw this opportunity, I decided to jump at it.

Councilmember Bulosan: I have a couple more questions. Do you like reading?

Ms. Waipa: Yes, I do.

Councilmember Bulosan: Awesome. You will definitely get to read a lot. As far as ethics-wise, what is your framework philosophy around community ethics, or your personal ethics? How do you hold up standards to people and to yourself? It is a difficult question.

Ms. Waipa: Can I think about it?

Councilmember Bulosan: Yes, you can definitely think about it.

Council Chair Rapozo: Poor thing, I just told her before the meeting, "no worries." The best answer for that is, "doing the right thing, even when no one is watching." Councilmember Carvalho.

Councilmember Carvalho: I am very proud of you, Chloe, and your efforts to step forward. There is a lot more to come, and it sounds like you have experienced so many different parts already. I am happy that you are at the forefront, you are at the table right now for this particular role and there is a lot more to come for you. I am very proud of you, and thank you for stepping up.

Ms. Waipa: Thank you.

Councilmember Bulosan: I wanted to thank you so much. I apologize for the hard questions, but actually, my first introduction to politics or serving the community here on Kaua'i was serving on the Board of Ethics back in 2015. I am super excited because you are going to learn so much. Mostly you are going to give a lot, your perspective and your understanding of how the world works, your relationships, your connections to the community, is going to be foundational to helping create a solid ground of making good decisions, and your input is very valuable. So whatever you can contribute just by being in the position and staying there is going to help the community in ways that we will not understand until later

and that is the beauty of supporting community, and to see you be willing to step up and do that is such a honor, and I respect you so much for doing what you are doing.

Council Chair Rapozo:

Councilmember Holland.

Councilmember Holland: I just want to thank you. Thank you for being involved, thank you for doing this. I agree with a lot of what the Councilmember Bulosan said, and I think this will be a great opportunity for our community to have your voice, but also for you to hopefully rise even more so in your service, so thank you very much for stepping up.

Council Chair Rapozo:

Councilmember Kualii.

Councilmember Kualii: I, too, want to say *mahalo nui loa*. I want to encourage you to—look what happened to him—I want you to think about your next ten (10) years and grow in this County because we could use young, Hawaiian women, like you, right here. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is there anything else? If not, thank you, Chloe. I have to say I am always so impressed when we interview the high school students for our commissions—Mayor Kawakami made that happen a while back, and it was “thinking outside the box” because who would think that a juvenile would be able serve on these commissions but this Council fully supported it. When I was your age the last thing I would ever consider doing, would be doing anything involving a commission or politics, it was never in my brain, so I am always impressed. The Board of Ethics is very interesting, as Councilmember Bulosan said, and you are going to hear lots of things and learn, but more importantly is what you said—you went up to Washington, D.C., and learned about political and civic engagement—that is critical. Hopefully this experience will get you to share your experiences with others in your generation, so that they can all engage, because that is so critical. Thank you very much.

Council Chair Rapozo: Madam Clerk, let us do the Consent Calendar and then we will do the out of order items.

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

#### CONSENT CALENDAR:

C 2025-203 Communication (10/02/2025) from the Director of Finance, transmitting for Council information, the First Quarter Statement of Equipment Purchases for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026, pursuant to Section 22 of Ordinance No. B-2025-905, as amended, relating to the Operating Budget of the County of Kauaʻi for FY 2025-2026.

C 2025-204 Communication (10/08/2025) from the County Attorney, transmitting for Council consideration, a Resolution Repealing Resolution No. 18 (1991) And Authorizing The County Attorney To Investigate, Settle, And Pay Claims Against The County Of Kauaʻi.

Councilmember Carvalho moved to receive C 2025-203 and C 2025-204 for the record, seconded by Councilmember Kualii.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is there any discussion or public testimony?

There being no public testimony, the meeting proceeded as follows:

The motion to receive C 2025-203 and C 2025-204 for the record was then put, and carried by a vote of 5\*:0:2 (*\*Pursuant to Rule No. 5(b) of the Rules of the Council of the County of Kaua'i, Councilmember Holland was noted as silent (not present), but shall be recorded as an affirmative for the motion; Councilmember Cowden and Councilmember Kaneshiro were excused*).

Council Chair Rapozo: The motion carries. Let us take the Kaua'i Police Department's (KPD's) item next, because they have a project this afternoon that they need to work on.

There being no objections, C 2025-208 was taken out of order.

#### COMMUNICATIONS:

C 2025-208 Communication (09/23/2025) from Makana A. Rivera, Assistant Chief of Police, Support Services Bureau, requesting Council approval of the indemnification provisions contained in the State of Hawai'i Department of Education (DOE) Application for Use of School Buildings, Facilities, or Grounds, in order for the Kaua'i Police Department (KPD), on occasion, to use DOE grounds for events, including but not limited to promotions and the Kaua'i Police Activities League's sporting events and other related activities in calendar years 2025 through 2030.

Councilmember Kualii moved to approve C 2025-208, seconded by Councilmember Carvalho.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is there any discussion or public testimony?  
Seeing none.

There being no public testimony, the meeting proceeded as follows:

The motion to approve C 2025-208 was then put, and carried by a vote of 5\*:0:2 (*\*Pursuant to Rule No. 5(b) of the Rules of the Council of the County of Kaua'i, Councilmember Holland was noted as silent (not present), but shall be recorded as an affirmative for the motion; Councilmember Cowden and Councilmember Kaneshiro were excused*).

Council Chair Rapozo: The motion carries. Can we have item C 2025-210, please?

There being no objections, C 2025-210 was taken out of order.

C 2025-210 Communication (09/30/2025) from Darren D. Rose, Assistant Chief of Police, Police Operations Bureau, requesting Council approval to receive and expend Federal funds, in the amount of \$583,298.94, from the recurring National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) grant to be used towards the following four (4) primary traffic related functions: Traffic Records, Impaired Driving and Youth Deterrence, Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP), and Occupant Protection, to include purchase of training, overtime, and equipment expenses, for the period of October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026.

Councilmember Kualii moved to approve C 2025-210, seconded by Councilmember Carvalho.

*(Councilmember Holland was noted as present.)*

Council Chair Rapozo: Is there any discussion or public testimony?  
This is a recurring grant we get every year.

There being no public testimony, the meeting proceeded as follows:

The motion to approve C 2025-210 was then put, and carried by a vote of 5:0:2  
*(Councilmember Cowden and Councilmember Kaneshiro were excused).*

Council Chair Rapozo: The motion carries. Next item, please.

There being no objections, C 2025-212 was taken out of order.

C 2025-212 Communication (10/01/2025) from Makana A. Rivera, Assistant Chief of Police, Support Services Bureau, requesting Council approval to receive and expend State funds, not to exceed \$12,000.00, from the State of Hawai'i, Department of Health, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division, as reimbursement for the enforcement of Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Section 712-1258, prohibiting tobacco sales to minors via Memorandum of Agreement 2025-PB-002 effective September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2026.

Councilmember Kualii moved to approve C 2025-212, seconded by Councilmember Carvalho.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is there any discussion or public testimony?

There being no public testimony, the meeting proceeded as follows:

The motion to approve C 2025-212 was the put, and carried by a vote of 5:0:2  
*(Councilmember Cowden and Councilmember Kaneshiro were excused).*

Council Chair Rapozo: The motion carries. Next item, please.

*(Councilmember Cowden was noted as present.)*

There being no objections, C 2025-218 was taken out of order.

C 2025-218 Communication (10/02/2025) from Darren D. Rose, Assistant Chief of Police, Police Operations Bureau, requesting Council approval of the indemnification provision contained in the Notability Terms of Use Agreement, to allow the Kaua'i Police Department (KPD) Traffic Safety Section and Crisis Negotiation Team to use the software for digital note-taking and as a productivity application that supports efficient operations and collaboration.

Councilmember Kualii moved to approve C 2025-218, seconded by Councilmember Bulosan.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is there any discussion or public testimony?

There being no public testimony, the meeting proceeded as follows:

The motion to approve C 2025-218 was then put, and carried by a vote of 6:0:1 (*Councilmember Kaneshiro was excused*).

Council Chair Rapozo: The motion carries. If there are no objections, I would like to take item C 2025-220 out of order.

There being no objections, C 2025-220 was taken out of order.

C 2025-220 Communication (10/03/2025) from Council Chair Rapozo, requesting the presence of the County Engineer, to provide a briefing relating to the Po'ipū Road Safety and Mobility Project, specifically, the proposed removal of trees along Po'ipū Road.

Councilmember Kualii moved to receive C 2025-220 for the record, seconded by Councilmember Bulosan.

Council Chair Rapozo: Before we get started, I am going to make a few comments and do a very quick presentation. I want to make sure that we are all talking about the same thing. We have been bombarded with emails and apparently there is a misconception that the Council is considering removing the sidewalks or not building the sidewalks near Kōloa Elementary School, and that is simply not true. I am not sure where that started, but it is not true. I am unsure of how many testimonies we received, but it was a lot—so someone was told that the Council was looking at stopping the project that would protect our kids at Kōloa Elementary School, that is not the case.

This is not about sidewalks versus trees. This is about community input and preserving our rural character. Slowly by slowly, for those of you who have been here for any length of time, we have seen our rural character disappear—one tree at a time, one neighborhood at a time—all of us, any one of us who runs for office, we also talk about keeping Kaua'i, Kaua'i.

This is not about trees versus sidewalks. We are talking about the area where we did the site visit, by Kukui'ula Market, that stretch that goes all the way from that area all the way down to where the housing development is. All I am suggesting is that we accommodate both public safety as well as our rural character. That is it.

I do not like it when people put people against people. That is not cool. There is a way to do this where both parties succeed. We, as this Council and the Administration collectively—it is our obligation to do what we can to preserve not just Kaua‘i, but that rural character. Kōloa is one area that is remaining. We still have old Hanapēpē Town, we still have the old Kapa‘a Town, but pretty much everywhere else is starting to look like the mainland. Many of us do not want that to happen. I am only speaking for myself—I am going to do this quick presentation.

(Inaudible) stretches the entire length of that roadway. Let me just go through this presentation. We are here today because the Administration is proposing that some of these shade trees will be removed, which have been there forever, to make way for a new sidewalk. Again, it is not about saying we want the trees and no sidewalk. When we did the site visit, it was very clear that the community wanted to see both. That is what I heard, I am not sure what the Administration heard, but that is what I heard. When you remove this type of rural character—these items, these trees—it threatens our cultural identity and natural beauty, and more importantly the public trust. These trees are part of that community, whether you like them or not, they are. They have shaded generations—many of them are here, and have shaped Kōloa’s sense of place. Removing them erases that living piece of Kaua‘i’s story and more importantly, Kōloa.

Mature trees provide natural cooling and shade. We stood under those trees at the site visit—thank God those trees were there, otherwise we all would have been “baked.” Clean air, stormwater absorption...we did not talk about this at the site visit, but the stream is right there. If you remove these trees, you are going to impact the soil that abuts the stream which causes erosion, which can cause larger problems for that area. We already know we have some issues with drainage in that area. It is also a habitat for birds and other wildlife, and losing the trees means hotter streets, less comfort, and long-term environmental costs.

The questions I have, and I will be asking—hopefully our engineers will be able to answer—was an environmental and cultural impact study done? I know back thirteen (13) years ago now, a charrette was done. A lot of the community participated, which was a good thing, but were those studies ever done? Were there alternatives to full removal of the trees? Is this consistent with our County’s values? I do not think so. I do not think removing trees is. I looked at some of the reports that came out of the community meetings, and if you look this one here, this is just one of them, there are several that say the same thing—where that arrow is pointing, I do not know if you can see it, but it says, “No more removal of large trees unless they are diseased.” The elder community wanted that. Today, we are here to discuss why are we removing these trees. In that slide it also says, “more sidewalks that would form a connected system.” which we support. This Council, I am assuming I can speak for every one of us here, supports that. I just want the public to understand that even back then, there was community concern about the trees. It was not something that came up when we did the site visit.

Removing large trees is costly, and we know that. The replacement trees take decades—I do not know how you would replant trees after you take them out, that makes no sense—and again, I spoke about the cooling, the erosion, and the maintenance. I do not know if you all drive around our sidewalks in the County of



Kaua'i, but maintenance is always an issue. Community and social impacts—this all started because I got called by community members saying “Hey, I just saw a bunch of trees with ribbons on them, does that mean they are going to get cut.” and come to find out, yes. I had requested a community meeting, the Administration did not recommend a community meeting, but they did agree to do a site visit. I did the site visit, I invited the community members to come down and we had a very good...I thought we had a good discussion. I would really like to say *mahalo* to the contractors—those trees were supposed to be cut already and Goodfellow Bros. to their credit, I asked them if they could please hold off until we could get this in front of the County Council and they obliged. To Goodfellow Bros., *mahalo*.

Shade trees enhance mental health, walkability, and community pride. Removing them can reduce trust in local government, especially when the community told us years ago not to remove any trees. My recommendation is simple: pause the removal plan immediately—this is just the trees, now, not Kōloa Elementary School, all of you who sent testimony, we are not talking about Kōloa Elementary School; conduct full community engagement meetings, surveys, and hearings; perform a tree inventory and cultural assessment; develop an alternative sidewalk design that preserves trees—and that can be done now. I will show some pictures. Establish a tree protection policy for future projects. Moving forward responsibly, collaboration over unilateral decisions, I think is critical in these types of community development. Balance progress with preservation. We need to do that—we will lose Kaua'i, folks, if we do not—respect for our people, our history, and our environment. At the site visit we had *kūpuna* there with walkers, we had *kūpuna* there with canes, on very unstable ground, but they came because it was important. It is all about respect, respecting their input. We always say it, right? Politicians always say, “We have to respect our *kūpuna*.” Who do I call when I have a question? I call the *kūpuna*—and I do. I think we all do. Let us build with the community and not over it.

My closing message—I am going to yield my time after the meeting, because I want to say everything upfront and set the stage for the testimonies to come. I do not want to hear people come up and say, “You are killing our kids,” “You are making a dangerous area in Kōloa by the school.” That is not what we are talking about, although the majority of our testimonies came in about that. This is about shared goals and not opposing sides, and pitting people against each other. We all want safer, more walkable communities and a greener, more beautiful island. Sidewalks and trees are not enemies. They are partners in creating livable, healthy spaces. This conversation is about integration and not elimination. Progress with preservation is very simple—progress should not come at the cost of our island's identity. Could you imagine driving through Kōloa, pass the Tunnel of Trees, and all you see is concrete? I cannot see that, and I cannot support that. We can modernize our infrastructure without erasing the natural and cultural treasures that define us. We can. True progress honors our past while planning for our future. The opportunity for smarter design, around the world, and even on Kaua'i—cities have designed tree friendly sidewalks that protect roots and canopies on Rice Street, drive down Rice Street. What do you see? You see beautiful trees planted in the middle of sidewalks. Rice Street—they are doing that big sidewalk going down towards Nāwiliwili now. Did they remove the telephone poles? No. They built the concrete around the telephones. Please do not tell me that we cannot do that with Kōloa. With proper planning, Kaua'i



can lead by example, showing how to combine safety, accessibility, and environmental care.

Again, community voices matter. This is not a fight, it is a chance for us to collaborate. To find out what the community really wants, and accommodate what the community really wants. When people are heard better solutions emerge—we all know that—it has been proven time and time again. We are asking for partnership, not confrontation, to design a Kaua'i solution for Kaua'i people. Not for tourists. For Kaua'i people. The bigger picture—it is not about concrete versus the canopy, it is about the future of our *keiki*. We talked about Kōloa Elementary School—we are not talking about that area. That area is long overdue to provide safe walkways for our *keiki*—that is not even in discussion. Shade trees and safe sidewalks together make our communities healthier and more walkable and more connected. By protecting both, we show what *aloha* for home truly means.

I do have some pictures, I am not sure if we can queue them up. These are just pictures that I took yesterday and today of Rice Street. That is the new one, going down from Rice Street to apparently Harbor Mall or wherever is down there. Look at that. We did not cut those trees down. We built around the tree, do you know why, because that is important. Look at this picture. This is Kaua'i folks, this is Rice Street, we actually put the tree around some grass on the sidewalk. Look at how narrow the walking area is...I know I am going to hear about the American with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and all of that, but we can make this happen if we want to. We chose not to. We chose to cut trees, and that was not a Council decision, and it was definitely not a community decision. We will hear from the community. Look at how pretty. We can coexist. We can. They did not cut these trees down, folks. They built around these trees and made a very beautiful walkway.

This here is just some information I got from a constituent, where it talks about this specific tree, I call it the golden shower tree, the scientist call it something else—*Tabebuia*—whatever it is. I call it the golden shower tree because it is golden, it is beautiful and it is part of Kōloa's culture. This here says that the root system on these trees are not invasive, and they go straight down, they do not go out. If you read this, it says that these trees are perfect for planting up against sidewalks. Why would we throw away an opportunity to put together the public safety, the convenience, as well as keeping Kōloa's character intact? There is a way. While this Council does not have the authority to say, "do this or do that," I am hoping after today, with the testimony from the public, that our Administration would at least consider taking that segment out, redesigning it, and doing something similar to what is in that photo. That is my time, thank you. With that, we will have the Administration come up. They have a presentation as well.

There being no objections, the rules were suspended.

TROY K. TANIGAWA, County Engineer: Good morning, Council Chair Rapozo and Councilmembers, Troy Tanigawa, for the record. Michael Moule has a presentation that will provide some details to answer some of the questions that came up about the trees, but before that, I wanted to say a few words about the project—from a "30,000 foot view." This project was born out of input from the community. The intent of this project is to increase safety for all modes of transportation; automobiles,

bicyclists, and pedestrians. Council Chair is absolutely correct, this project is about putting in these improvements to better the community, understanding what existing resources they are—like the shower trees—and coming to a compromise. I think the presentation that Michael Moule has here, will reflect that. Without further ado...

MICHAEL MOULE, Chief of Engineering: Chair, Members of Council, Michael Moule, for the record—Chief of Engineering. I want to run through a quick presentation about the project, and then specifically as you requested, details about our efforts to preserve trees, plant new trees, and the handful of trees that are proposed to be removed as part of the project. If we can get the presentation back on?

We are going to go through this presentation...I will click through—just talking about the project background and how we got to where we are today, and the long journey to this point. We will go through the project scope and what we are doing to, among other things, as Council Chair mentioned, provide a way for kids to walk to school at Kōloa Elementary School and much more. Lastly, I will go through the tree protection, removal, and installation proposed as part of the project. The project location is Po'ipū Road, almost the entire length of Po'ipū Road—from its intersection in Kōloa Town, at the gas station there, down through the existing roundabout at Kukui'ula shops, and then east to the edge of the Grand Hyatt Kaua'i Resort & Spa (Hyatt). It does not include the portion in front of the Hyatt, but includes all of the rest of Po'ipū Road and County jurisdiction.

The project was originally envisioned by the public at community workshops in 2013. Following that, it was adopted as part of the South Kaua'i Community Plan in 2015. We had some public meetings just before the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) hit, confirming the preliminary design. We met with resort property stakeholders, we met with the general public, and we met with other business interests, like retailers and landowners in the area. Three (3) specific meeting, one of which was a full public meeting. There have been several times where this project has come to County Council for funding requests, we have requested to apply for, receive, and expend federal funds—which I will get to in a moment. We brought the Traffic Resolution to approve things like the crosswalks and the roundabouts as required by County Code. I think we have had at least one other briefing about the project, I do not remember for sure—it has been a while since we briefed Council on this. As I mentioned, we did apply for federal funds. We received a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Grant (RAISE), it is a competitive grant program that the federal government does—it was called the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) under the Obama Administration, the Better Utilizing Investments Leverage Development (BUILD) under the Trump Administration, and RAISE under the Biden Administration and again BUILD under the Trump Administration. Essentially it is the same program, generally, initiated during the economic downturn by President Obama, and has changed throughout the years, but is intended to do the things we are doing here. To provide ways to get around, to be sust'aina ble, both from a environmental point of view and a travel point of view, and all of those things. We received a twenty-five million dollar (\$25,000,000) RAISE grant for this, plus additional federal funds. We worked very carefully with our partners at the State and the Department of Transportation to receive these additional funds.

In January of this year, we presented a project update to the Kōloa Community Association. We bid the project late last year, we had some delays getting to where we are today, trying to finalize a few property issue that we had to get in order to build the roundabouts, and we are literally starting construction today. We had a blessing for the project yesterday. It is about a two-year project, we are looking at December 2027 as the projected end date, so it is going to be a long time. We will be issuing many press releases and changes to traffic control throughout the project and will be actively communicating with the public through press releases about that.

I want to talk briefly about the May 2013 community design workshop. Just summarizing some of the meetings that happened back then because I think it is really important to recognize that the project came from the community. These are pictures from the original opening workshops and focus groups that occurred that week, plenty of people engaged in these meetings. You may recognize some of these faces in some of these photos. We had two (2) walking audits, one for the portion in Kōloa Town near Kōloa Elementary School, and the other, as pictured in most of these pictures, in a portion down by the resorts, the east-west portion. Then we had a closing workshop with lots of turnout as you can see here in these pictures. Dozens of people came to those meetings and gave their thoughts and comments on how the project should be done.

These are the original hand drawn concept maps for the project from 2013. Remarkably similar to what the current design is for the project. I will not walk through the details shown here, but there were a couple of places where possible roundabouts were shown—they are not in the project—and there was one location where there was no roundabout shown at the gas station in Kōloa Town, where we are constructing a roundabout at this time, as already approved by the County Council. Everything else—the median locations, where the sidewalks go...on one side all the way from one end of the project to the other, and on both sides for portions of the project, the extensions of the bike lanes, the shoulder widening in some areas to add bike lanes—those are exactly the same on these drawings. This is the north-south portion with Kōloa Town at the left and the existing Po'ipū roundabout at the bottom right. Here is one (1) more image of the resort portion with the existing roundabout at the top left, going across to the Hyatt at the far right of this image. This pretty much represents what we are doing today.

I am going to jump into it now, to talk about the project scope. I am going to talk over this image. There are three (3) more slides that have the text that is shown in this image. Councilmembers, I believe you have those, you can follow along on the paper copy of those written slides, but I am not going to flip through those at this time—I am going to try to point it out on this map, to folks, what is occurring and what is described in the next three (3) slides.

The project components; we have roundabouts. We have three (3)—one existing roundabout now, the one here at the Shops at Kukui'ula. Three (3) new roundabouts are proposed, the one at the top of Kōloa Road, at the gas station, one at the Keoki's Paradise area, Kiahuna Plantation Drive, and one at the bypass road, Ala Kinoiki. All three (3) new roundabouts are included, and will include crosswalks and other features. In the resort portion—let us call it the east portion—the portion that runs East of the existing roundabout. There are few places currently that do not have left

turn lanes for turning into a couple of resort driveways, and we are adding turn lanes at those locations for vehicle safety and to keep people moving down the road, so they do not have to stop for someone making a left turn. As we come off a couple of side streets—two (2) of them, Kapili Road and Ho'owili Road—we will continue to have two (2) lanes approaching Po'ipū Road on Kapili Road and on Ho'owili Road, we will add that. We will have two (2) lanes—it splits a bit and you can make a right turn as you are coming from Po'ipū Beach Park, with one (1) or two (2) cars stopped, but with this addition, you will be able make that turn a little more easily in the future.

**Sidewalks.** As I mentioned, continuous sidewalks are proposed on at least one side of the street, the entire length of the project, and it will tie into the existing sidewalk in front of the Hyatt. Effectively, the entire length of Po'ipū Road will have a sidewalk on at least one (1) side. To me, this is probably the most key element to the entire project—is to make sure that our residents, *keiki*, *kūpuna*, and visitors alike can all walk within the community; to school, to the beach, to wherever they want to go—along this busy roadway. There are some segments that will have sidewalks on both sides, I will describe those segments here. One is on Po'ipū Road, we are extending the sidewalk that is near Kōloa Elementary School, up to Kōloa Road, and south a bit as well, where we have room for it, down to Blake Lane, just past Borthwick Kaua'i Mortuary. Then there will be a crosswalk to carry everyone across the street to the other side. There is simply not enough room in the right-of-way to build more sidewalks on both sides for that stretch from there down to the Kukui'ula Market and dive shop. At the dive shop and at Kukui'ula Market, we will pick up the sidewalk on the westside again to allow people to walk from that shopping center there down past the bus stop, it is going to have a new bus shelter, to the existing roundabout. We will have sidewalks and crosswalks all the way around the roundabout now, as opposed to just one crosswalk that is there today. There will also be a sidewalk on both sides, on the east portion from the roundabout, all the way east to Kipuka Street or Weliweli Tract. Pass Weliweli Tract we have some vacant lots there on the north side of the road and the sidewalk on the north side will end there at Kipuka Street. The sidewalk on the southside will continue all the way to the Hyatt.

**Marked crosswalks**—there are a lot. All the roundabouts will have crosswalks across all the legs. I am not going to list every single place we are adding a sidewalk, they are listed on the slide that you will see in a few minutes. I will show the slide that shows the list and it will be listed for the record, so Council has it. We are adding crosswalks—pretty much one (1) crosswalk at every street or intersection along the project and again, at some of the major driveways to some of the larger resorts, and a couple and a few midblock locations, typically where the sidewalk ends. For example, at Kukui'ula Market and the dive shop there, and then south of the mortuary—a crosswalk where the sidewalk ends to get to the other side.

The last couple items, leaving this slide up, bicycle lanes are proposed the entire length of Po'ipū Road, except for the portion fronting the Hyatt, that is not part of the project, but just before that...there will be bike lanes the entire length. In the east portion, most of that area, the bike lanes will be buffered with a paint buffer between the cars and the bicyclists. The north portion, past Kōloa Elementary School, down to the existing roundabout, the bike lanes will be more traditional bike lanes with just a white lane which is not enough room to provide a buffer as well.



Bus stops. There are currently bus stops in only the south and east bound directions on Po'ipū Road, because the bus does a loop. It goes down Po'ipū Road and then loops back to Ala Kinoiki Road. It does not really stop, except in Kōloa Town. The long-term plan is to actually have the bus go both ways on Po'ipū Road. For example, if you lived at Koa'e Makana affordable housing and you worked at the Hyatt, right now, to take the bus, there is no easy way to do that. You get on the bus at the intersection of Ala Kinoiki and Po'ipū Road and you have to ride it into Kōloa Town and walk down or walk back, or go all the way up to Kālaheo and come back down. With this change the bus will make a U-turn at the roundabout at Ala Kinoiki, and go both ways on Po'ipū Road. Someone could very easily ride the bus from Koa'e Makana or from any housing in Kōloa Town that is close to Po'ipū Road, to the Hyatt, go to work, and come back directly. There are eleven (11) bus stops total. The map shows them. The red ones are the existing stops, and two (2) of those are being removed because they are being relocated to the other side of the intersection. There will be bus stops (inaudible) three (3) are being removed, one is being removed also at the top of Kōloa Road and Po'ipū Road. That one is being removed because there are stops nearby in Kōloa Town. Going over where the bus stops will be, there will be bus stops roughly in front or just south of Kōloa Elementary School, one (1) on each side of the road. There will be bus stops one (1) on each side of the road at Koa'e Makana housing development and apartments. There will be a bus stop—two (2) bus stops, one on each side of the road—just north of the existing Po'ipū roundabout, so right near the gas station and across the gas station—I am sorry, the fire station, not gas station—at the fire station, and across from the fire station. And then two (2) bus stops near the Kiahuna Plantation Drive roundabout, near Keoki's Paradise, one on each side of the road. Two (2) bus stops at Ho'owili Road so kids can—as they do now, I see them all the time in the area, take their bodyboards on the bus, get off the bus, and then ride the bus back to where they need to go. Lastly, there will be one bus stop at the intersection of Ala Kinoiki and Po'ipū Road, on the northwest corner of that roundabout.

Okay, I will move on to the next slide. These are the text slides that I just went through all this detail as I was going through that map slide. I will click through those. I am going to go through a few images of the project, to give a sense, these are from the plans, they are not rendered to be easily readable for those of us who are not used to reading plans, like we as engineers are...

Council Chair Rapozo: Michael, if we could pause—from the way the posting was made it was specifically to discuss the proposed removal of the trees on Po'ipū Road...I am enjoying this presentation, but I am thinking of the posting and we are limited to what was posted, which is—because I do not want this to turn into another discussion or debate about an entire project, simply because it is not posted.

Mr. Moule: Okay. The request said a briefing about the Po'ipū Road project, and then continued to say including talking about the trees. I thought you wanted a full briefing on the project...

Council Chair Rapozo: That is okay...

Mr. Moule: I only have a few more slides and then I will get to the trees. I am going to show some images of the project and then the trees will be discussed.

This is at Kōloa Road, I am not going to spend that much time on these slides, you can see them—this is the proposed mini roundabout at the intersection, by the gas station, to help control traffic there. This one was requested by the Council several years ago, to be added to the project, and we did that. You can see here, sidewalks on both sides of the road going down from this intersection. The sidewalk on the eastside on the top of the drawing here is existing, the sidewalk on the westside is new. This is near Kōloa Elementary School, we did some work here recently, but what is added is sidewalks going south of the school. Including a crosswalk across Pa‘anau Road and just to the right—this is the crosswalk crossing Po‘ipū Road, where that sidewalk ends. This will allow kids to walk to houses on both sides of the road for a while, and then cross over to get down to Koa‘e Makana apartments. This is at the Koa‘e Makana housing and at the future regional park. The road at the bottom left is Lopaka Paipa Boulevard intersection, Po‘ipū Road is left to right here. This driveway here is a Koa‘e entrance, this area here—the bottom of the drawing—is where the future regional park is. We just received the plans for that. Kukui‘ula is required to build that and has been submitted to us and the Department of Parks & Recreation; we are reviewing those now. One aspect that I want to point out is that there is, in the South Kaua‘i Community Plan, a plan to eventually put a shared-use path that connects the old cane haul road—east/west across the area between Po‘ipū and Kōloa and that path was built in part along the driveway entering Koa‘e Makana and the park project will build the next phase of it, into the park and the next phase of the park. We are in discussions with Kukui‘ula to connect that across—be legally open—to Ala Kalanikamaka, hopefully within the next year or two. There are bus stops here on both sides of the road, as mentioned earlier—one there, one there—with shelters, which are important features for that area. This is the existing roundabout, key element here is that we are adding sidewalks and crosswalks around the entire thing. Currently, we only had one (1) crosswalk across Lāwa‘i Road here and we are adding the rest, and then again, two (2) bus stops—in front of the fire station and across from the fire station. This is at the Po‘ipū Beach Estates at Kōloa Landing Resort at Po‘ipu intersection—I have probably had more requests for a crosswalk here since I have been with the County than probably anywhere on County roads. We get a lot of requests for this and we are finally building that, and I am really glad to be doing that. We will be taking out the deceleration lane and acceleration lanes that are not necessary on a twenty-five mile per hour (25 mph) road, and making that crosswalk a relatively narrow crossing distance. This is the Kiahuna Plantation Drive intersection at Keoki’s Paradise, and the shopping center there, this is the roundabout proposed, we will be talking about this with respect to trees in a minute, but you can see a roundabout to control the intersection here—we get a lot of complaints about this one from a vehicle congestion and safety point of view. We think that this roundabout will make this much safer for everyone involved; walking, biking, and driving. There are bus stops proposed just to the right of this, east of the intersection—moving the bus stop from this corner to both of the other sides of the intersection. At Ho‘owili Road, this is the road that goes to Po‘ipū Beach Park—we see the intersection there, left and right turn lanes coming off of Ho‘owili Road, left turn lanes (inaudible) to the road to Po‘ipū Beach Park—crosswalk with raised medians to make that safe. Again, bus stops on both sides. This is where I see the kids using the existing bus stop on



the southside with their bodyboards, but they will be able to ride the bus back more easily in the future.

This is the last image of the project, Ala Kinoiki and Pe'e Road and Po'ipū Road roundabout. This is where the bus will turn around, using the roundabout to turn around and use the bus stop on the north side here to drop people off to walk to the Hyatt for work. Currently the bus stop is up here on Ala Kinoiki.

Let us jump into the tree protection, removal, and installation part of our presentation today. We do, as you said in the meeting Chair, care about trees. We do care about the rural character and through this project, we have been trying to protect trees. One thing we do, of course, on any project is to check the Exceptional Tree list, make sure that there is nothing that is going to be affected on that list. There is one (1) exceptional tree on the project corridor, it is at the mortuary, it is in private property, and it is separated by the roadway by a rock wall. We do not see any issues with that one. We will be building a sidewalk along that frontage, but much of the area is already paved in asphalt, and we are working on the other side of the wall from the tree. We did design the rest of the project to protect other trees as much as we could. However, there were some trees we missed. The reason for that is that this is a complex set of plans. Each segment of roadway was viewed at least six (6) times in the plans. There are demolition plans, erosion control plans, geometric plans, paving plans, grading and drainage plans, and stripping plans. What the designers do in these cases, they do not show the trees in all of these drawings because they clutter what you are trying to build. They are always showing the demolition plans, but not showing the other plans. During the review, we try to make sure to see where trees are being removed, and make sure we are not building things to remove trees. The one area especially, near Waikomo Stream, where the yellow shower trees are, we missed it. Those trees were not shown on the grading plans or the other geometric plans of what we are building, so we could not see how the sidewalk related to those trees. They were shown on the demolition plans in the grading area. We should have caught it, but we did not. Honestly, we are actually glad that the community saw the flags that our contractor put out for their subcontractor to price the tree removal, so there was attention brought to this. We sharpened our pencils and we can save more trees than we thought we could, even though we were already planning to save as many trees as possible. Thank you to the public for encouraging us to take a closer look. I think that was an important element of this. We did talk about trees during some of the public meetings, but of course, not at the level of detail that we are today. That is probably something we should have done, but we did not do that. We did talk about trees, some of the larger trees, for example, by Keoki's Paradise, that we are proposing to remove—we did talk about at some of the public meeting. I will move on to the next slide here. There are some large trees that are proposed to be removed. I am going to talk about those so the public is well aware of what trees are proposed to be removed. There is one (1) monkeypod tree on the westside of Po'ipū Road, about two hundred (200) feet south of Kōloa Road. It is a large tree—not the largest in the area, but it is one of the larger ones—but it is sort of cut in half, like a "V" cut, because the powerlines, communication lines run directly over the trunk. It is a large enough tree that it will be impossible to build a sidewalk on that side of the road without removing the tree. Honestly, it is the one I had the most "heartburn" about when we were planning this project because it is a monkeypod, everyone loves the monkeypod trees, especially in Kōloa Town. As I will show in a minute, and I will talk about some

mitigating factors to that removal. There are two (2) large banyan or ficus trees—called both, I believe—at Kiahuna Plantation Drive, near Keoki's, one (1) each on the northeast and northwest corners. As I mentioned before, we are building a roundabout at this intersection. Right now, on those two (2) corners there are currently two (2) large banyan or ficus trees, on the northeast and northwest corners—so right at Keoki's Paradise, and then across Kiahuna Plantation Drive, in front of the vacant lot there, there are two (2) more. With the removal of these two (2) trees—one (1) on each corner—there still would be one (1) large tree on that corner. This intersection has two (2) large similar trees on the southside as well. After the roundabout is installed, there would still be one (1) large ficus tree on each of the four (4) corners. My understanding is that those trees are not hundreds of years old, they were planted—if I understand correctly—around the time Po'ipū Road was first built, and that area started to be developed in the 1960s...or maybe later, but not earlier than the 1960s, as I understand it. Lastly, I want to talk about the shower trees along Waikomo Stream, north of the existing roundabout. I will show images of all these, so we can really get a sense of what is what in a moment, but I will run through it in text first. We counted forty-eight (48) trees in the County right-of-way on our survey, there may be a couple more or a couple less. I know there is at least one (1), when I am out there in the field and looking for it—it is just not there. I do not know if it got missurveyed or if it was somehow removed, or died since this survey occurred several years ago, but it is about that many. Give or take two (2) or three (3) trees, I would say. There are more trees outside the County right-of-way in some areas. Those are not shown in our plans because we are not doing work in the right-of-way, outside of this area. As I mentioned before, the contractor flagged all the trees in the grading area for removal, and again, we missed this in our design review—about all these being removed. Since Chair Rapozo and the public asked, we have taken a closer look and the concept you stated at the beginning Chair of wanting a rural character, I agree. We agree on this concept. We want to save as many trees as possible, and we missed these in our design. We believe—and I will show you the details in a moment—that at least thirty-eight (38), possibly and hopefully as many as forty-four (44) of the estimated forty-eight (48) trees can be saved. Not all of these are shower trees, there are a couple of different varieties. I am not an expert in tree types, there are probably people here who are—more than me—but I believe most of those, except for a handful, are the shower trees. Regardless of type, we are trying to save them all. Any tree that can provide shade on a sidewalk is a good thing. Four (4) to ten (10) trees would need to be removed with the design of the sidewalk—it is a much more context sensitive and tree sensitive way, than the original design.

I am going to go through those three (3) areas that I talked about. Anything shown in green is an existing tree that is going to stay, anything shown in red is an existing tree that we propose to remove, and anything shown in yellow—not on this image, but in a future one—are trees that we are not quite sure about, because we have to get in there and layout the sidewalk to see and we will be doing that within the next two (2) weeks. The red circle here is the Monkeypod tree I mentioned before. If you look closely there, you can see that the tree overlaps the curb that is proposed on this side and the sidewalk. It is actually much bigger than that bright red circle in the center there. It covers that entire sidewalk area, it is a large trunk. One of the things about this, that there are three (3) other Monkeypod trees on the other side of the road. Those canopies meet, this does not show it, but if you look at an aerial image of this area, the canopies of these three (3) trees, this one on the westside and the

two (2) on the eastside, come together over the road. Once this tree is removed, the trees on the other side, will expand their canopies across the road a little more, and that shade will, over time, grow from what it is now after we take the tree out. This is the area at Kiahuna Plantation Drive. On each of the north, northeast, and northwest corners there are two (2) ficus trees that are proposed to be removed to build the roundabout. You can see there are two (2) other ficus trees just outside of them—so the northeast corner, where Keoki's Paradise is, existing tree to be removed—it is located at the edge of the roundabout itself and the sidewalk. The one behind here, we are saving. Over here, similarly, this one is at the back of the sidewalk and there is a wall here as well that would make it impossible to save the tree, and then we propose to save this one back there. There is one other tree at this intersection that we may have to remove—this is another little design tweak we have done since the concern about trees. This sidewalk was designed in a way that it will cut into the bank, the slope here, where these trees are situated. These three (3) trees were originally flagged for removal. That was an easy fix, that sidewalk—we missed that one, too, I did not realize those trees were coming out. We do not want to cut into that slope at all. We have plenty of room to build that sidewalk, without doing expansive cutting of that embankment, so we are not going to. We will do the sidewalk out in front of the flat area. That sidewalk is going to go right about to where the existing grass shoulder and bus stop is. There is one (1) tree that is shown here in yellow that is at the edge of the slope, going down to this drained area. We are going to try to save it, but because we are doing some work to extend this drain and redo this outlet of the drain, which is in not great shape right now, we may have to cut this out. We are going to work with our designer to see if we can save that tree by changing the way the outlet, or that drain, and the way the slope there is.

Let us talk about the shower trees that are along Waikomo Road now. It is shown in the imagery here. This area runs—when you are driving down Po'ipū Road and you go past Koa'e Makana, you go past the section where you can see the Kiahuna Golf Course and then you divert away from the golf course, and you are now along Waikomo Stream. There are trees that pick up before this area that I am showing here, but all the trees north of this spot are outside of the right-of-way. We are not touching those trees. The left edge of this drawing right here is pretty much right where the entrance is to McBryde Resources. There is a building that is back there. I believe it was originally built to be the sales office for Kukui'ula when they were developing initially—there is now a big sign there that says McBryde Resources, that is where they have their offices. That driveway in turn entrance is right across from that driveway entrance where that first tree is on the left. These twenty-one (21) trees that are on our map in this area are...in this few hundred feet right here...in front of vacant lots and McBryde Resources office, these trees were flagged to be removed, all or most of them were, but we can save them all. There may be a couple that are a little close to the sidewalk, but we can narrow the sidewalk a bit and likely save those trees, unless their survey dots are way off from where it is shown. We originally planned to have the sidewalk setback from the road with a grass strip between the roadway and the sidewalk in this area, which we try to do whenever we can—to be further from the cars. We think it is reasonable and perfectly fine to have a curb, a normal curb, with a sidewalk on top of it, similar to a lot of sidewalks we see around the island, to have that sidewalk be close to the roadway. We have the same design with the curb—with the sidewalk and the curb next to the sidewalk, through Kōloa Town and near Kōloa Elementary School there are areas where—if you go south of

Kōloa school especially—where there is not enough room to have any extra space—it is just two (2) travel lanes, two (2) bike lanes, sidewalk on one (1) side...property line. Then on the other side, a little bit of grass swale and then a property line. That is the same thing we will do here. It is not an uncommon design, we think it is reasonably safe. It works well for pedestrians and it saves the trees, and provides pedestrians shade.

Moving to the next slide, this is a continuation of the same area. The leftmost image of this slide connects to the rightmost image of the previous slide. This goes into the trees across from the first few houses—or all the houses that are located on the westside of Po'ipū Road, across from Waikomo Stream. There are several houses in that area. There are approximately twenty-four (24) trees in that area. We have placed the sidewalk adjacent to the curb to save these trees as much as possible, at least in this first part here. You can see the trees here; three (3) yellow and two (2) red. At this particular spot, the stream is much closer to the road than other areas and we have kept everything as tight as we can to westside of the road, but there are two (2) trees that we believe would not be able to be saved at this location, and they are shown in red. There are three (3) trees in yellow that we are not sure about. We are going to stake the sidewalk and find out within the next few weeks. The sidewalk shown is five (5) feet, it can be narrowed to four (4) feet and still meet the ADA requirements—it can be narrowed for short segments to four (4) feet, it can not be narrowed the entire length to four (4) feet. It can be down to four (4) feet, and we would do that to save these four (4) trees if necessary. There are two (2) likely to be removed, and three (3) possibly but hopefully not. As we move to the south, it changes dramatically where the stream ends up going much further away from the road. Here, for this stretch right here, there are seven (7) trees where we believe we can put the sidewalk behind the trees. We have already laid that out—it probably will not be shown quite, it has to be a little closer to the trees in some places because of where the embankment is, but we believe we will be able to fit this in here, and meander around the trees, as suggested by members of the public at the field visit a couple of weeks ago—and save those seven (7) trees, and have them be between the sidewalk and the road which will be even more pleasant for people walking, and otherwise.

This next segment here—there used to be a detention chamber, which is this dark area here, this long rectangle—it used to be further back. It was behind the sidewalk, and I asked the designers, “Why can we not put it under the sidewalk” and they said “Sure.” So, we are going to do that. That detention chamber, just to let you know, is to allow us to drain the other side of the road. Right now, there is not good drainage on the westside of the road in this area. What happens is that water comes down that side and flows across the road during a rainstorm. There is not a rainstorm nearly big enough to cause Waikomo Stream to be flooded, but enough rain over the course of a couple hours to cause water to run off the vacant lots that are north of here. We want to pick up that water at (Inaudible) here, bring it across the road in pipes, bring it to the detention chambers, to allow it to infiltrate into the soil, and if that chamber overflows, the water would bubble out of an inlet here, placed between two (2) trees and go to the stream. At the very end of this drawing, at the south end here, this is right where our project transitions to allow for some on-street parking—you will see more on the next page—where people do currently park for overflow, for the Kukui'ula Market, the dive shop, and shopping center. There are two (2) trees here, one of which we think needs to be removed. It is just too close to the roadway.



It is right at the edge for where the parking is designed—that is the red one there. This yellow one, we believe we can meander the sidewalk around it. We have to look a little more closely at that to be sure, but that is the goal on that. These three (3) here, I did not talk about them, but these three (3) will be saved—no problem. We pulled the sidewalk forward, maybe two (2) or three (3) feet from where it was designed before and we can save those trees.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is that the one on the left?

Mr. Moule: Which one?

Council Chair Rapozo: That you just said—that these three (3) were going to be saved...

Mr. Moule: These three (3) right here. The three (3) green ones to the right of the drawing. Lastly, this is the last image of the project. There are three (3) trees located—two (2) across from the shopping center, there are two (2) green ones over here—and then one (1) a little bit *mauka*. Those three (3), the one on the left here, is proposed to be removed. In this case, there are actually many...there are three (3) larger trees behind it on private property that we do not plan to touch. This is a relatively small tree compared to the ones behind it. I believe this tree, or the one to the left, is not a yellow shower tree anyway, but we are trying save as many as we can, of all types of trees. This one, because of the way the sidewalk and the parking area is shown, it is proposed to be removed, but again, there are three (3) large trees behind it that will be saved. These two (2) trees over here...we have not redrawn this yet because we are working with the private property owner. This line with the double dashes is in the property line between the County and the private property—it is a weird shape, so we are working with the private property owner to get permission to make some adjustments in this area. They are actually doing some work in the area on their property anyway, and they are already amenable to all of this. We just have to work out the details, but until those details are worked out, we do not know how exactly this is going to be redesigned. These will not be removed in the short-term and we have an idea of how we get around them, but we have to figure out how that land works first before we draw it. We see no problem with saving those two (2) trees.

Before I go to the next slide...there have been some rumors—I have not seen it personally on social media—but I have heard people saying we are removing all the trees in front of Kiahuna Plantation Resort. That was never shown on our plans. There were two (2)...well, there were the three (3) I mentioned earlier on the southside, at the Keoki's Paradise roundabout, and then there were three (3) others that were questionable, because they were on the edge of the grading area, but we believe we can save all those trees. There are about thirty (30) to forty (40) trees lining Kiahuna Plantation Resort, and all those trees are proposed to be saved. There is a proposed sidewalk to be in front of those trees. Those will all have shade throughout most of the day because the sun is more on the southside and the trees are south of the sidewalk so that will be a very pleasant section of sidewalk, and we are not planning to remove all those trees. There are a couple other trees that were flagged in an area that we know we can save. Also, there are two (2) large trees in front of the Po'ipū Beach Athletic Club, and those are in an area that is going to be a grass



swale area between the road and the sidewalk. Those two (2) can be saved and we have no problem saving those.

Lastly, I will talk about tree installation. The contract includes hundreds of trees to be installed along Po'ipū Road. It is six hundred twenty-three (623)—it is a lot. I do not think we will actually install that many—as we will get to in a moment—the contract literally has (inaudible) six hundred and twenty-three (623) trees. Most of the trees will be located, likely, in the median of the east section of the project, from the existing roundabout to the Ala Konoiki roundabout. That is where trees can easily be planted. There is potential that they can be relocated in other locations also. For example, on the northside where there are not many trees, at Kiahuna Plantation Resort—across from the resort. One of the things that happened during the design of this project—with three hundred sixty-eight (368) sheets, and a lot of complicated designs—trying to get all the sidewalks to connect to the roads, and make them ADA compliant, making sure the drainage works along the road and the sidewalks—it was very complicated. We punted on the landscape design, we said, “We have to get this project out; It has been twelve (12) years already.” We have to get it out. The funding is there, let us get started. We have the plans for the hardscape. The landscaping design is going to be completed during the project. We will be moving towards public involvement, and especially resort owner involvement because the intent is to have the resorts maintain the landscaping. They committed to that a few years ago. We need to finalize those details and finalize the design, so we can find a design of landscaping that includes trees and ground cover, primarily, by going to the public and working with resorts to see what they can maintain. We will be doing that starting in a couple months—maybe as late as early-January, but we have to do that. It is part of the project. We have money in there for landscaping, which at this point is six hundred twenty-three (623) trees. I think they are of a smaller size, and once we get the final design it is more likely there will be difference in sizes for the trees. If we go bigger, there will be fewer, and it will change the price, but that is planned as part of the project. We are preserving as many trees as possible, even more than we planned in our designs up until two (2) weeks ago, and we are adding trees, significant numbers of trees, in some areas of the project in the future. That is all I have. I am sorry that was a long presentation, but I wanted to make sure that it was very clear on what we are doing and what we are not doing, because there have been a lot of rumors and various things batted about, and I know there are a lot of people here that support the project and were very concerned about trees, and look forward to hearing from folks—if they chose to testify to you all today—hopefully this is helpful for them to understand what we did initially and we have done at their request to do even better than what we had planned. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you, Mr. Moule. This is significantly different from what was presented at the site visit. I appreciate the work that you have put in. I did have a couple of questions. First of all, you mentioned that this came before Council numerous times for approvals—January 25, 2025 was the Kōloa Community Association meeting. You also mentioned that there were many community meetings, throughout the process, early on...but the shower tree removal was never discussed, right?

Mr. Moule:

That is correct.

Council Chair Rapozo: I think that is important.

Mr. Moule: I said that.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay. That is important because you can have as many community meetings as you want, but if you are not letting the community know what exactly is being done then it does not make sense. The other question that I have is, on page 31 of your presentation, where you have the two (2) red trees and the three (3) yellow trees on that one span, and I think, if I heard you right, you said that the stream is very close to the sidewalk?

Mr. Moule: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: Should we be concerned, because that stream is so close to where these trees are going to be removed? I am looking at the "yellow," in my mind, as it being red, because the chances of it going—I mean I like when you say we are going to try to save it—but I have to assume the worst. If we lose those five (5) trees, is that going to impact the erosion of that portion of the streambed? Because that is a span, it is not one (1) tree, you are removing all of those trees. Is that something we should be concerned about?

Mr. Moule: Is it possible to bring that slide up and talk about that area?

Council Chair Rapozo: Page 31...assuming all of those trees are removed, does that impact the integrity of the streambed, that soil.

Mr. Moule: Thank you for question. The embankment is a natural embankment, with stone and very solid soil, it is not fill, so it is a stable embankment generally. Although it is too close to the road to put the sidewalk behind the trees, it is still relatively far from the sidewalk and trees. You will not be able to see what I am pointing at, but I will describe it and you can see it. At the top left of the drawing, it says "top bank" there, and then you see the third most yellow tree. It says, "top bank." That is the top of the slope of the embankment of the stream. That line continues...you see those numbers-905, it is just below that line, where it says "3-3, diameter equals 2" that dash-line is the top on the embankment. It is still proximately six (6) or seven (7) feet from the back of the sidewalk. The narrowest looks like it is about five (5) feet here. The sidewalk is four (4) feet, shown there—so five (5) feet more to the embankment. It is still fairly far back from the sidewalk, and that is the narrowest spot, it is wider as you move away from that tightest spot by the leftmost red tree. As I said, I do believe we can save these two (2) yellow trees. We will be confirming that in the next couple of weeks. The contractor will be removing some of the undergrowth in this area as well, so we can see better, and confirm all this. We will be looking at this area more closely over the next few weeks, to see how this is going to work. There are lots of portions of this embankment, this stream, that do not have any trees at all along the embankment...we think it will be sufficient to leave it that way.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay. I have one more question. I wanted to show this one—this is on Rice Street where we built around the tree...yes, that slide.

No, that is the telephone pole. The next one. The one before that. The telephone pole is the same thing though...

Mr. Moule: I mean, telephones are different because you do not have to leave any space for the tree to grow...

Council Chair Rapozo: What is that?

Mr. Moule: Telephone poles are different...

Council Chair Rapozo: Yes, I am looking at this one.

Mr. Moule: Yes, let us look at the tree.

Council Chair Rapozo: I am assuming I am seeing what is on here. I noticed there is a little area around the tree stump—I am assuming it is for growth—but is that a possibility for Kōloa?

Mr. Moule: We are leaving way more space than that on Po'ipū Road. We are leaving...we are just putting the sidewalk...we are not wrapping it around any trees. We are leaving it in front of or behind, to leave the tree with, all but one side of the tree...

Council Chair Rapozo: No, but what I am asking is on the trees that you have to remove, is it possible to do this?

Mr. Moule: Well, we have to have at least four (4) feet around one (1) side...

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay.

Mr. Moule: We can go back to the image I was just showing—the two (2) I was talking about—if we put four (4) feet behind that tree, we will be at the edge of that bank...I said there is five (5) feet from the back of that sidewalk, so I think we would be too close. By the way, this is a State project, not a County project.

Council Chair Rapozo: I do not care if it is a State or County project. It does not matter to me if it is State or County. We are talking about the technology today, the ability that contractors have to save a tree and keep a sidewalk. Whether it is State, Federal, County, or private, it does not matter.

Mr. Moule: We will look at it. I think the problem is this case is—what we would do, if we were to get around the tree, you have to keep four (4) feet minimum for ADA at every location. That is required.

Council Chair Rapozo: I do not know—and maybe Rice Street got a variance—because I swear some of these...

Mr. Moule: I think there is four (4) feet behind that tree.

Council Chair Rapozo: Yes, this one but there are many others—anyway, regardless, the limiting factor here for us is the four (4) feet, ADA?

Mr. Moule: Yes. Like I said, we will look at that and see if we can put it behind those two (2) trees. I think we will be too close to the embankment for safety, for people walking. Again, it may be five (5) trees, it may only be two (2) trees. If we did it, we would not do it like this with sidewalks on both sides, we would do it with just four (4) feet on the one side. But yes, we are trying to do this as much as we are able, but again, we are not going to split it like that we are just going to put it on one side—once you have the four (4) feet, there is no point in having two (2) feet on the other side. The reason the State does this is because they do not want to maintain grass between the sidewalk and the curb, so they pave the whole thing in front even though the actual accessible, pedestrian access route is behind the tree—four (4) feet—they pave the front, so they do not have to maintain the rest of it.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay. I have to go in with my tape measure because I swear some of those spaces were less than four (4) feet...

Mr. Moule: On Rice Street, there are places where we were so constrained that we did have to go less than four (4) feet.

Council Chair Rapozo: Right. Again, how did that happen? Did you get a variance or an exemption?

Mr. Moule: It is a long discussion to go through the ADA requirements...

Council Chair Rapozo: I am just saying...if the intent is to preserve the trees, there is a way to do it.

Mr. Moule: Yes, if it is technically infeasible, you do not have to meet the full requirements of ADA. I do not know if they would allow—if the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) would allow trees to make it technically infeasible.

Councilmember Cowden: What is DCAB?

Mr. Moule: The Disability and Communications Access Board with the State. They review our plans for accessibility purposes. We would want to ask them that question before we went through a technical and feasibility (inaudible) less than four (4) feet around a tree. We are going to look at that whole area and lay it all out with what has been designed and see how things fall, with respect to the trees, the sidewalk, the embankment of the stream, to make sure it is safe—because we do not want the sidewalk to be too close to the embankment. We want to save as many trees as possible for shade, and for all of the other reasons you discussed earlier.

Council Chair Rapozo: I appreciate the revisions you have done since the site visit, I really do. It is a big difference, so thank you for that. Councilmember Cowden, do you have some follow up?

Councilmember Cowden: I had the same question you had, could we wrap it around the sidewalk? He answered it.

Council Chair Rapozo: Are there any other questions?  
Councilmember Holland.

Councilmember Holland: Thank you so much, Michael. I really appreciate all the work you are doing to adapt. One of the things that has been accused in some of the testimony that we received, is that this project is directly funded...requested or a part of the expansion of Pinkston developments—that are happening in that area. I am wondering if there is any truth to those claims. I want to publicly have some sort of answer to that.

Mr. Moule: This project long predates Pinkston's involvement in the development on Kiahuna Plantation Drive, which I think is the one you are talking about. It was planned and designed long before Pinkston bought that property and started developing it. However, there are development payments, including from Pinkston and other developers, that are being used as part of the match for this project. We would be building the project even without those funds, it just means that we use less County money for the project. They are required by some of the years-ago conditions of approval that were done for that land years ago, they were required to build improvements. Including some of the improvements that are related to this project, I think a few years ago, they came to Council to receive that money. They pay a sum to cover the cost of the improvements at the old development agreements for that whole area, which was talked about for that particular project. There are other funds for development that are being used for this project. All those funds, I believe, are shown in the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budget. That can be looked at and seen by anyone.

Councilmember Holland: Following about the roundabout, particularly at the entrance to that section by Keoki's Paradise, was that or was that not specifically established at the request or the desire of Pinkston? I am just...

Mr. Moule: It was not. Thank you for asking that question...it was not. That was shown on the original drawings from the 2013 charrette. It was planned long before Pinkston owned that property. Does it make it easier to get to those properties or exit those properties in the future? Of course it does. Any property up Kiahuna Plantation Drive will be safer. Anyone leaving those properties trying to access Po'ipū Road will be safer because they do not have to do the "tennis" thing where they have to—watching cars go back and forth to pull out. They can just come to the roundabout and yield to one (1) direction, enter, and circulate. We have received lots of complaints about the intersection. Back in 2013, it was very clear, that is where people wanted a roundabout. While it does make that property safer, it does so for all the other people who use that area, including mainly the existing shopping center at Po'ipū Shopping Village.



Councilmember Holland: Thank you for answering that.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: I have a follow up on that. My memory is that part of the conversation with the roundabout at Kiahuna—and I will say, it would be nicer to not have those trees taken down, but part of that concern was emergencies. If we had fires, and especially if we had a situation where there is a high wave event, flooding, or fires...convergence. It is almost like—I am just guessing the number—a 1,500-person cul-de-sac up there. There are very few ways to come out...so that is an area that I have a lot of discomfort over. I wish there could be east and west roads out of that area, because if we had a real crisis...I liked your expression of “tennis court,” I have never thought like that before, left-right, left-right—but if people are trying to get out, if we had an emergency evacuation, having a roundabout would help the flow and help people get up and out away. Was that a big part of the consideration, is that accurate?

Mr. Moule: Yes, it is. It certainly helps with the evacuation. I did not mention this earlier, but at the 2013 charrette, I was here. I was not an employee, I was actually a consultant on that charrette, and it was after that that we started the whole process of me joining the County of Kauaʻi and moving to Kauaʻi.

Councilmember Cowden: I was at that charrette.

Mr. Moule: One of the things I did during that charrette—I had been to Kauaʻi a few times—but I had not seen the Poʻipū area that much. I have walked and biked around the area to get a sense of it and I thought, “How is this massive area only have this one (1) exit to the south.” When you are to the north of that, like at the Wāinani subdivision, you are less than a mile from Kōloa Town, but you have to drive two and a half (2½) to three and a half (3½) miles to get out. I was shocked. That is a challenging situation overall, for sure. Especially given the fact that the one way—that stop controlled intersection is challenging to get out of and certainly this will help with the emergency evacuation of that entire area. I think it is important aspect of that, as you said.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay. Thank you. I am just going to plug—look, there is cane haul road from up there that goes over to Poʻipū Road. I hope some time we can really look at that as a possibility to get out—it comes out right next to Koaʻe Makana housing. There is a way, because I have a fear for that whole community, especially if we were having a tsunami or any kind of high wave event that could take out Poʻipū Road or that area. I would love it if people could go lateral and inward without having to come all the way down to the roundabout...so just plugging that.

Mr. Moule: That is valid point.

Council Chair Rapozo: We will end it with her plug, since we are focusing on this specific plan. Are there any other questions? Councilmember Carvalho.

Councilmember Carvalho: I am following up on the community part of it. When this all started we were assured—and this is clarifying—that every step of the way that we made sure community was involved in understanding. Some may not have, but clarifying that we are not removing all the trees. There may be some, based upon what was shared today. The bigger picture was the layout. I just wanted to clarify that nothing was done without informing the community every step of the way.

Mr. Moule: Yes, we have been involved with the community all the way through, but as we have discussed in this meeting, we did not go to the level of detail with trees as we are today. I am glad we are doing it, honestly...it is hard to think about. There are a whole lot of other details in the project that we did not go through either, like exactly how the sidewalk ties into this road and how the drainage works. There are a lot of details that we did not do. Lesson learned, we probably should have done more tree discussion earlier in the project and I am glad we are doing it now.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember Kualii.

Councilmember Kualii: Following up on this question, on your last slide, page 33, you had those bulleted items. You talked about the six hundred twenty-three (623) trees that will be added and most of them were of a smaller size, then you also talked about the landscaping design to be complete during the project, and then you said “public involvement plan landscaping design.” Do you have projected future dates that are coming up for the public to participate in or is that still aways off?

Mr. Moule: We have not scheduled those yet. We wanted to get this project started, and start on the hardscape, with everyone involved knowing that the landscaping design is going to come during the project—it is kind of the last thing you do, it is a two-year project. We have not scheduled the meetings, we will be scheduling the meetings. We are in discussions right now about who at the County is going to be coordinating those meetings and managing all of that.

Councilmember Kualii: I think at some other point you said it is potentially a two-year project. Will this part happen at the halfway point, the three-quarter point, or...

Mr. Moule: My plan right now, I do not know if we are going to kick it off this year, but I suspect that we will be looking at early next year for the meetings and discussions on the landscaping design to start. So that we can get that done in time to build it during that two (2) year and two (2) months timeframe that the project is supposed to be.

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

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you. Again, I would just suggest that we really work had with the community involvement on that landscaping plan—and please do not put that ugly grass that they put on the Hardy Street medians, that grows long and is so hard to maintain—let us keep it tight. Even if the hotels are going

to maintain it, that is some ugly grass we have there. Keep it nice for our employees who have to maintain it, something that is easily maintained. No matter how nice they make that sidewalk, when you get all that overgrowth, which is common here in Līhu'e, it is not pretty. It is not our rural character.

Mr. Moule: That ugly grass is a native grass, but it is hard to maintain, for sure.

Council Chair Rapozo: There are other native grasses that we can use, that are not going to be ugly. Anyway, thank you very much. I really appreciate the revisions, Troy, Michael, and your team, for what has happened since the site visit. Thank you.

Mr. Moule: Thank you. We will be here for any questions later.

Council Chair Rapozo: Yes, please do not leave. I think we will take a caption break now, so we do not interrupt the public testimony. We have to do it at 10:30 a.m., so we will do it now and then we will come back. If you have not signed up to testify, please do so that way we can get through it as quick as we can.

There being no objections, the Council recessed at 10:08 a.m.

The meeting was called back to order at 10:21 a.m., and proceeded as follows:

Council Chair Rapozo: Could we have our first registered speaker please?

JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA, County Clerk: The first registered speaker is Tommy Noyes, followed by Julie Souza.

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

TOMMY NOYES: Aloha Councilmembers, and folks coming out to express their concerns on this matter. My name is Tommy Noyes, I am the Executive Director of Kauai Path, Inc. a 501(c) nonprofit advocacy organization, working to make our communities more walkable and bikeable. The trees in question here are certainly a source of community pride and solidarity. We love our trees, all around the island. I think we are trying to balance the gains and losses that change definitely brings about. It is really heartening to hear that everyone wants to find the best solution for everyone, that enhances how ability to move actively in our communities and retains the special character of our island. The mitigation of the four (4) to ten (10) trees being lost, I understand can be addressed through the application of available funds for landscaping, so we may lose some trees because we do not have a perfect world that we live in. But we can make mitigating steps with community input and available funds for that purpose. I would love to see connectivity out of that Kiahuna area, up in to Kōloa. I would love to see Hapa trail developed as a connection between those *makai* and *mauka* communities. I want to put that bug in your ear for future consideration, Hapa trail and exiting that area up

into the developed Kōloa. Thank you very much for your consideration, and I appreciate your thoughtful approach to this concerning problem *Mahalo*.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa:  
Rupert Rowe.

Next speaker is Julie Souza, followed by

JULIE SOUZA: First of all, *aloha kakahiaka* Chair and rest of the body of members. My name is Julie Souza. I have lived in Po'ipū-Kukui'ula as I always say because it is closer to Kukui'ula –all my life. I have been there for eighty (80) years and the beauty of Kaua'i, as we all know are our trees and our flowers. Why would we want to put so much away, and cut them, and we lose our nickname "The Garden Isle"? We might as well go to some place on the mainland, like Portland, Oregon, and see all the cement that you have there. We do not need all of that. We are a small community...I am here for the shower trees, I do not want any of them to be cut. They were put there by someone. These trees are not indigenous to Kaua'i or Hawai'i, but someone had the gall to go out there and plant these baby trees. Now they are huge, and they are beautiful. I do not know if you have come down when they are in bloom, it is gorgeous and so that is the gateway to our Po'ipū area, where a lot of our tourists go for Da Crack Mexican Grinds, the tour things the get there at Kukui'ula Market...I would not want to see any trees removed. I am sure that with all the technology that we have today, that something can be done to save all of them—not only, "Oh, okay, we got to take these two (2) away because they are too close." It scares me with Waikomo Stream, if we get a big rain, and that stream carries a lot of water that goes down to the outlet of Kōloa Landing Resort, without any of that root coverage...I know the roots go straight down, but they are not only going straight down, they travel. They are holding up that bank, to me. I do not have any of that training, maybe I am "talking out of two sides of my mouth" but...we have got to save those trees. Another thing, we worry about the safety, the safety of our children, the safety of our guests that are coming. I have been fighting for a crosswalk down at Honi Road and Lawai Road to come across to Kukui'ula Shopping Center—Councilmember Cowden and I have been waiting—I am eighteenth on the list. Tell me why we have eighteen (18) crosswalks on the island of Kaua'i that need to be painted in. Can you not paint one everyday and be done in eighteen (18) days? It does not make sense to me, there is only one (1) crosswalk and it is up by the roundabout. Now the people who are coming over Ho'onani Bridge, from Kōloa Landing Resort, from the condominiums, and the Sherton Kaua'i.

Council Chair Rapozo: I have to stop you because of the time limit. You can come back for three (3) more minutes after we go through the cycle.

Ms. Souza: Okay. My main concern here today is to save our trees, we can put in the walkways, that was not an issue. That was not an issue. It is the trees to be saved. I will say, if I did not notice those pink ribbons on the trees...today we would not be here talking about the trees because they would have been gone.

Council Chair Rapozo: The way it works, you come up for the first time for three (3) minutes, and then you will see the yellow light letting you know you have thirty (30) seconds—I apologize, I should have said this first—when it is red, like

it was for Julie, then your time is up, but you can come back for a second round after everyone has testified. With that, next speaker.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa:

Rupert Rowe, followed by Fran Tucker.

RUPERT ROWE: My name is Rupert Rowe, the Po'o of Kāneiolouma Heiau. We have a serious problem in that area, let us not talk about making sidewalks. Let us talk about the fire station at the mouth of the river. That station floods every time it rains. Why is the County letting that happen? The fire station was supposed to be above Kōloa Park. Then it was moved down into the County property, that was the County baseyard. Now, when you are talking about these sidewalks coming down and cutting the trees, what is the drainage plan? The County—the engineer right here—we have been asking them. Second thing, down the road, Ho'owili Road is an illegal road. It was created in 1960 when Vidinha gave up the shoreline from the Waiohai to the Sheraton...so they could move Kiahuna and Waiohai to the ocean. That was for tourism back then. But there is a serious problem—where is the drainage? The County cannot use the *heiau* as the detention basin. Who deprives us of our legal right, our customary and traditional rights, as *kanaka*? I came here today to correct the problem...I have asked Troy five (5) times—I would like to meet with him. The Department of Parks and Recreation has showed up, the Fire Department has shown up, the State Department has shown up...Public Works where are you? You do not even show up. I have called your office and you do not return the call...that means you are not important. That is a problem. Ho'owili Road—where is the 106 (?) for that road? Former Managing Director Micheal Dahilig gave you all a warning—it is an illegal road. The over and under easement was there in 1965 when it went across into Weliweli tract. That is the legal road. Not the road going down to the park. He gave you all a warning and nobody paid attention, now I am here. I am eight-four (84) years old...all this is *bull* that is happening on the Southside is not going to continue. When I come here, I speak like this—harsh. Why do I have to do that? You all do not want to correct the problem. Especially the Department of Public Works—where is the drainage plan? I have legal counsel. I have three (3) legal counsels, waiting to take you all on.

Council Chair Rapozo:  
speaker.

Okay, I will have to stop you there...next

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa:

Fran Tucker, followed by Maureen Murphy.

FRAN TUCKER:

First of all, I just want to thank the Council for hearing the community's concerns and objections...

Council Chair Rapozo:  
captioner?

Could you please state your name for our

Ms. Tucker:

Yes. My name is Fran Tucker, and I live at Waikomo Stream Villas condominium in Kōloa. I want to especially thank Chair Rapozo for meeting with the public the other day, and to Michael and his group for being there to talk about the things that are of concern to us, which are the trees. The trees are...they are beautiful. They do represent the Garden Island and it is what visitors want to see, it is what local people want to see. I am very grateful to consider



myself local after thirteen (13) years here, full time, and twenty-six (26) years as an owner here. My desire—my appreciation to Michael is that he did hear the concerns, and we saw some of those changes represented here today in his remarks, and I thank him for that. My hope is that before any trees are taken out—and I noticed that the blessing was yesterday—I hope I do not see trees coming out today. I think it is easier to leave a mature tree, than to take one out and then replant it, maybe, when a new landscaping design is decided on and, “oh wait, that tree would have looked so nice there.” If the design—as it goes to these trees—if it can really be thought out carefully and let the trees stay in, until the design is finalized. If indeed a tree has to come out for some reason that is reasonable, then it is going to be more acceptable for those of us who do not want to see any trees out. That is all I have to say, except a personal thank you to Michael, because I did confirm that there is going to be a left turn lane into Waikomo Stream Villas and I am so grateful to that. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you very much.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: Maureen Murphy, followed by Jodi Ascuena.

MAUREEN MURPHY: *Aloha kakahiaka.* I am Maureen Murphy. I represent the Kauaʻi Outdoor Circle as well as I am the Vice President of The Outdoor Circle. I am also a certified arborist and a registered consulting arborist. I am here obviously to support the trees. I have a couple a things that I think are important. One, we have to stop calling them “shower” trees. They are not shower trees, they are yellow trumpet trees, if you want to have a common name. The shower trees on the Kōloa bypass road. They are not here...the public is very confused about this, they keep going, “What is wrong with those trees?” Please, in all of your documents, called them the yellow trumpet trees. These trees are on a federally-funded designation scenic highway...enough said about that. Also, over the last sixteen (16) years since they first started looking at this project, there have been many, many developments involving trees and sidewalks, and how to protect the trees, and new kinds of sidewalks. I strongly encourage all of you to get arborists involved—I do not believe that an arborist was even consulted thirteen (13) years ago. The County does not have an arborist on staff...why was an arborist not consulted in the very beginning? We could have saved the County a whole lot of money. My next question is, is there a tree protection plan...that is going to be included in the landscape design? When you talk about two hundred sixty (260) trees included in the new plan, my guess is that it includes an awful lot of shrubs, not trees. I would like to know what the count is on the trees. I would also really like that whenever any kind of issue around the trees happens, that the Outdoor Circle is consulted. We have been around for a hundred fifteen (115) years, and no one bothered to contact the Outdoor Circle. I want to thank you in advance—you gave the best presentation, Council Chair Rapozo, that anyone could...

Council Chair Rapozo: Yes, but I called them “shower” trees. I am sorry, I stand corrected. Thank you. Next speaker.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: Jodi Ascuena, followed by Marianne Martin.

JODI ASCUENA: *Aloha kākou.* My name is Jodi Ascuena and I am a tree-fan. Any tree that is cut down without a solid reason is a loss for Kauaʻi,

for Hawai'i, and for the planet. I live right on Po'ipū Road and look forward very much to the blossoming of those yellow trees. When I saw there was a pink ribbon tied around the trunks, I wondered about what that was for...surely, they would not cut them down. When they are in bloom, the ones in Hanapēpē and Waimea are also in flower, and it is such a delight to witness the vibrancy of those brilliant, golden flowers. I urge the County of Kaua'i not to cut down any tree that is so enjoyed by the general public. Certainly not the yellow ones on Po'ipū Road, near the roundabout. I have a little thing to say about the roundabout, on a side note—I live on Po'ipū Road and drive that road and go past that roundabout two (2), three (3), four (4) times a day. I hope when you do the roundabout near Keoki's Paradise that you consider not putting a sidewalk directly off the exit from the roundabout. I am from England, I have seen roundabouts—England is a country of roundabouts. When you are on a roundabout and you stop for someone in that sidewalk, the cars are piled up behind you, on a roundabout...you cannot often stop right there, it causes a clog. I wanted to say that a little bit like that happened this morning, on the way here, coming through Maluhia Road onto Kaumuali'i Highway, there was a big traffic jam there, I apologize for being late. I thought to myself, when I am driving through those trees, is there anything closer to heaven than driving through the tree tunnel? Maybe you could sit back under a beach chair, under one of those trees, with maybe a local person—maybe Paul Togioka—playing the slack-key music over there...could there be anything closer to heaven? Keep the trees. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo:

Thank you.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa:  
Quinsaas.

Marianne Martin, followed by Sandra

MARIANNE MARTIN: *Aloha*, my name is Marianne Martin and I am here representing myself. I have been a resident and have lived in the Po'ipū area for twenty-five (25) years. I have a question about the theory of roundabouts, and if they really help with the flow of traffic. When there is no rush, of course it is beautiful. I do see how that big Kukui'ula one works...but during the evacuation, nothing worked. You could not get through the roundabout. It was full of cars. All three (3) evacuation routes out of the Southshore, by the time we were told to leave, were completely backed up. My understanding is that the Keoki's roundabout is there to help the flow of traffic, but if that development is almost near Kōloa...are they not at a high enough level already? Why are we evacuating that property down into the Po'ipū area? Which ties into this tree situation, because those two (2) trees at Keoki's intersection—if you are driving from Po'ipū Road in, or from the bypass road in, it is in the heart of Po'ipū, and it is gorgeous from whatever direction you come. It is shade, which is so appreciated in the sunniest side of the island. We sent a lot of moneys over to Lah'a'ina to save that one banyan tree...and we are going to take down those two (2) big beauties. I would just like see some real thought put on that roundabout, about what you said, about evacuating, and these other alternative routes, because if we are designing the roundabout for that development to get out smoothly and not do this—I argue that in an emergency, that is the wrong direction to be heading. On the shower trees, seriously look at those...

Council Chair Rapozo:

Trumpet. Trumpet trees.

Ms. Martin: I called Lani at Outdoor Circle, I used to live on Oahu, and I stand corrected. Those ones that are nearest the top of, the closest to town, the three (3) or four (4) others, where I just learned how to understand those blueprints, it is coming very close to the bank of the creek. I did a lot of studying of these trumpet trees, and their root system is very good next to sidewalks, very solid, very dense and might be the only thing holding up that bank near town, and you have all seen what happens in Kōloa Town—we have not had any water, water has been turned off on the Southside. All the creek beds are growing in. We are going to have to do some serious clearing out of those stream beds and figure out why there is no water flowing there. Hopefully, they did not turn it off to do this roadwork. Anyway, thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: Sandra Quinsaas, followed by Tessie Kinnaman.

SANDRA QUINSAAS: Aloha, good morning. I am Sandra Quinsaas and I am representing myself as a member of the community. Thank you for hearing us this morning, and for that site visit that we did last week. I think we have come a ways from that visit and with what I have heard this morning, I am really glad to have had people here to speak on behalf of the community, to speak about the problems we have in that area, and for you all to listen so gracefully and...to help us to bring this to fruition. I just want to say thank you, and support the keeping of the trumpet trees because they are beautiful. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: The last registered speaker is Tessie Kinnaman.

TESSIE KINNAMAN: Tessie Kinnaman, for the record. Good morning, Chair Rapozo, Councilmembers...Chair Rapozo, I liked your tree sticking out of the sidewalk and these pictures show, in front of Lāwa'i Beach Resort, where there is no curbing for the sidewalk and for the pavement, so I would like to see something like that along the project site. And do not plant grass, because the County can not keep up with it no matter how—I mean we are so used to the guinea grass on the riverside, so that is green enough for me. Sorry about that. As far as the trees go, I think we could maintain a lot of them, keep a lot of them there. I am not an engineer, but the road on the western side could be elevated a bit so that it can drain better. I think it would be very nice to have the walkway for—I see a lot of mothers pushing their strollers and they have to get off the road and go in the grass and it is kind of rough. So, I appreciate the improvements that are going to be happening there, but do save the trees. They are an asset to the community. I guess with the new improvements, the traffic lines would delineate where the bikeways and walkways are going to be. As long as there is no parking along that area, except where the dive shop has their business across the street where they store their boats and cars. Other than that, save the trees, I like your idea of showing that State project with the tree planted in the sidewalk, so I am sure this can happen too, along the stream. Thank you very much.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: Council Chair, there are no further registered speakers.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is there anyone else wanting to come up for the second time? We have someone else for the first time. You just have to state your name for the captioner.

NAPUA HO'OKANO: Good morning. *Aloha* Chair Rapozo and the rest of the Councilmembers. My name is Napua Ho'okano. I currently reside in the Līhu'e district, but I grew up in Kalāheo. As teens, we literally lived down at Po'ipū Beach. My dad worked at the base yard, which was mentioned earlier—it is the location at which the fire station is located. I have a deep interest in keeping an eye on Kōloa and what goes on there. We might not have control over expanding golf courses, shoreline hotels, or luxury homes that overshadow the existing residential properties in that district, but we can appeal to the County Council in the hope that they listen and consider our suggestions. I am here to join the others in keeping the yellow trumpet trees. I am going to skip over what everyone else said and just get to my two (2) suggestions. If moneys are specific to this area and unchangeable, then widen Po'ipū Road on both sides in that area, so all trees can be spared. It was said, "Do not cut the trees, move the road." Yes, move the road over to the east and let the west shoulder become a combination bicycle/walking path. Why? Because all the homes are on the westside, because the store is on the westside of the road, and at least six (6) properties along the western shoulder have rock walls already in place along their property lines. Why not use this to your advantage? These rock walls could serve as a border to the sidewalk. The road would be wide, marked, shared, and most importantly, trees would be spared. A win-win for all. The second suggestion is, if moneys are available specific to this Waikomo area, but could possibly be reappropriated, then delay the Waikomo sidewalk. Do not start there, but continue the sidewalk from Kōloa Elementary School. Picture the current situation; sidewalks are available from the intersection where the new roundabout is going to be, down to Kōloa Elementary School. There are no sidewalks from Kōloa Elementary School down to Koa'e Makana housing; sidewalk along Makana housing; and no sidewalks past Makana housing. So for a very short distance in front of the Borthwick Mortuary, the road is shared...because there are bicycle paths that are already marked, which means it is okay for the County to share. Let us continue the sidewalk from Kōloa Elementary School down to the roundabout and pick up where you left off. That is all I have to say. Does this not make sense? Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you. Is there anyone else wishing to speak? Is there anyone else for the first time?

Ms. Souza: I want to take the time to thank all of the neighbors for their love, as much as I love our island. To see them all here is heartwarming to me. Thank you for listening to us. We hope we can get our trees to stay where they are. Forget about Hapa trail, to make that a road, because that is going to be a whole lot of trouble...but thank you, thank you, thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo:  
speak for the second time?

Thank you. Is there anyone else wanting to

Mr. Rowe: I am not going to be violent...anyway, there is a serious problem with the drainage in that area. Where the trumpet trees are, the road that is there now, is almost as high as the river that is going down. Anything along that way will affect the fire station. Those are your first responders. It should be placed back on the top as an emergency. You cannot have the fire station become a handicap. Now, getting back to Kānei'olouma Heiau. We cannot use the cultural site for the private sector to dump their water. I testified in front of the Land Use Commission, and they told the landowner to present a drainage plan. From the fire station to the *heiau*, there are detention basins on the other side of the road. As soon as you come to the *heiau* the County is given permission to use the *heiau* as a detention basin—what is going on? So now Grove Farm has to provide a drainage plan, too. Grove Farm would dump their water in the Knudsen's property. All of these little things that are taking place over there—we are passing development in this area—I can see the development coming, but I cannot see the drainage plan. They will make the sidewalk come down, but they do not talk about the drainage. The drainage is affecting the fire station. Let us “put our cap on our head” and know that is a serious problem. Let us not bypass and start making sidewalks. Let us move the fire station; it is an emergency. It should be where it was to begin with. The reason it moved over there is because, on this island, that is the only station with a ladder truck to fight the structures that are three (3) stories high. That is why the fire station was put there. I was the first person to stay in that station, but we were all so surprised when the County moved the station to where it is at now. We testified at the hearings for the station saying that, “We should not be down there, because we are in the flood area.” But we went down there, so now there is a serious problem. That is a problem that should be taken care of immediately.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you very much. Is there anyone else wanting to testify? If not, I will call the meeting back to order.

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

Council Chair Rapozo: Is there any further discussion?  
Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: I have a question, you can tell me whether or not I can ask it, I see Solomon Kanoho in the back corner. When Marianne asked questions about evacuations—since this is a bit on the road—I wonder if those roundabouts did in fact completely congest...

Council Chair Rapozo: Yeah, I would...

Councilmember Cowden: Do not ask that now?

Council Chair Rapozo: It is probably not within the scope of the agenda posting, but you can send that question over to them, because that is an important question.



Councilmember Cowden: It is a tremendous expense to be putting in to build all this, and I want it all to work, but there is a serious problem—I know I am passionate about clearing it...

Council Chair Rapozo: What I would say is that for the Fire Department, or Kaua'i Emergency Management Agency, that they would be in consultation with our engineers to make sure that all of that has been addressed.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay.

Council Chair Rapozo: This body does not have the authority to rewrite the plans but it definitely...we should not be surprised with what Marianne said, that when everyone is getting into the roundabout it will be just as clogged as any other road. That is something they can work on.

Councilmember Cowden: Yes, that is what I think. It will be better than what it is now, for sure.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember Holland.

Councilmember Holland: I want to say a few things. I want to start with thanking the community for showing up. It is really important to have you all here, and I think you should put it on your Wednesday agendas to come more often. Thank you for all the testimony. We received...I tried to do a count this morning, we received forty-four (44) emails asking us to not delay this project because of the critical need for sidewalks in that area, and then twenty-nine (29) asking us to please rethink this plan for the trees, plus a lot of other comments and social media engagement around this topic as well. I want to say that I do think this is a wonderful change, and I appreciate our engineering team for sitting down and going through this again, and for figuring out how to save as many trees as possible. I am hopeful that we can save almost all the trees, if not all the trees. I want to thank our team who has worked so hard for this project to go through. Over twelve (12) years of trying to get these things going and now at the completion of all this, the contractors have been hired, and everything has been moving forward...to make adjustments this "late in the game" is not easy for our team, so I really thank our Public Works team for trying accommodate the need. I think it is important as we look forward collectively, as a community, how do we plant appropriate things in this area for the long-term vision? What do we want to see in thirty (30) years, in forty (40) years? How do we establish some native trees and flowers along that area, think to the future. This development gives us an incredible opportunity to think about what we want those paths to be lined with and what we want them to look like in the future. Ideally we can save as many trees as possible. I would encourage that if any are removed, that they are replanted, specifically and intentionally. I think we do need more arborist engagement, and that has been a problem on Kaua'i for a long time. The drainage issue that we have in that area, both along those trees and in the wider Po'ipū area is very, very significant. I have had the opportunity through some of my consulting work as an environmental scientist to interview some of you—Auntie Julie, Uncle Rupert. I have had many opportunities to ask questions about your childhood in that area, and the excessive drainage issues that we have. I think part of the problem that we deal with is that our engineers and our project managers and these projects that

happen are all individual—they come in and they are looking at a single project, but really we have a broader issue of Po'ipū and Kōloa having unchecked development from the 1960s through the 1990s, where we watched the decimation of a lot of those agricultural and ancient systems, and the movement of water through that area. We have a much bigger problem in that area, and Uncle Rupert is correct about needing larger drainage plans. Wherever possible, I do encourage our county to look at that and to really manage that erosion, and to think about the water movement in that area because the flooding is just getting worse, and all these issues that have been brought up today are significant. The last thing I want to say on this is, on a personal note, I also love those trumpet trees. They remind me of the jacarandas from when I went to college in Australia, the purple jacarandas, so I also enjoy seeing them and I am thankful that the County is doing everything we can to preserve what we can. Thank you everyone for being here and to all of our team for such hard work.

Council Chair Rapozo:

Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay. I do not want to repeat too much of what Councilmember Holland said, but I do want to thank everyone in the room—definitely the activated community, I hope you know that it made a difference. You made a difference. I want to thank Council Chair Rapozo for placing this on the agenda and for putting in all the work that you did, it really made a difference. I want to thank our Public Works team for adapting to save as many trees as they think that they possibly can. I also want to thank Goodfellow Bros. for holding off on the removal. That was very good. I want to reflect on what we have heard, and I agree wholeheartedly about causing the community to look like the continental United States. Even in the continental United States, all those communities do not want to all look that same way, right? Not everyone wants to have five (5) lanes with a lot of asphalt and concrete. I appreciate the comparison to other islands...look at Kihei. It used to have a lot more character than it does, and even Puhi—that is important to me. I want to speak to those five (5) trees along the thin area of sidewalk. I appreciate the challenge, and the importance of wanting to have someone who is in a wheelchair or has their double stroller, down in that area. As a Northshore person, where we have everything wash away, I understand the difference of tearing out the trees. You could tear out the trees to put in the sidewalk, but if the flooding is such that it will simply undermine the sidewalk that is placed there, that is something I think is very important to look at, and maybe they have to do something to the embankment to keep...if they take one (1) or two (2) trees out, so it does not go right underneath the sidewalk. When we are looking at all the roadways there, I appreciate Uncle Rupert bringing up Ho'owili Road because for at least half the time I have been in office or more, that has been raised as an issue. Echoing a little bit of what Councilmember Holland said, the challenge is that we look at everything in bits and pieces, as those issues come up...one year, one decade, the next decade. I want thank Public Works again for the twelve (12) to thirteen (13) years of effort on this, but the drainage is a big issue and we do need to figure out how...it is kind of sideways to this conversation, but I will appreciate what Uncle Rupert shared, that we do need to look at that drainage. Thank you all, and thank you again especially to Public Works for coming up with a redesign to save as many trees as possible. It took me an hour and twenty (20) minutes to get here this morning...longer than it took me yesterday morning to get from Kīlauea to Po'ipū. Traffic does matter to some degree, so you can make it to work on time and listen to everybody. We have to have that balance.

Council Chair Rapozo:

Thank you. Councilmember Bulosan.

Councilmember Bulosan: Yes, I would like to echo the thanks. *Mahalo* Council Chair Rapozo for getting this on the agenda, *mahalo* to our departments for the presentation and for working with the team, and a special *mahalo* to our community for showing up and being here and sharing your testimony, for reaching out. In a perfect world, on every single matter, we hope that this is the engagement, where there is strong community support and strong collaboration and communication, and our government responds properly and does the right thing. This project is one that is echoing in my mind, over and over, because it is a lot like what we experienced here on Rice Street, and what I call my hometown, being born and raised here in Līhu'e, and the efforts that many have worked on for just as long as this project. I am getting all these flashbacks every time we are talking about trees and walkways and all the things, because when I moved back home ten (10) years ago, these were all the things we were working on, to make sure they were included in the revitalization of Līhu'e. I am ecstatic and excited for our Kōloa and Po'ipū community. It makes a huge difference when you have that walkability, safe routes, very considered spaces, and it is vital for us to always consider the space in which we adapt. When we think about shared space, especially in built environments, built environments, sometimes, can neglect to connect to the 'āina and people, because it just does not connect. I am really excited that the team has taken the time to pause and collaborate and connect, because the benefit is tremendous. Every morning, my son and I walk down Rice Street and water all the plants, and we say good morning to the plants. He is now nineteen (19) months old and he knows, he is at the age where he understands what we are doing and he will wave at the plants—I am going to cry—because that is the connection to the space. We are not waving at the paved parking lot or the paved sidewalk, but we are grateful that we can actually walk and say "hi" to the plants every morning, because it was designed in collaboration with the space. For a lot of us who call this place home permanently, it is also important for us to consider and put forth a plan that always looks at the 'āina and our relationship with the space, and how we interact, and to always give priority to the 'āina because 'āina is what feeds us. If we never consider that we will always rob ourselves and our future of that relationship. I am happy to see the work that is being done, especially the careful thought to make sure that we care for the 'āina, because every morning when my son says "good morning" to the plants, I cannot imagine kids growing up without that relationship right now. I want to make sure we have that in all our spaces. Thank you to the team for working hard on this.

Council Chair Rapozo:

Thank you. Councilmember Carvalho.

Councilmember Carvalho: I want to say *mahalo* to everyone and to all our community members who came out and testified regarding the trees. In general, the entire plan itself was in place for a long time and every step of the way the community has been involved, but to hone in on the tree part, which is a big part, and I appreciate the discussion, and I think it is a very important discussion. It was never to get rid of all the trees...it was to encourage the growth, and to manage it in a way that we can work together as a community. I am hopeful that we can continue to balance everything out and move forward. Then, of course, the drainage system—with Rupert over there...I know we have talked about that in the past, that is another one

where we can work closely with our Public Works team. Again, for today's discussion I think just bringing it to the forefront and raising it to this level and "talking story" and hearing your hearts and souls on how important it is, but transforming our Kōloa community—turning it into a walkable, bikeable, more "safe routes to school" if you will...all of it tied in, was the bigger picture, and then talking about the trees was another important part. I appreciated the discussion and all of you coming out to share your *mana'o* and bringing it to the table. We look forward to more opportunities, to have you at the table as well, as we continue to move forward on our Kōloa community. *Mahalo* and *aloha*.

Council Chair Rapozo:

Councilmember Kualii'i.

Councilmember Kualii'i: I, too, want to add my gratitude, *mahalo nui loa* to the community, to the neighbors for showing up and sharing your *mana'o* and your on-the-ground experience. Clearly, we all agree that we should save as many of the trees as possible...all of them if possible. We love and appreciate the beauty and the importance of those trees. At the same time, when it comes to public safety, or even just access, for our *kūpuna* to have an easy chance of getting around the neighborhood, the sidewalks are so important. They are an investment, not just in the present, but in the future. As the community grows, and people spread out more and go from place to place, the sidewalks will help in that way. For a long time now, our planners over in our Planning Department, they are some of the best in the state, in the country even. I have lived on the continent for quite a while too, so I have seen some different cities and how they operate there. They go above and beyond when it comes to the planning work that they do. They always put the community first. The engagement and involvement of the community is number one from our Planning Department. Like I was saying, for the longest time now, we have been supporting smart growth—Get Fit Kaua'i, the work that they have done, Safe Routes to School...the TIGER grant, the RAISE grant. We would not have been able to get those federal funds to do these "feel good" types of projects. Most counties do not have the money to do things like this, they are just trying to do the basic stuff. We are blessed, because of good planning, to get these federal funds. We are in a position to make it even better for the future, right? I see it as a positive thing and whatever little things we need to work out, that is why we need to hear from you, and we appreciate you. The planners admitted that they over-looked some of the trees because they were not even on the map...it is a good thing that you all brought that forward, and I see it only getting better because of you, so thank you. *Mahalo*.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is there anyone else? If not, I will just close by saying thank you to Julie Souza for calling me about the ribbons on the trees, which led up to the site visit on September 30<sup>th</sup>, where a bunch of you all come out. I want thank Troy, Boyd, Michael, and our new engineer Donovan, he was there as well, and of course Goodfellow Bros. Construction was there as well. I have to really *mahalo* them, as I said earlier, they agreed to not proceed with the tree cutting until we were able to have this meeting. As you heard, there were a lot of revisions to the original plan by the engineers, and I appreciate that tremendously. Not everyone is going to be satisfied, but I think at the end of the day we have to compromise to some extent. I hope that you will continue to look at ways to possibly save as many trees as we can. You know, we talked a lot about these trees, these trumpet trees, but it is bigger than the trees, it is the character of the community. As people were talking, I was jotting



down some things—I remember growing up on this island, in fact my family is all from Ōma‘o. I spent a lot of time in Ōma‘o and Kōloa growing up...the family house is still there, not my family, my family did not keep anything, but my uncles are still there. I just listed some of the things that some of you remember. Obviously, the old, plantation-style houses in Kōloa—there are still a lot of those. The dirt roads and the dirt walking paths...we walked on dirt, bare feet, played in the dirt. The old cars in people’s driveways. How about the glass bottles filled with water. To scare away the dogs and the cats, do you remember that? Everybody had one! Now, that is gone...and they do work, better than any chemical you can spray. Of course, there were chicken coops, those are still around. What about the dry-boxes people used to put all the *aku* inside? Many houses had that before, and you could smell it a mile away. It seemed like everyone had a mango and a lychee tree in their yard, that we could freely go in and grab to eat, and even leave the seeds in their yard, they would not get mad. How about antique clotheslines? We have a dryer that has not been used for twenty (20) years. We hang our clothes. Then, of course—this is a Portuguese thing, but there were so many Portuguese here...the garage floors that were painted. Every Portuguese garage was painted red, or green, or blue. Ours was red, my neighbors was green. It had nothing to do with the school colors, I think it was whatever color was on sale is what they had.

I bring that up because, to me, that is what this is about. That is when the alarm went off for me. If we do not start thinking about those things...it is like my waistline. I was at a function last night, and somebody rubbed my belly and said “Man, you putting on weight.” I know that. I used to be slim, but when you gain that pound...and the pound...and the pound, and then one day you look like this and it is like, “When did that happen?” When did it happen? I do not remember getting fat. It happened because I ignored the pound...and the pound...slowly but surely I was gaining a pound, and then another pound, and now I am here. It is the same as this. If we start losing all of these “items of character” for our place, the next thing you know...I talk about Rice Street, because Rice Street was completely redeveloped. Some people think it is beautiful, I personally like the old style better. For Rice Street...all the banks left...there are very few businesses left on Rice Street. The brewery just closed. So, when we look at what is most important here...for me, it is preserving our culture, preserving our island. When we are talking about this area by Kukui‘ula Market, this is not a “Rice Street,” people live there, it is a residential area that was so “Kōloa.” When we start taking things away like the trees, then before we know it, like my belly, it will be, “What happened to this place,” where we never noticed as we were taking the little trees away, then the dirt road, and the next thing you know, “this is not the Kōloa I grew up in.” I agree with Councilmember Kuali‘i that there is a way that we can have a balance, and it is preserving those items that contribute to the character of these communities. Some communities are *pau* already, we lost them a long time ago. I remember in Hanalei when we were talking about putting sidewalks and curbs, and they responded, “We do not want that; we like the grass shoulders; we like walking on the grass; we like our feet filled with grass.” Not every community is the same. Different from how we redeveloped places on the mainland, we are different, we are a plantation community, and we need to preserve as much of that as possible. I appreciate the changes that were made. I sincerely appreciate the engineers. I know I speak for the Council when I say we are not opposed to connecting everyone, connectivity, we are not opposed to allowing people to be able to walk around and bike around, but I do not think that the community



should lose any of its character as a sacrifice. Thank you all for being here today. All of you that had to fight the traffic, there was an accident at the bridge, we appreciate you folks being here and testifying.

The motion to receive C 2025-220 for the record was then put, and carried by a vote of 6:0:1 (*Councilmember Kaneshiro was excused*).

Council Chair Rapozo: Motion carries. Next item, please.

Council Chair Rapozo, the presiding officer, relinquished Chairmanship to Councilmember Kualī'i.

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

C 2025-205 Communication (09/22/2025) from the Director of Parks & Recreation, requesting Council approval to accept a donation from NanoTech 2000 of their Palm Tree Weevil Killer (PTWK) product in an effort to mitigate the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetles (CRBs) at Wailua Golf Course, with a total estimated value of \$600.00, which will be tested on fifteen (15) coconut trees, is environmentally friendly, and will last for multiple years for mature trees.

Councilmember Carvalho moved to receive C 2025-205 for the record, seconded by Councilmember Bulosan.

Councilmember Cowden: Is the Department of Parks & Recreation present?

Councilmember Holland: Yes.

Councilmember Kualī'i: Excuse me. Can you withdraw the motion to receive?

Councilmember Carvalho withdrew the motion to receive C 2025-205 for the record. Councilmember Bulosan withdrew the second.

Councilmember Kualī'i: Can I get a motion to approve with a thank-you letter?

Councilmember Carvalho moved to approve C 2025-205 with a thank-you letter to follow, seconded by Councilmember Bulosan.

Councilmember Kualī'i: Councilmember Holland.

Councilmember Holland: I have been working, as you know, on the CRB as much as possible, trying to get support and services to our County. One of the products that some people are reporting good success with is this NanoTech 2000 product. There has been controversy about whether it does or does not work, but the manufacturer has offered a donation to us to treat fifteen (15) trees, complimentary basically, to see how it works and to see if we have a positive experience like some of these other places. I brought this before the Department of Parks & Recreation and

the Office of the Mayor so hopefully, with your approval, we can accept this and give it a shot. We are having a very difficult time at the Wailua Golf Course managing CBR and we are working on feeder projects right now to try to think outside the box at how we long-term treat the beetle's presence including, right now we are working on steaming, larva management, and then this is another option. If we find it successful, we might look at utilizing it more in the future as a possible tool, because I think we need all the tools that we can get. This was a generous donation from the manufacturer to give us a shot at using it on the golf course, and our Parks team has agreed to try it out on fifteen (15) different trees to see if we find it successful.

Councilmember Cowden: I have a question.

Councilmember Kualī'i: Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: I apologize, there was so much noise going on.

Councilmember Holland: Yes.

Councilmember Cowden: I could hardly hear what you were saying. Did you say what the technology is? I heard you say that there was a technology. What does it do?

Councilmember Holland: This particular product is a natural solution-based product. The active ingredient is sodium lauryl sulfate.

Councilmember Cowden: Is it a fluid?

Councilmember Holland: It is a liquid fluid that is applied as a soil drench surrounding the soil immediately around the roots of the coconut tree and then it is absorbed into the tree. This helps to resist predation by CRB. It has a mixture of strong natural products, such as cloves, different things like that. We have found some successful scientific studies showing that basil is a good deterrent for the beetle. This is a mixture of essential oils and then the active ingredient is sodium lauryl sulfate, which is a detergent. It is a much more natural solution than the immediate Imidacloprid is, which is more heavily used. We have been using Imidacloprid injections on the golf course quite a bit, but we are noticing impacts on the trees, including big, dark scars. We are not sure long-term how much we can do this year after year before we lose those trees. There are a lot of different suggestions that may work, and I am just trying to be open to the possibility that there are some other solutions as well.

Councilmember Cowden: Yesterday, I received two (2) calls from people who found CRBs, so they are in a little panic, so I sent them to you.

Councilmember Holland: Okay. Feel free.

Councilmember Cowden: Is there a website for this company?

Councilmember Holland: There are a couple of websites that these folks have. They are currently in Bahrain working on date palms with the Bahrain government trying to protect...

Councilmember Cowden: NanoTech2000.com.

Councilmember Holland: They also have a website more specific to Hawai'i and the use against CRB. There are some controversy and accusations that the product does not work. If it does not work, it does not it, but if it works, it works. That is sort of the way I am looking at it. Beetlebustersofhawaii.com is also where they are advertising this. It is one of the many products that people are saying is a possible solution. I think we need an "all hands-on deck" approach for this, so I am open to trying all the things.

Councilmember Cowden: Can you still eat the coconuts?

Councilmember Holland: Yes.

Councilmember Cowden: Will it hurt the pollinators?

Councilmember Holland: No.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay. They can (inaudible).

Councilmember Holland: We tried. If it does not work, it does not work, but if it works, great. They are very confident in their product, which is why they gave us this donation.

Councilmember Cowden: Will we receive a report on it once we see how it works?

Councilmember Holland: Yes. We will have some sort of report back from the golf course on whether they feel...we are going to stop injecting those fifteen (15) trees with Imidacloprid and we are going to apply this drench and see if we notice a difference in predation and if we notice success, because we are definitely losing our trees on the golf course.

Councilmember Cowden: Thank you.

Councilmember Kualii: Are there any further questions? Is there any final discussion? Councilmember Bulosan.

There being no public testimony, the meeting proceeded as follows:

Councilmember Bulosan: I would like to *mahalo* the team for being open to these ideas and willing to work with other partners to make this happen. It is a serious problem that we are addressing. Thank you.

Councilmember Cowden: I want to *mahalo* all the creativity that is willing to experiment with different solutions. I know as it is moving into other areas,

people are worried about their organic certification with their businesses, so there is a little fear to even flag when they are found, because they do not want to be forced to use those chemicals that would then undermine years of efforts putting their organic certification together.

Councilmember Kualī'i:

Councilmember Holland.

Councilmember Holland: Thank you. I appreciate you all being open to having this discussion and accepting this donation. I am trying all the things, so at my house I have three (3) different traps set up right now using ultraviolet (UV) lights, pheromone attractants, and netting. I have basil oil in a water gun that I shoot on my tree once per week. I am also trying my own experiments in my yard, but I am grateful that this...I want to thank the NanoTech 2000 folks for being open to submitting a donation to us and trying to support and help us. I think we need to try all the things, and I am thankful that you folks are willing to have this conversation.

Councilmember Kualī'i: I want to say thank you to you, Councilmember Holland, for working so closely with the Department of Parks & Recreation and for just jumping on top of this with your background and all. We really appreciate that.

The motion to approve C 2025-205 with a thank-you letter to follow was then put, and carried by a vote of 6\*:0:1 (*\*Pursuant to Rule No. 5(b) of the Rules of the Council of the County of Kaua'i, Council Chair Rapozo was noted as silent (not present), but shall be recorded as an affirmative for the motion; Councilmember Kaneshiro was excused*).

Councilmember Kualī'i:

Motion carries. Next item, please.

C 2025-206 Communication (09/23/2025) from the Director of Parks & Recreation, requesting Council approval to receive and expend appropriations from the State Legislature of 2025, in the amount of \$11,500,000.00, of capital improvement funds, to be used for the Hanapēpē Stadium improvements (\$3,500,000.00) and the Vidinha Stadium improvements (\$8,000,000.00).

(*Council Chair Rapozo was noted as present.*)

Councilmember Kualī'i returned Chairmanship duties to Council Chair Rapozo.

Councilmember Carvalho moved to approve C 2025-206, seconded by Councilmember Kualī'i.

Council Chair Rapozo:

Is there any discussion or public testimony?

There being no public testimony, the meeting proceeded as follows:

The motion to approve C 2025-206 was then put, and carried by a vote of 6:0:1 (*Councilmember Kaneshiro was excused*).

Council Chair Rapozo: Motion carries. Next item, please.

C 2025-207 Communication (09/23/2025) from the Emergency Management Administrator, requesting Council approval to receive and expend a supplement to United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recurring grant funds, via the State of Hawai'i Department of Defense – Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA), in the amount of \$2,500.00 for the Fiscal Year 2024 Emergency Management Performance Grant, which will support emergency management programs and inter-island travel expenses for Kaua'i Emergency Management Agency (KEMA) staff and partners to attend training and exercise activities.

Councilmember Carvalho moved to approve C 2025-207, seconded by Councilmember Cowden.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is there any discussion or public testimony?

There being no public testimony, the meeting proceeded as follows:

The motion to approve C 2025-207 was then put, and carried by a vote of 6:0:1 (*Councilmember Kaneshiro was excused*).

Council Chair Rapozo: Motion carries. Next item, please.

C 2025-209 Communication (09/25/2025) from the County Clerk, requesting Council approval of the Hawai'i State Public Library's Conditions For The Use Of State Library Facilities, to allow the Elections Division to set up ballot return identification envelope drop boxes at the Princeville, Kapa'a, and Hanapēpē Public Libraries during the 2026 Primary and General Elections.

Councilmember Kualii moved to approve C 2025-209, seconded by Councilmember Bulosan.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is there any discussion or public testimony?

There being no public testimony, the meeting proceeded as follows:

The motion to approve C 2025-209 was then put, and carried by a vote of 6:0:1 (*Councilmember Kaneshiro was excused*).

Council Chair Rapozo: Motion carries. Next item, please.

C 2025-211 Communication (10/01/2025) from the Director of Human Resources, transmitting for Council consideration, the cost items for the State of Hawai'i Organization of Police Officers (SHOPO) Bargaining Unit 12 for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2029, based on an arbitrated award and in accordance with the procedures contained in Chapter 89, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), pursuant to HRS Section 89-11 and Kaua'i County Charter Section 19.13B.

Councilmember Kualii moved to receive C 2025-211 for the record, seconded by Councilmember Cowden.



Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you. This is the memorandum that is attached to the proposed draft bill. Is there anyone from the audience wishing to speak? Are we anticipating any questions for SHOPO? No.

Councilmember Cowden: I called and talked to them.

Council Chair Rapozo: Perfect. Thank you.

There being no public testimony, the meeting proceeded as follows:

The motion to approve C 2025-211 was then put, and carried by a vote of 6:0:1 (*Councilmember Kaneshiro was excused*).

Council Chair Rapozo: Motion carries. Next item, please.

C 2025-213 Communication (10/01/2025) from the Director of Finance, requesting Council approval to accept travel-related reimbursed expenses from the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO) for the County of Kaua'i Real Property Tax Manager to attend the 2025 IAAO Fall Leadership Days Meeting, which will be held in Kansas City, Missouri, on November 7–8, 2025. The meeting ensures that the County remains at the forefront of industry standards and best practices, provides networking with others, gains insights into the latest trends and developments in the field, and fosters relationships that can lead to future collaborations.

Councilmember Kualifi moved to approve C 2025-213, seconded by Councilmember Bulosan.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is there any discussion or public testimony?

Councilmember Cowden: There was just a meeting in September, right?  
A conference in September in Florida?

Council Chair Rapozo: I am not sure.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay. I just wondered if...

Council Chair Rapozo: We can ask. Is someone from the Finance Department here?

Councilmember Cowden: Thank you for being willing to attend the Fall Leadership Days Meeting. Did anyone attend the September meeting?

There being no objections, the rules were suspended.

CHELSIE SAKAI, Director of Finance: Chelsie Sakai, Director of Finance. Scott Teruya, the Real Property Tax Manager is going to go to the Fall Days.

Councilmember Cowden: The Fall one. Did anyone go to the September one?

Ms. Sakai: Yes, he and I and two (2) others from the office.

Councilmember Cowden: Was it good? Did you learn much?

Ms. Sakai: It was a good conference.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay. That is a conference that I wish I could attend too. I was hoping that it was good, that we got (inaudible).

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you very much. Is there any further discussion?

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

The motion to approve C 2025-213 was then put, and carried by a vote of 6:0:1 (*Councilmember Kaneshiro was excused*).

Council Chair Rapozo: Motion carries. Next item, please.

C 2025-214 Communication (10/01/2025) from the Director of Finance, requesting Council approval of the acceptance of terms contained within the T-Tech Application Service Agreement which integrates with the existing System Innovators software to facilitate Automated Clearing House (ACH) payments through the County of Kaua'i online payment portal. This application will be used by multiple departments, including Fire Prevention, Liquor Control, Parks and Recreation, Building, Planning, Real Property, and the Kaua'i Police Department.

Councilmember Kualii moved to approve C 2025-214, seconded by Councilmember Carvalho.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is there any discussion or public testimony?

Councilmember Cowden: I have a simple question. Is this the same technology we used for payments on other systems online?

There being no objections, the rules were suspended.

Ms. Sakai: This is specific to our connect.kauai.gov website where we currently have forms and different payments that we accept. Right now, that website only accepts credit cards. This would allow us to do Automated Clearing Housing (ACH) transactions, which is bank to bank.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay. So, that is a typical way people might be wanting to pay, they just do a direct deposit from their bank account?

Ms. Sakai: Correct, rather than using a credit card.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay. That is going to be for the Kaua'i Fire Department (KFD), Liquor Control, so this is for people getting permits or any way they want to pay to the County?

Ms. Sakai: Correct.

Councilmember Cowden: This is making it easier.

Ms. Sakai: More options, yes.

Councilmember Cowden: More options.

Ms. Sakai: Yes.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay. That was my question.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember Kualii.

Councilmember Kualii: You just said more options, but will this option, being that it is simpler, bank to bank, still have the same fee that a credit card transaction would charge?

Ms. Sakai: It will be a lesser fee.

Councilmember Kualii: Lesser fee?

Ms. Sakai: Yes. Usually, credit cards are based off percentage and ACH is based on flat dollar rate.

Councilmember Kualii: Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you very much.

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

The motion to approve C 2025-214 was then put, and carried by a vote of 6:0:1 (*Councilmember Kaneshiro was excused*).

Council Chair Rapozo: Motion carries. Next item, please.

C 2025-215 Communication (10/01/2025) from the Director of Finance, requesting Council approval to dispose of various records, pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Section 46-43 and Resolution No. 2021-48 (2021), which have been kept for over seven (7) years and are no longer of use or value.

Councilmember Kualii moved to approve C 2025-215, seconded by Councilmember Cowden.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: I sent my questions ahead of time, but I do not know if I received a response, maybe you did not have enough time. When it says, "Disposing of County audited financial reports prior to 2017," I have to assume that means just the peripheral materials, because we would want to keep the real County audited financial report indefinitely, would we not?

There being no objections, the rules were suspended.

Ms. Sakai: Correct. It is all on the website. These are the work papers they used.

Councilmember Cowden: These are work papers, okay, so we would not get rid of that.

Ms. Sakai: Correct.

Councilmember Cowden: On the expired Agricultural (Ag) Dedication Files from 1971 through 2017, what exactly does it mean about throwing those away because I know I had a handful of people in distress when their Ag Dedication applications have been apparently lost by the County, and so some of these Ag Dedications are twenty (20) years old, so this would not be anything that was active in any way, only expired ones?

Ms. Sakai: Correct. Only expired or canceled, and the program has since changed, and none of these apply any longer. They are never referenced; they are sitting in storage, collecting dust.

Councilmember Cowden: I thought some of these things seem important, like Treasury Files, but there is probably some record housed...

Ms. Sakai: Anything that we would need to reference, again, is being kept, but otherwise...

Councilmember Cowden: By being scanned or something like that?

Ms. Sakai: Yes.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay, those are my questions.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you. Are there any further questions for the Finance Department? If not, thank you.

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

The motion to approve C 2025-215 was then put, and carried by a vote of 6:0:1 (*Councilmember Kaneshiro was excused*).

Council Chair Rapozo: Motion carries. Next item, please.

C 2025-216 Communication (10/01/2025) from the Executive on Aging, requesting Council approval to receive and expend additional State funds, in the amount of \$501,067.00, and to indemnify the State Executive Office on Aging, to be used by the County of Kauaʻi, Agency on Elderly Affairs for the Kūpuna Care Program, to provide case management services, adult day care, assisted transportation, chore services, homemaker services, Kūpuna care transportation, personal care, home-delivered meals, respite care, and caregiver support services, for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2026.

Councilmember Kualīi moved to approve C 2025-216, seconded by Councilmember Carvalho.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is there any discussion or public testimony?

Councilmember Cowden: I have a simple question.

There being no objections, the rules were suspended.

YOLANDA GOMEZ-CUMMINGS, Accountant III: Yolanda  
Gomez-Cummings, Accountant for the Agency on Elderly Affairs.

Councilmember Cowden: Thank you so much. Five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000), I am happy to see that amount. Thank you for applying and receiving that. How many people will this serve, and did we increase our amount or how many are on the waitlist, because it seems like it is growing (inaudible)? Are we able to address more and how many are waiting?

Ms. Gomez-Cummings: Based on the fiscal year 2026 budget, the request that we had, that was to remove all the people on the waitlist.

Councilmember Cowden: Yay. That is the answer I was hoping for, and I just wanted to confirm. Thank you very much.

Ms. Gomez-Cummings: You are welcome.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you. Is there further discussion?

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

The motion to approve C 2025-216 was then put, and carried by a vote of 6:0:1 (*Councilmember Kaneshiro was excused*).

Council Chair Rapozo: Motion carries. Next item, please.

C 2025-217 Communication (10/01/2025) from the County Engineer, requesting Council approval to purchase unbudgeted equipment of a Smith and Loveless Dry Well Maintenance Lift Unit, due to an unanticipated mechanical failure of an existing elevator that provides access to the dry well at the Wailua Coco Palms Sewer Pump Station, at a cost of approximately \$290,000.00. The equipment will



replace the existing elevator, which is obsolete, and parts to repair the existing elevator are no longer available.

Councilmember Kualii moved to approve C 2025-217, seconded by Councilmember Carvalho.

Council Chair Rapozo: Can someone come up? Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: Thank you for having this. I understand that it is simply an elevator to help do the repairs.

There being no objections, the rules were suspended.

DONALD FUJIMOTO, Chief of Wastewater Division: Correct. Donald Fujimoto, Chief of Wastewater Management Division. Our facility is obsolete. It is over forty (40) years old. The current elevator has worked on a chain-driven system, which now has become obsolete, so they no longer produce it. The new, updated elevator uses a cable system, so we are trying to...it has been down for about two (2) or three (3) months now. We really need this elevator to be able to respond with (inaudible) in case of an emergency.

Councilmember Cowden: Thank you for that. I know it is important because that particular pump station seems to routinely have spills or problems, and so you are saying it is obsolete. When we are putting two hundred ninety thousand dollars (\$290,000) into the elevator, which I support, do we have a plan to change that pump system or move it? It seems like that is where the problem is. As long as it has been there, I regularly hear problems about the smell, and I know it has been a real issue for the hotel. I understand they offered to move or fix it themselves. Do we have a plan to change that?

Mr. Fujimoto: It is not on the near-term plan. We just addressed the electrical upgrade and generators. There are a lot of other projects with higher priority right now, so it is not near future.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay. I want to make a comment that the businesses around there are suing the County, everyone is "bummed," the hotel is really "bummed."

Mr. Fujimoto: We understand that. That is why we put a priority on trying to maintain it as best as we can.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay. Alright. I heard the gas station has a hard time holding on to employees because of the problem there.

Council Chair Rapozo: Are there any further questions for the Wastewater Division? If not, thank you. Is there further discussion?

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

The motion to approve C 2025-217 was then put, and carried by a vote of 6:0:1 (*Councilmember Kaneshiro was excused*).

Council Chair Rapozo: Motion carries. Next item, please.

C 2025-219 Communication (10/02/2025) from Councilmember Holland and Council Vice Chair Kualii, transmitting for Council consideration, A Bill For An Ordinance To Establish A New Article 29, Chapter 22, Kaua'i County Code 1987, As Amended, Relating To Disposable Bodyboard Reduction, to define and prohibit the sale, rental, or distribution of disposable bodyboards within the County of Kaua'i.

Councilmember Kualii moved to receive C 2025-219 for the record, seconded by Councilmember Carvalho.

Council Chair Rapozo: The is the Communication connected to the proposed draft bill, which we will take up later. I do not see anyone in the audience from the public.

There being no public testimony, the meeting proceeded as follows:

The motion to receive C 2025-219 for the record was then put, and carried by a vote of 6:0:1 (*Councilmember Kaneshiro was excused*).

Council Chair Rapozo: Motion carries. Next item, please.

C 2025-221 Communication (10/03/2025) from Council Chair Rapozo, transmitting for Council consideration, A Bill For An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. B-2025-905, As Amended, Relating To The Operating Budget Of The County Of Kaua'i, State Of Hawai'i, For The Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 Through June 30, 2026, By Revising The Amounts Estimated In The General Fund, and A Bill For An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. B-2025-906, As Amended, Relating To The Capital Budget Of The County Of Kaua'i, State Of Hawai'i, For The Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 Through June 30, 2026, By Revising The Amounts Estimated In The General Fund – CIP, for improvements to the Wailua Golf Course cart path.

Councilmember Kualii moved to receive C 2025-221 for the record, seconded by Councilmember Carvalho.

Council Chair Rapozo: This is the Communication attached to the proposed draft bill that we will take up later.

There being no public testimony, the meeting proceeded as follows:

The motion to receive C 2025-221 for the record was then put, and carried by a vote of 6:0:1 (*Councilmember Kaneshiro was excused*).

Council Chair Rapozo: Motion carries. Next item, please.

LEGAL DOCUMENT:

C 2025-222 Communication (10/01/2025) from the Planning Director, requesting Council acceptance and approval of a Dedication Deed, from Kilauea Ohana Plateau, LLC to the County of Kaua'i, land donation of seven (7) lots, two (2) roadways, and one (1) multi-use path lot, located at Tax Map Key (TMK) No. (4) 5-2-005:058, TMK No. (4) 5-2-005:059, and TMK No. (4) 5-2-005:023:

- Dedication Deed (Roadway Lot A)
- Dedication Deed (Path Lot 1)

Councilmember Kuali'i moved to approve C 2025-222, seconded by Councilmember Carvalho.

Council Chair Rapozo: Staff is passing out a photograph. Can someone come up to explain, and we can hear what this is about and confirm that there will be no trees that are cut?

There being no objections, the rules were suspended.

KOA (RUDOLPH) DUNCAN, Assistant Housing Director: My name is Koa with the Housing Agency. Adam had to be on O'ahu today, so you get the second/third string person here. I passed out a map that I put together. I think typically the Planning Department normally does the dedication deeds that the County receives, but since these two (2) parcels that are being dedicated are a big part of our Kilauea Town expansion affordable housing project, it is better suited that we be here. In yellow on the map is Roadway Lot A, which is a new road that will be connecting Kilauea Town from where the post office is located, and you can see that it comes out to Kūhiō Highway, right across the street from Anaina Hou Community Park. Path Lot 1 is planned to be a shared use path that will get you from the project to Kilauea Town, all the way down to Secret Beach. Going back to Roadway Lot A, we have already secured federal funds that we are in the process of designing and engineering for that roadway. I thought Michael Moule was going to be present...oh, there he is. In working with Michael, we secured Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds to pay for that road. We are on our way soon here; I think we are scheduled to submit the plans for permits by the end of this calendar year. That is moving along. Path Lot 1 is still in progress, but our idea is to pave it as far as possible down to Secret Beach. I guess with that, do you have any questions? I would be happy to take them.

Council Chair Rapozo:

Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: Yay! I am glad this is finally happening. It seems like it should have happened five (5) years ago. What makes it late? Do you know? We have been waiting for a long time. I am wondering why it has taken so long. The subdivision was so long ago.

Mr. Moule: Chair, Members of the Council, Michael Moule, again, for the record. The reason why we waited to have this dedicated, honestly, is because we did not want the strip of land in between a bunch of fields that we could not easily maintain. When there was discussion about dedicating it years ago, we said, "Let

us wait,” and now that the County either has or is in the process of obtaining the other two (2) parcels, the Kīlauea Town expansion area is shown on the map, now that those are in the process of being maintained or obtained by the Housing Agency, we said, “Let us get these too,” because we are taking responsibility for those larger parcels, we can get these as well. That was the thought.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay. I was hearing from the landowner for some time wanting that change, so that is why I am asking.

Mr. Moule: We did not want to own this huge strip of land that we did not easily have access to or to have to maintain it or deal with anything in there.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay. Just as a clarification, the bike path, which I have been trying to work on too, I am glad that is happening, and just for clarification, it does not go all the way down to Kauapea Beach, it goes to the top of the trail. Just for the people who are listening. It does not make it all the way down to the bottom, I believe.

Mr. Moule: That is correct.

Mr. Duncan: The parcel...you can see where it ends at the top right there.

Councilmember Cowden: Yes, it will go over Kahiliwai Road and then go down the dry easement, I think, maybe. Kauapea Beach is still down a very steep trail. Just in case people are listening. Thank you.

Mr. Duncan: It will provide a safer path to get there. I think most of the kids are riding along the highway to get there.

Councilmember Cowden: It is excellent. I have been trying to get that...I had some opportunities about five (5) years ago.

Council Chair Rapozo: That pedestrian path will connect to the existing easement, right?

Mr. Duncan: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: It is going to meet up, so that will take them to the existing easement that we have.

Mr. Duncan: It is a gravel road right now.

Councilmember Cowden: I would like to extend gratitude to the landowner of whose land it will go through.

Council Chair Rapozo: Are there any further questions? If not, thank you. Is there any discussion? Councilmember Holland.

The meeting was called back to order, and proceeded as follows:

Councilmember Holland: I want to emphasize the importance of that route for kids and everyone to access, because it is very dangerous. I wanted to say that this is wonderful and thank you very much for all the hard work.

The motion to approve C 2025-222 was then put, and carried by vote of 6:0:1 (*Councilmember Kaneshiro was excused*).

Council Chair Rapozo: Motion carries. Next item.

CLAIMS:

C 2025-223 Communication (09/19/2025) from the County Clerk, transmitting a claim filed against the County of Kaua'i by Delfin C. Castillo, for vehicle damage and personal injuries, pursuant to Section 23.06, Charter of the County of Kaua'i.

C 2025-224 Communication (09/19/2025) from the County Clerk, transmitting a claim filed against the County of Kaua'i by Feliciano Alcantara, for personal property damage, pursuant to Section 23.06, Charter of the County of Kaua'i.

C 2025-225 Communication (09/26/2025) from the County Clerk, transmitting a claim filed against the County of Kaua'i by Keith Arakaki, for vehicle damage, pursuant to Section 23.06, Charter of the County of Kaua'i.

Councilmember Kualii moved to refer C 2025-223, C 2025-224, and C 2025-225 to the Office of the County Attorney for disposition and/or report back to the Council, seconded by Councilmember Bulosan.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is there any discussion or public testimony?

There being no public testimony, the meeting proceeded as follows:

The motion to refer C 2025-223, C 2025-224, and C 2025-225 to the Office of the County Attorney for disposition and/or report back to the Council was then put, and carried by a vote of 6:0:1 (*Councilmember Kaneshiro was excused*).

Council Chair Rapozo: The motion carries. This is probably a good place to take a lunch break? It is already 12:00 p.m., and we have a bunch of first reading bills. Do I think there will be discussion? I do not have to eat, I am okay, it is just the staff. I want to make sure the staff is not...

Councilmember Cowden: We will probably get through it quick, my guess is.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay. Next item.



RESOLUTION:

Resolution No. 2025-37 – RESOLUTION REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 18 (1991) AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ATTORNEY TO INVESTIGATE, SETTLE, AND PAY CLAIMS AGAINST THE COUNTY OF KAUAI

Councilmember Kualii moved for adoption of Resolution No. 2025-37, seconded by Councilmember Carvalho.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is there any discussion or public testimony?

There being no public testimony, the meeting proceeded as follows:

The motion for adoption of Resolution No. 2025-37 was then put, and carried by the following vote:

|                       |                                                    |            |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------|
| FOR ADOPTION:         | Bulosan, Carvalho, Cowden, Holland, Kualii, Rapozo | TOTAL – 6, |
| AGAINST ADOPTION:     | None                                               | TOTAL – 0, |
| EXCUSED & NOT VOTING: | Kaneshiro                                          | TOTAL – 1, |
| RECUSED & NOT VOTING: | None                                               | TOTAL – 0. |

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: Six (6) ayes and one (1) excused.

BILLS FOR FIRST READING:

Proposed Draft Bill (No. 2975) – A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT FOR BARGAINING UNIT 12 BETWEEN JULY 1, 2025 AND JUNE 30, 2029

Councilmember Kualii moved for passage of Proposed Draft Bill (No. 2975) on first reading, that it be ordered to print, that a public hearing thereon be scheduled for November 12, 2025, and that it thereafter be referred to the Finance & Economic Development Committee, seconded by Councilmember Bulosan.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is there any discussion or public testimony?

Councilmember Cowden: Small piece of discussion. I did call SHOPO and talked to them, and they all seemed happy and fine.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay.

The motion for passage of Proposed Draft Bill (No. 2975) on first reading, that it be ordered to print, that a public hearing thereon be scheduled for November 12, 2025, and that it thereafter be referred to the Finance & Economic Development Committee was then put, and carried by the following vote:

|                       |                                                        |            |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| FOR PASSAGE:          | Bulosan, Carvalho, Cowden, Holland,<br>Kuali'i, Rapozo | TOTAL – 6, |
| AGAINST ADOPTION:     | None                                                   | TOTAL – 0, |
| EXCUSED & NOT VOTING: | Kaneshiro                                              | TOTAL – 1, |
| RECUSED & NOT VOTING: | None                                                   | TOTAL – 0. |

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: Six (6) ayes and one (1) excused.

Council Chair Rapozo: Next item.

**Proposed Draft Bill (No. 2976) – A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A NEW ARTICLE 29, CHAPTER 22, KAUAI COUNTY CODE 1987, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO DISPOSABLE BODYBOARD REDUCTION**

Councilmember Kuali'i moved for passage of Proposed Draft Bill (No. 2976) on first reading, that it be ordered to print, that a public hearing thereon be scheduled for November 12, 2025, and that it thereafter be referred to the Committee of the Whole, seconded by Councilmember Bulosan.

Council Chair Rapozo: I wanted to have some discussion on this bill for the public's information, because the title can be confusing. I wanted to make sure that the public knows, before the public hearing, what this bill is about. Councilmember Holland or Councilmember Kuali'i.

Councilmember Holland: This is one of the things that I have been looking at as low-hanging fruit on solid waste issues as diversion from the landfill and pollution in our environment. It was actually brought up initially by a firefighter to me and then by a lifeguard noticing these disposable Styrofoam boogie boards breaking down on the beaches, and then brought up to me by another marine advocate. Three (3) separate people, totally unrelated, brought to ban these boogie boards, so I started looking into it. Maui County has already implemented this rule and basically it addresses one-time use disposable Styrofoam boogie boards that generally break the first time they are ever used and end up being left next to the trash cans on our beach parks. There have been some pictures that were sent in to me from people showing them breaking apart on the beach because the boards are very thinly lined with a material, but there is just Styrofoam inside, so the idea is this one thing banning it, not allowing them on Kaua'i to reduce just the amount of disposable things that we are going through. I know that prior to COVID-19, we were actually looking at really moving to eliminate a lot of these one-off disposable plastic products altogether. To me, this is just a really simple low-hanging issue that I think we can address simply by banning them. It looks like there are only a few places that still sell them on Kaua'i, from what I can tell. I have done outreach to a lot of different organizations and I have not seen anyone oppose this. I have asked all the swim organizations if they use them, they do not use the Styrofoam boards, the kickboards, they do not use those disposable ones. I have not had a single person oppose the proposed ban and I tried to do quite a bit of outreach,

including to our lifeguards and fire team. Overall, it just seems like a straightforward, pretty simple thing that we have already seen other counties work to do. The Styrofoam issue...we have known about it for a long time, so it is not new information. If there are any questions, I am happy to respond.

Council Chair Rapozo: I have one (1) question. Oh, go ahead.

Councilmember Kualii: The only thing I would add is that I see this as a fairly simple item that may have been left out prior. If you think about those Styrofoam coolers...one of the testifiers even referred to this as single-use because it does breakdown easily and it is just litter and harmful to the environment. That is all I have.

Council Chair Rapozo: My question is regarding enforcement. How do we come to the County Engineer as being the enforcement agency?

Councilmember Holland: I forget exactly how that was determined...we did that during attorney conversations, I believe, or I forget exactly how that was allocated that was the right...

Council Chair Rapozo: I do not see the connection at all, but...

Councilmember Holland: I believe there were other restrictions, and I will have to look back on some of those emails, but there was a reason.

Council Chair Rapozo: You do not have to come up, but is the County Engineer okay with this?

Councilmember Holland: Okay.

Council Chair Rapozo: This rule comes under the Engineer's Office? Wow.

Councilmember Cowden: I have a question and suggestion. The question is when you looked at Maui's ban, the fact that Maui has one gives me a lot more confidence that it is manageable, because I would look at what Maui's pathway is with the big box stores because that is who really sells them, the large corporate stores. If Maui is already not selling them, that means they would have something in place with those store managers. I think maybe Foodland or Safeway, you might have to look at too, but those are some large stores, big box is like Walmart, Target, Costco...so a phone call to them, but if Maui already has that in place, that makes it a whole lot easier, because then we could send something over. Taking responsibility a little bit away from the County Engineer, is if they are not even sold, that is the biggest piece. If there is that barrier that is happening there, then maybe people bring them over with them on their trip and there are going to be a few of them that get thrown away from time to time, but I think the problem will go away if the source is gone. You might check Ace Hardware or something like that too, it is those big stores, corporate stores that typically are bringing them in. If all that plan is in place, I would try to make sure we have done that.

Councilmember Holland: Thank you for that. Just following up, Council Chair. It is the same enforcement as the Styrofoam ban that we have already passed, so that is where that is, Ordinance No. 1079. It was a little confusing, I remember going back and forth on why that happened.

Councilmember Cowden: Do you think before our Committee Meeting, you can check on that?

Councilmember Holland: The enforcement side on Maui?

Councilmember Cowden: The enforcement side on Maui and how they have communicated with the big box stores, because if we can have a letter from...it might be nice to just reach out to those big box stores and get them to say, "No." Usually, that might be the existing inventory can still sell and no more reorders.

Council Chair Rapozo: Perfect. Roll call.

There being no public testimony, the meeting proceeded as follows:

The motion for passage of Proposed Draft Bill (No. 2976) on first reading, that it be ordered to print, that a public hearing thereon be scheduled for November 12, 2025, and that it thereafter be referred to the Committee of the Whole was then put, and carried by the following vote:

|                       |                                                        |            |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| FOR PASSAGE:          | Bulosan, Carvalho, Cowden, Holland,<br>Kuali'i, Rapozo | TOTAL – 6, |
| AGAINST ADOPTION:     | None                                                   | TOTAL – 0, |
| EXCUSED & NOT VOTING: | Kaneshiro                                              | TOTAL – 1, |
| RECUSED & NOT VOTING: | None                                                   | TOTAL – 0. |

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: Six (6) ayes and one (1) excused.

Council Chair Rapozo: Next item.

Proposed Draft Bill (No. 2977) – A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. B-2025-905, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE OPERATING BUDGET OF THE COUNTY OF KAUAI, STATE OF HAWAII, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2025 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026, BY REVISING THE AMOUNTS ESTIMATED IN THE GENERAL FUND (*Wailua Golf Course Cart Path Operating Budget—\$445,000.00*)

Councilmember Kuali'i moved for passage of Proposed Draft Bill (No. 2977) on first reading, that it be ordered to print, that a public hearing thereon be scheduled for November 12, 2025, and that it thereafter be referred to the Finance & Economic Development Committee, seconded by Councilmember Carvalho.

Council Chair Rapozo: Real quick. This is simply to supplement the existing funding that already is in place for the completion of the cart path at the Wailua Golf Course, which this Council approved a while ago and the bids came back higher

than we had budgeted, so this will provide the sufficient amount for that project to move forward. That damaged or dilapidated cart path right now is creating issues for the brand new golf course concessionaire and it needs to be completed. It has been like that for far too long. Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: I am going to support this but where did the four hundred forty-five thousand dollars (\$445,000) come from? Was it unspent something or...

Council Chair Rapozo: The fund balance.

Councilmember Cowden: The fund balance from last year?

Council Chair Rapozo: In this year's budget. There is a fund balance, right?

Councilmember Cowden: Okay. Will something be taken away?

Council Chair Rapozo: No. Unless the Administration has a better way to get that money, I did not want to start disrupting their CIP projects, but I believe this is something that is long overdue. In fact, the Department of Parks & Recreation went back and "massaged" the contract and got it reduced even further from one million nine hundred thousand dollars (\$1,900,000) to one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000). I appreciate the work that was done by the Department of Parks & Recreation, but the other option would be having to wait for the next fiscal year budget, which would be far too long in my opinion.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay, I think it is great. So, we are not taking funding away from something else?

Council Chair Rapozo: We are not taking anything away. Are there any further questions? If not, roll call.

There being no public testimony, the meeting proceeded as follows:

The motion for passage of Proposed Draft Bill (No. 2977) on first reading, that it be ordered to print, that a public hearing thereon be scheduled for November 12, 2025, and that it thereafter be referred to the Committee of the Whole was then put, and carried by the following vote:

|                       |                                                    |            |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------|
| FOR PASSAGE:          | Bulosan, Carvalho, Cowden, Holland, Kualii, Rapozo | TOTAL – 6, |
| AGAINST ADOPTION:     | None                                               | TOTAL – 0, |
| EXCUSED & NOT VOTING: | Kaneshiro                                          | TOTAL – 1, |
| RECUSED & NOT VOTING: | None                                               | TOTAL – 0. |

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: Six (6) ayes and one (1) excused.

Council Chair Rapozo: Next item.



Proposed Draft Bill (No. 2978) – A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. B-2025-906, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE CAPITAL BUDGET OF THE COUNTY OF KAUAI, STATE OF HAWAII, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2025 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026, BY REVISING THE AMOUNTS ESTIMATED IN THE GENERAL FUND – CIP (*Wailua Golf Course Cart Path General Fund – CIP-\$445,000.00*)

Councilmember Kualii moved for passage of Proposed Draft Bill (No. 2978) on first reading, that it be ordered to print, that a public hearing thereon be scheduled for November 12, 2025, and that it thereafter be referred to the Finance & Economic Development Committee, seconded by Councilmember Bulosan.

Council Chair Rapozo: This is a companion bill. Are there any questions or public testimony?

There being no public testimony, the meeting proceeded as follows:

The motion for passage of Proposed Draft Bill (No. 2978) on first reading, that it be ordered to print, that a public hearing thereon be scheduled for November 12, 2025, and that it thereafter be referred to the Finance & Economic Development Committee was then put, and carried by the following vote:

|                       |                                                       |            |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| FOR PASSAGE:          | Bulosan, Carvalho, Cowden, Holland,<br>Kualii, Rapozo | TOTAL – 6, |
| AGAINST ADOPTION:     | None                                                  | TOTAL – 0, |
| EXCUSED & NOT VOTING: | Kaneshiro                                             | TOTAL – 1, |
| RECUSED & NOT VOTING: | None                                                  | TOTAL – 0. |

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: Six (6) ayes and one (1) excused.

Council Chair Rapozo: Good call on the lunch break. This meeting is adjourned.

### ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business, the Council Meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA  
County Clerk

:khp