

## COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 20, 2026

The Council Meeting of the Council of the County of Kaua'i was called to order by Mel Rapozo, Council Chair, on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 8:35 a.m., at the Council Chambers, 4396 Rice Street, Suite 201, and Meeting Room 106, Historic County Building, Līhu'e, Kaua'i, after which the following Members answered the call of the roll:

Honorable Addison Bulosan  
Honorable Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.  
Honorable Felicia Cowden  
Honorable Fern Holland  
Honorable Arryl Kaneshiro  
Honorable KipuKai Kualī'i (*present at 8:36 a.m.*)  
Honorable Mel Rapozo

Pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes Section 92-9(a)(4), because a video recording of this meeting is available online, this is to provide a link to the video recording (valid as of the approval date of these minutes): [https://kauai.granicus.com/player/clip/3083?view\\_id=2&redirect=true](https://kauai.granicus.com/player/clip/3083?view_id=2&redirect=true). Additionally, meeting videos are available at: [www.kauai.gov/Government/Council/Webcast-Meetings](http://www.kauai.gov/Government/Council/Webcast-Meetings).

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

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

Councilmember Carvalho moved for approval of the agenda, as circulated, 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 for approval of the agenda, as circulated, was then put, and carried by a vote of 6:0:1 (*Councilmember Kualī'i was excused*).

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

### MINUTES of the following meeting of the Council:

April 22, 2026 Council Meeting

(*Councilmember Kualī'i was noted as present.*)

Councilmember Cowden 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 unanimously carried.

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

#### CONSENT CALENDAR:

C 2026-119 Communication (05/05/2026) from the Director of Human Resources, transmitting for Council information, the May 1, 2026 Human Resources Report (Vacancy Report and Recruitment Status Report), pursuant to Section 10 of Ordinance No. B-2025-905, relating to the Operating Budget of the County of Kaua'i for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

Councilmember Carvalho moved to receive C 2026-119 for the record, seconded by Councilmember Bulosan.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is there discussion or public testimony?

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

The motion to receive C 2026-119 for the record was then put, and unanimously carried.

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

#### COMMUNICATIONS:

C 2026-109 Communication (04/14/2026) from the Executive on Aging, requesting Council approval to receive and expend State funds in the amount of \$55,280.00, and to indemnify the State Executive Office on Aging, for the provision of Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Services, subject to the allotments to be made by the Director of Finance, State of Hawai'i pursuant to Chapter 37, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Councilmember Carvalho moved to receive C 2026-109 for the record, seconded by Councilmember Bulosan.

Councilmember Cowden: I have a question.

Council Chair Rapozo: Go ahead, Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: I remember that we deferred it, but it does not seem as though the number changed.

Council Chair Rapozo: I am not sure.

Councilmember Cowden: I do not have a problem with it.

Council Chair Rapozo: They are requesting approval, right?

Councilmember Cowden: Yes. She is coming up. She wants to come up for a moment.

There being no objections, the rules were suspended.

MELODY LOPEZ, Program Administrative Officer I: Good morning. Melody Lopez, Assistant Executive. We sent an email. We are changing what is in C 2026-109 to what is in C 2026-125. Fifty-five thousand two hundred eighty dollars (\$55,280) is changed to seventy-one thousand six hundred seven dollars (\$71,607).

Council Chair Rapozo: If you look at agenda item C 2026-125, that is the new document.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay.

Council Chair Rapozo: This is the original memorandum (memo) which was deferred, because of the wrong amount. If you look at item C 2026-125, you will see they amended the amount to seventy-one thousand six hundred seven dollars (\$71,607).

Councilmember Cowden: Okay. Thank you.

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

The motion to receive C 2026-109 for the record was then put, and unanimously carried.

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

C 2026-120 Communication (05/07/2026) from Councilmember Bulosan and Councilmember Holland, transmitting for Council consideration, A Bill For An Ordinance Amending Chapter 8, Kaua'i County Code 1987, As Amended, Relating To Apiaries And Beekeeping.

Councilmember Kualii moved to receive C 2026-120 for the record, seconded by Councilmember Bulosan.

Council Chair Rapozo: Proposed Draft Bill (No. 2997) will come up later, but I know there are people here. If you would like to testify now and not have to wait, we will take your testimony now and apply it to the testimony for Proposed Draft Bill (No. 2997). Is there anyone who would like to testify on Proposed Draft Bill (No. 2997) now?

JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA, County Clerk: We have two (2) people who registered.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is it for this item?

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: It is for Proposed Draft Bill (No. 2997).

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay. Who is the first registered speaker?

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: The first registered speaker is Max Richardson, followed by Ariel Bishop.

There being no objections, the rules were suspended.

MAX RICHARDSON: I will wait.

Council Chair Rapozo: Will you wait for Proposed Draft Bill (No. 2997)?

Mr. Richardson: Yes.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: Ariel Bishop.

ARIEL BISHOP: I can wait for Proposed Draft Bill (No. 2997). Thank you.

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

The motion to receive C 2026-120 for the record was then put, and unanimously carried.

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

C 2026-121 Communication (05/07/2026) from the Director of Parks & Recreation, requesting Council approval of the indemnification clause contained in the State of Hawai'i, Department of Education Request & Agreement for Use of School Buildings, Facilities, or Grounds, for use of the Kapa'a High School Gymnasium for a basketball clinic provided by the University of Hawai'i at Hilo Men's Basketball coaches.

Councilmember Kualii moved to approve C 2026-121, seconded by Councilmember Carvalho.

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

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

BRUCE HART: For the record, Bruce Hart. Council Chair, am I mistaken or is this one of those you mentioned that the County has to pay and the State does not contribute?

Council Chair Rapozo: No, this is an indemnification to hold the State harmless to use the facility.

Mr. Hart: Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is there anyone else? If not, is there any further discussion?

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

The motion to approve C 2026-121 was then put, and unanimously carried.

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

C 2026-122 Communication (05/07/2026) from the Prosecuting Attorney, requesting Council approval to receive and expend recurring Federal Fiscal Year 2027 funds, in the amount of \$135,757.65, from the Impaired Driving Grant, and to indemnify the State of Hawai'i, Department of the Attorney General, to reimburse up to 1,040 hours of the Traffic Safety Prosecutor's position as well as travel costs for training and meetings. The grant will cover expenses for the period of October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027.

Councilmember Kualii moved to approve C 2026-122, seconded by Councilmember Cowden.

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

Councilmember Cowden: I have a short comment. I am just noticing that all three (3) of these are recurring grants. I have looked through them and I am good with all of them.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is there anyone in the audience wishing to testify? This is simply an outside-funded position for the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, which we appreciate.

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

The motion to approve C 2026-122 was then put, and unanimously carried.

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

C 2026-123 Communication (05/07/2026) from the Prosecuting Attorney, requesting Council approval to receive and expend recurring Federal funds, in the amount of \$38,815.00, from the Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Fiscal Year 2025 Local Solicitation Grant, to support training for Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys and Kaua'i Police Department officers, and to purchase office

supplies. The grant will cover expenses for the time period of October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2028.

Councilmember Kualii moved to approve C 2026-123, 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 2026-123 was then put, and unanimously carried.

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

C 2026-124 Communication (05/08/2026) from the Prosecuting Attorney, requesting Council approval to apply for, receive, and expend recurring Federal funds for the Domestic Violence Prosecution Unit for Fiscal Year 2025 STOP Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Formula Grant, in the amount of \$50,400.00, and to indemnify the State of Hawai'i, Department of the Attorney General, to support a 0.65 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Deputy Prosecuting Attorney and supplies, for the anticipated period of June 1, 2026 to January 31, 2027.

Councilmember Kualii moved to approve C 2026-124, 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 2026-124 was then put, and unanimously carried.

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

C 2026-125 Communication (05/12/2026) from the Executive on Aging, requesting Council approval to receive and expend State funds in the amount of \$71,607.00, and to indemnify the State Executive Office on Aging, for the provision of Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Services, subject to the allotments to be made by the Director of Finance, State of Hawai'i pursuant to Chapter 37, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Councilmember Kualii moved to approve C 2026-125, 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 2026-125 was then put, and unanimously carried.

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

CLAIMS:

C 2026-126 Communication (05/05/2026) from the County Clerk, transmitting a claim filed against the County of Kaua'i by Regina Kaulukukui, for vehicle damage, pursuant to Section 23.06, Charter of the County of Kaua'i.

C 2026-127 Communication (05/08/2026) from the County Clerk, transmitting a claim filed against the County of Kaua'i by Haman Santiago, for property damage, pursuant to Section 23.06, Charter of the County of Kaua'i.

Councilmember Kualii moved to refer C 2026-126 and C 2026-127 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 2026-126 and C 2026-127 to the Office of the County Attorney for disposition and/or report back to the Council was then put, and unanimously carried.

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

BILLS FOR FIRST READING:

Proposed Draft Bill No. (2997) – A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 8, KAUAI COUNTY CODE 1987, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO APIARIES AND BEEKEEPING

Councilmember Kualii moved to refer Proposed Draft Bill (No. 2997) to the Planning Commission, seconded by Councilmember Carvalho.

Council Chair Rapozo: Before we call for public testimony, I ask if either of the sponsoring Councilmembers would like to talk about the Proposed Draft Bill.

Councilmember Bulosan: Thank you, Council Chair, and thank you, Councilmembers, for allowing us to have this on the agenda. It is one we have been working on for over one (1) year. I will read the purpose of the Proposed Draft Bill, then we can move on to public testimony. "The purpose of this Ordinance is to promote beekeeping in Kaua'i County by establishing generally accepted apiary management practices for sound and sustainable beekeeping practice and adding apiaries to the list of allowable uses in various zoning districts. Nothing in this article is intended to conflict with any State or Federal law." We were approached by a collective of beekeepers throughout the island. This follows what has shaped in Hawai'i Island for the last five (5) years and is shaping throughout the other islands. The goal of this ordinance or Proposed Draft Bill is to assist beekeepers, and most importantly, to support the vital role of beekeeping which helps agriculture and native ecosystems across the islands, so we hope there is great discussion on this, we receive good

feedback from the community, and hopefully, the process is healthy and good. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: I have a clarifying question. In general, I am very supportive of this. I am curious about R-10 to R-20 lots, which means twenty (20) units per acre. That would probably be a two-story or multi-story, multi-family apartment building. Typically, those have a parking area that consumes almost all the rest of it, and there is wastewater and detention, so there is hardly any open space. I look at that one and wonder if that means people could have their apiary on their *lānai*, on the third floor, or on the second floor. I wonder about the wisdom of that, because it might fly into a neighbor's room. I bring this question up because I appreciate the quality of the testifiers who are here. We have real beekeepers. I want to know what is important for them on that and that rationale.

Councilmember Bulosan: I can respond now during the first reading.

Council Chair Rapozo: Sure.

Councilmember Cowden: Sure.

Councilmember Bulosan: In Section 4, we have a list of guardrails to make sure that in that hypothetical scenario, we can keep everyone safe. Particularly in subsection 8-1.4(m), "There shall be no more than fifteen (15) honeybee hives on any lot less than twenty thousand (20,000) square feet; provided that, upon application, the Director may authorize a greater amount of hives on a lot if the Director finds in writing that the number of additional hives will not impair the purposes of this section." Also, subsection 8-1.4(n) states, "No honeybee hive shall be located within twenty-five (25) feet of any property line except where a flyover barrier is situated..." In the scenario you shared, there would probably be no feasible way to have a hive there.

Councilmember Cowden: If so, why did you put it in there?

Councilmember Bulosan: We could...that is a discussion I prefer to have in the Committee, if that is okay.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay, so just setting that one up, because when I read in there, "...no more than fifteen (15) honeybee hives on any lot less than twenty thousand (20,000) square feet," an acre is about forty-five thousand (45,000) square feet, so you could have thirty (30) honeybee hives on a parcel that has twenty (20) living units on it. Subsection 8-1.4(m) does not lighten that up in any way, and subsection 8-1.4(n) does not either, because it will not affect the property line. That is just something that I think we want to look at in the Committee. I have a lot of bees in my yard and I also had a child who needed to have an EpiPen, Benadryl, and all of that for anaphylactic shock, so I was really conscious of the bees in my yard and how an R-20...we can have that conversation in the Committee, but I want to put that out really early for where there might be consideration for a dense condominium (condo) or apartment building.

Council Chair Rapozo: Are there any other comments before I open it up for public testimony? For the public's information, this Proposed Draft Bill will go to the Planning Commission. They will address the issues and questions there, then it will be sent back to the Council with a recommendation. That could be anywhere from a couple of months to...it depends on how long it stays with the Planning Commission. Can we have the first registered speaker?

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: The first registered speaker is Max Richardson, followed by Ariel Bishop.

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

Mr. Richardson: Does Ariel want to go first?

Council Chair Rapozo: I know you know the rules. You have three (3) minutes. The light will turn green when you start, it will turn yellow when you have thirty (30) seconds, and when it turns red, you are out of time. You are able to come back for a second three (3) minutes after we go through the first round of speakers.

Mr. Richardson: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen of the Council. For the record, my name is Max Richardson. Why is this important for the average person? The average person is not crazy enough to want to keep bees like I do. The big thing that comes to mind is honey. We do not really need to talk about honey. Everyone knows that honey exists and everyone already knows whether or not they like it. Bees are important to the average person because...I do not know if Ms. Bishop sent a presentation with information on it, but one (1) in every three (3) bites of food is affected in some way by bees or apiculture. Plants reproduce sexually by dispersing pollen. Bees help with that process a lot. You can tell by looking at a fruit whether it has been pollinated by pollinating insects or not because it is much healthier if it was. Bees and butterflies can help agriculture a lot more than the crops help themselves. One thing we are always pushing...I come to a lot of these Council meetings. I work for Hō'ike and I film a lot of the meetings, so I know we are always talking about wanting more food independence for Hawai'i as a whole, but Kaua'i, specifically, we want more food security, and we want to push agriculture as much as we can. We want more and more agriculture, because we want more food. Having bees nearby helps a lot. I am not saying that a farmer needs to be a beekeeper, but if you have a coffee plantation and there is someone keeping bees in his backyard, those bees will help the coffee plants. Bees can fly several miles. In a food dense environment, I think...and I may be corrected on this because I am not an expert, but in a food dense environment, I think they will pollinate and harvest from an area about three (3) miles in radius, which is six (6) miles in diameter, so all the plants within six (6) miles of that beehive will benefit greatly from the presence of bees there. Also, honey directly contributes to food independence. I harvest a bunch a honey from my beehive, I sell it to the Wailua Country Store, you can buy it from the Wailua Country Store, and you know it is honey from Kaua'i, not from California. To address what I think is the biggest concern people have about bees, which is that they sting you and it sucks...I have thirty (30) seconds. I will come back to talk about that during my second three (3) minutes, but I will say, "Yes, when they sting you, it sucks," but they do not sting you that often. Bees are selectively bred to be as nonaggressive as possible. Thirty (30) seconds is longer than it seems.

Council Chair Rapozo: You do not need to use all your time on the first round.

Mr. Richardson: I am done for now and will come back afterwards.

Council Chair Rapozo: There is your red light. Can we have the next speaker?

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: The next speaker is Ariel Bishop.

Ms. Bishop: Good morning, Council Chair, Council Vice Chair, and Members of the Council. Happy World Bee Day. That is today, so I love that this is on today's agenda. I wrote my speech so that I would not forget anything, so I apologize for reading it. My name is Ariel Bishop. I am a homeowner, an educator of bees, a voter, a gardener, and a beekeeper. I am here today in strong support of this Proposed Draft Bill to allow responsible beekeeping in all zones. I am fortunate to be born and raised in Kalāheo. I started keeping bees after moving home during the pandemic and after realizing we were missing bees from my family's yard. Growing up, our property was full of pollinators. There were bees in the fruit trees, a wild hive in the tree by the road, and life everywhere. When the bees disappeared, our gardens and food production changed. Luckily, my family's land is zoned agricultural (Ag), so I decided to get two (2) hives to help pollinate our plants and the results were practically immediate. There was not just double the fruit crop, but there was bigger fruit, too, leading to more abundance for our family and friends. Sharing is caring, right? The experience showed me how important bees truly are to food security and the resilience of our island. Kaua'i is also one of the last places in the world free of the devastating varroa mite, one of the primary causes of honeybee decline worldwide. That makes our bees incredibly valuable and worth protecting. Because importing bees into Hawai'i is illegal and has been since 1908, bees that are here are all that we have. They are what we depend on. Why is it important to support individuals willing to put in the hard work and responsibility of caring for our island's bee population? Getting stung sucks, so let us help these folks out. Right now, beekeeping is only allowed in Ag zones, leaving much of the island off-limits to beekeepers. The current permitting process is expensive and unrealistic for many everyday residents. This Proposed Draft Bill is not about putting bees everywhere or forcing beekeeping into communities. In fact, not all places are good places for keeping bees. It is simply about giving responsible people the ability to keep bees legally and respectfully without criminalizing small-scale beekeepers who are interested in benefiting from the medicinal properties of honey, propolis, etcetera, and the ability to grow their own food. The current restrictions are also not aligned with the science of bees. Bees do not recognize property lines and while they can forage several miles, their pollination benefits are strongest closer to home. Allowing responsible beekeeping in all zones will help extend those benefits across the neighborhoods and communities, so I respectfully ask for your support. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you. You timed that perfectly. Is there anyone else in the audience wishing to testify? Are there more registered speakers?

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: I am sorry.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: We have two (2) additional registered speakers. Michaela Widener, followed by Tommy Passerella.

MICHAELA WIDENER: Good morning, everyone. I will just give some facts on why bees...

Council Chair Rapozo: Could you state your name?

Ms. Widener: My name is Michaela Widener.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you.

Ms. Widener: I am here to just give some facts about why bees are so important. Bees are considered the most critical lifeform on earth, because they sustain global ecosystems and food supplies through pollination. They pollinate over one-third (1/3) of the food we eat, and support the biodiversity required for wildlife survival and climate stability. That is from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Agricultural dominance. Bees pollinate roughly seventy percent (70%) to ninety-five percent (95%) of the one hundred seven (107) most important global food crops. Without them, staples such as apples, almonds, berries, and coffee would face severe scarcity and skyrocketing prices. Ecosystem preservation. Beyond human food, bees are responsible for pollinating roughly seventy percent (70%) of all plant species. This enables flowering plants to reproduce, which provides food, nesting materials, and habitats for countless other wildlife species. I remember when I was in third grade learning about the birds that were becoming extinct, which was causing flowers to become extinct in the Hawaiian islands. The next thing will be that if the bees start to decline, so do our flowers, again. That is a tragedy that we should try to avoid. Carbon sequestration. By keeping deep-rooted plant and wildflower communities thriving in grasslands, bees help support environments that safely store vast amounts of carbon deep underground. Because of this interconnected web of life, the Earthwatch Institute and the Royal Geographical Society have previously highlighted bees as the most valuable and vulnerable species on the planet. Threats such as pesticide use and habitat loss are driving rapid declines in both managed and wild bee populations. You can explore more of these threats and how to protect local pollinators at the Bee Conservancy. That is from Friends of the Earth. It is not something that we should take lightly. It is something that we should take very seriously and be responsible for, because even though it is just a small insect, it has a profound effect on our diverse ecosystems. Diverse ecosystems mean being healthy is a trillion-dollar industry. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: Tommy Passerella.

**TOMMY PASSERELLA:** Good morning, everyone. I will keep it short and sweet, because I do not know a lot about bees other than...Tommy Passerella. I saw this. In many regions such as Texas, hosting bees on Ag, rural land qualify your property for significant tax reductions. I thought that was interesting. We should have more people who will consider having beehives here in a safe, manageable way. Native bees versus honeybees. If you want to help the environment without the intensive labor of beekeeping, consider planting native flowers and providing nesting sites for native bees, which are mostly solitary and rarely sting. Resources, such as the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation (Xerces Society) provides excellent guidelines on this. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you. Mr. Hart.

**BRUCE HART:** For the record, Bruce Hart. Beekeeping is as old as man. It is mentioned all over in the Bible. Every civilization has had beekeepers. We are very blessed. We have some of the best honey in the world. That is not just because I live on Kaua'i and I like bees. That is a fact. I am wishing and have been wishing for a long time...I have been here for over fifty (50) years...that we could somehow contribute to the promotion or the advertising of the fact that we have some of the purest honey in the world. I grew up with a dad who grew up in the Ozark Mountains (Ozarks). He used to chase bees. That is a whole story. You chase bees because you want to find the hive. You are responsible, so you do not take it all. That is the way people used to live. This is a good thing. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you. Mr. Sykos.

**LONNIE SYKOS:** For the record, Lonnie Sykos. My apologies for not having heard all the testimony. I was stuck in traffic because of an automobile (auto) accident. I do not know if the Office of Economic Development was here or not, but the Office of Economic Development should be leading the exportation of agricultural products from Kaua'i to bring new money into the island, because the queen bees are extremely valuable, and their honey and wax have value. There is little that the Office of Economic Development needs to do other than to promote the industry of raising queen bees. This could bring millions of dollars to private individuals in having beehives and learning how to do it. My grandfather had bees. I handled bees as a child. We took honey, got the queens, and had swarms. The only time I was ever stung was when I messed up. I did not wear a hood, nets, or any of that. I just knew how to handle the bees. We all agree bees are a good thing. The reason I came in is because of the definition of "flyover barrier" on page 2. I am very familiar with honeybees. Why is there no definition for flyover barrier? There is none. There is a statement of intent. What actually constitutes a flyover barrier? If I had a 20-foot-tall hedge of something such as mock orange, which the bees will go to...they go from flower to flower to flower. Depending on what the hedge is made of determines the bees...I do not know how high bees naturally go when scouting for food. That scientific fact ought to be included in the minimum height or the control features of what this is. I bring this up to protect the neighbors of the people who are raising bees. I am fully supportive of it. Someone could put beehives in my yard. I would be happy, but I do not want my neighbors losing their right of quiet enjoyment because I decided to have bees. This is a detail that really needs to be addressed. What is the actual legal meaning of a flyover barrier? Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you. Is there anyone else who wishes to testify?

DOUG GATES: Good morning, Councilmembers. My name is Doug Gates. I have been a beekeeper on the island for over twenty (20) years. I call myself a bee rescuer. I am the one who is called when you have bees in your house, in your trees, or wherever. I love my job. I believe this ordinance will be a great thing for this island. It will increase the number of beekeepers that we have. I hear many different things and there are concerns that if this Proposed Draft Bill is passed, then all of a sudden, there will be thousands of new beekeepers on the island. There are the comments from people, "I do not want bees in my backyard." It is a known fact that people are afraid of bees. The reality and my opinion if this Proposed Draft Bill passes is that we might see fifty (50) or one hundred (100) new beekeepers on this island. We will not see thousands. Beekeepers are an interesting group of people, to say the least, however, we all care dearly for the health and safety of our bees. Councilmember Cowden, your example of the apartment complex is true. There are places on this island where you will not be able to keep bees because of the flyover barrier and because of the 25-foot distance. One thing I will say about the flyover barrier is that he is correct. There is really nothing saying what a flyover barrier is. However, to my knowledge, a flyover barrier is something to make the bees fly up. One thing you will not do with your flyover barrier is that you will not have a flowering type of plant which will attract the bees to the flyover barrier. With all the bees I deal with, they generally go straight out of their hive on a slow arch up, but in places where I have flyover barriers, they go inches out from the hive, and go straight up, however high it is, to get out. The whole object of a flyover barrier is to make the bees go up as quickly as possible. Once they go up, they do not come down until they find what they are looking for—food, pollen, or whatever. This ordinance, by following what Hawai'i Island did, is great. Yes, there will be some alterations from what Hawai'i Island has, but I see nothing bad that can come from this. You heard a couple of beekeepers say being stung by a bee sucks. It does not suck. When you are stung by a bee...when a bee stings you...I am not talking about one you stepped on, sat on, or something such as that. When a bee stings you, it knows that you need help in that area. I am done.

Council Chair Rapozo: You can come back, because you are quite entertaining.

Mr. Gates: I will come back.

Council Chair Rapozo: Being stung does suck.

STEFANIE STAUBER CRAIG: Hello. My name is Stefanie Stauber Craig. I have a small organic farm with my husband. The name of our farm is the Owl and Bee Farm, but we do not actually keep any bees. We are lucky enough to farm an acre that has neighbors who keep many bees around us, whether legally or not. We farm all types of things. We have a little orchard area and we also farm row crops. First of all, you know that your garden is happy when you can hear it. If we are paying attention to the fact that we are all part of a web, you cannot really have a wall to keep nature out. We should all know this because we live on Kaua'i. We are constantly in nature. You can walk down Rice Street and you might be stung by a bee

because there are flowering trees. We should be so lucky to live in a space where bees are everywhere. Allowing more people to be involved in our food system in any way is good. I personally do not ever use any type of store-bought sugar in my home. I buy honey from one of my best friends in a five-gallon bucket. There is no need to buy anything. We live in a place where you really can live off the food that grows here, if you want. It takes work and imagination, but you can. Honey and beekeeping is a huge way we can stop relying so much on those barges. It is our job to support our local farmers, growers, and beekeepers. It is really important to support our people who...even if you have the smallest backyard and you might want to start the smallest hive ever, let us support the people who want to help our food system even in that small way. Even if they are cutting sugar out of their family, if they will have a stand in front of their house to sell bees, or if they will teach their kids about nature, all of these things are good things and we should really support it. With the whole "getting stung by bees sucks" thing, in my farm, I am constantly surrounded by bees all the time. They are not mine. I am not a bee whisperer. I do not have some sort of magical power. I have never been stung on my farm by any of these bees while I am digging around or cutting whatever. They do not bother you, unless you bother them. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you. Please.

YELENA OKHMAN: Good morning. Yelena Okhman. It is not only honey, which archeologists found 3,000-year-old honey, which is probably the oldest substance on earth produced by an animal that survived. There is also bee pollen, which is also propolis. There is also royal jelly and beeswax. There are so many products produced from bees that are really good for humans to consume and good for our immune system. In some research, they even say a bee sting can help with healing cancer. I am not pro bee stings, but I am just saying it is not as bad. This conversation is very important for the whole community. A few days ago, I mentioned to my daughter how in a community it is wonderful to become a bee, rather than a fly, because bees collect pollen from flowers and the conscious level of awareness is creating honey from pollen. That is amazing. I am in favor of it and I would love our beekeepers to produce more honey, bee pollen, and beeswax for the salves and the various medical products. Thank you so much.

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

NELSON MUKAI: My name is Nelson Mukai. I grew up raising bees with my dad. We had a big thirty (30) hive farm on his land. He planted a lot of agriculture. He was known to be a farmer. We love bees. We used to sell honey. We used to harvest it. We had a big milk tank in which we extracted honey from the combs using centrifugal force. I know a lot about bees. If anyone wants to ask me any questions, I might have the answer. I do not know.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you. Is there anyone else wishing to testify for the first time? Is there anyone who spoke earlier and wants to testify for a second time? Max.

Mr. Richardson: Hello, again. I am still Max Richardson. In my previous testimony, I briefly went over why bees are good. Just to summarize, it is not just about the bee products; it is that bees help most of agriculture. This time around, I want to talk about why bees are not bad. To expand a little about my opinion that being stung sucks, first of all, I should clarify that I was stung by a bee for the first time when I was thirty-five (35) years old. I am thirty-five (35) years old now, so that was this year. I have never been stung by a bee in my day-to-day life. That is the point I am trying to make. I have never been stung by a bee in my day-to-day life. I have been stung twice by bees and both times, I was handling a beehive and I did something clumsy or foolish. I smooshed a bee, the bees got angry, they tried to sting me through my suit, and where the fabric is tied on your shoulders is where they can sting through. That is all. That is who will be stung by bees if there are bees in your neighbor's yard. It is your neighbor when they are handling the hive, not you. The other thing is that there is some concern about keeping bees in an apartment complex. On its face, I agree with that concern. That is a bad idea. You should not keep bees in an apartment complex with the caveat that you could maybe keep them on the roof, if the roof is flat and safe to be on. You definitely cannot keep bees on your *lānai*. If you live in a condo, do not put bees on your *lānai*. That is a dumb idea. It is also inconsiderate of your neighbors. However, if we look at the proposed changes to the statute, if we look at the Proposed Draft Bill, the way the rules interact actually addresses that. All it is saying is you need to be considerate to your neighbor. You need to build your apiary at least twenty-five (25) feet away from the property line or fifteen (15) feet if you build a fence around it. As a previous testifier said, if you build a fence around your beehive, the bees will fly up to go over the fence and you will never know. Your next-door neighbor could have bees in their backyard and because it is illegal, they would build a fence around it to hide the hive, and you would not know because the bees will fly up. You will not know they are there. If you cannot build your apiary in a considerate way, then all this Proposed Draft Bill is saying that the zoning laws will not prevent you from building your apiary. Instead, this change to the statute will prevent you from doing that because if you do not have a 25-foot-wide backyard, you cannot build it twenty-five (25) feet away from your neighbor's property line. A good example is my house. If this Proposed Draft Bill is passed, I still cannot put bees in my backyard because it is too small. It would be right next to my neighbor's fence and I would be a bad neighbor for putting bees there. Do you know what I mean? I would still need to rent Ag land somewhere or use someone's backyard who has a bigger backyard.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you.

Mr. Richardson: The impact to crops is big and good, and impact to humans is minimal and not that bad.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you.

Mr. Richardson: If anyone has any questions, you know how to get hold of me.

Council Chair Rapozo: We sure do. Mr. Sykos.

Mr. Sykos: For the record, Lonnie Sykos. I would like to thank the Council for your patience and I would like to thank the audience for all your expressions regarding the subject of civics. I would like to address a few things that have been said. One (1) is people’s belief that this Proposed Draft Bill defines what consideration to your neighbor is. To the general public watching, it is one thing to be on a podcast and make a bunch of statements. It is a completely separate matter to create legislation. Once again, in this Proposed Draft Bill, you have a flyover barrier that you do not define. If it does not have any real meaning, why is it in the Proposed Draft Bill? You have people discussing that the bee owners will be considerate to their neighbors and as legislators, you all know that one of the primary reasons of legislation is to protect the public from various individuals’ desires, such as pollution. I could make a lot of money if I throw my waste in the river. To the public, this is a very fundamental question we are asking of the Council. How do you define this activity legally? It is not all this “waha” about feel good things, but the legal definition of what we are and are not allowing. Someone can say, “Hey, it is not a problem for the neighbor if I have all these beehives in my backyard.” Who speaks for that neighbor? Who speaks for the person who says, “I do not want this invading my right to a quiet enjoyment and that other parties do not have a right to disturb my quiet enjoyment?” That is why I am asking about definitions versus sayings. What is a flyover barrier? According to the beekeepers, it does not exist. A bee will fly as high as it needs to go to fly over the barrier, so the definition of the barrier seems to be at odds with reality. The directional device to make the bee fly high and not go directly into the neighbor’s yard...so put a height on this, such as ten (10) feet. You need to get a permit to build a 10-foot fence. It is the same with shrubbery. They already said shrubbery could attract the bees versus forcing them to fly up. Put definitions in this, please. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you.

Councilmember Kaneshiro: I have a clarifying question.

Council Chair Rapozo: Go ahead.

Councilmember Kaneshiro: For the flyover barrier definition, did you say it is not in here or that you do not like the definition of it, because there is a definition for flyover barrier in the Proposed Draft Bill. It says it means, “...a solid wall, fence, or dense vegetation, or combination thereof, that encourages honeybees to fly over rather than through the barrier.”

Mr. Sykos: My observation is if the flyover barrier is, by definition, supposed to keep the bees out of the neighbor’s yard, then a flyover barrier does not work because bees are bees. If the flyover barrier...

Council Chair Rapozo: Hold on. A clarifying question was asked and the question was very simple. Do you believe the definition in the Proposed Draft Bill is inadequate?

Mr. Sykos: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay. We will not allow a debate.

Mr. Sykos: I am not a lawyer.

Council Chair Rapozo: Neither are we.

Mr. Sykos: You heard what I had to say.

Council Chair Rapozo: Yes, we got it. I actually agree that we need to expand the definition. Thank you. Is there anyone else who wants to speak for a second time?

Mr. Sykos: Did I run out of my three (3) minutes?

Council Chair Rapozo: Yes, you did.

Mr. Passerella: Thank you. Tommy Passerella. Artificial intelligence (AI) overview. There is no exact consensus, but Kaua'i is home to tens of millions of honeybees across hundreds of managed and feral colonies. Kaua'i bees are unique because they are among the few in the world entirely free from the devastating varroa mite that plagued populations elsewhere. Kaua'i is home to the *nalo meli maoli*, the Native Hawaiian yellow-faced bee. These solitary non-honey-producing bees are an important and protected native species. European honeybees, the honey-producing variety, were introduced to the islands in 1857. Because Kaua'i lacks the varroa mite and other harsh diseases found on the mainland and other Hawaiian islands, the local bee population is exceptionally strong, healthy, and wild. Another thing is honeybees or bees, in general, fly six (6) to one hundred (100) feet. Guess how high some bees are able to fly. They can fly twenty thousand (20,000) feet to thirty thousand (30,000) feet, if they want. Most of the time, they probably do not because they will jump on an airplane versus flying thirty thousand (30,000) feet. Thank you for all that you do. It is interesting that they say honey is one of the only things that never goes bad, so I will start consuming more local honey. It is very healthy. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you. Is there anyone else who wants to speak for a second time? Come up.

Ms. Bishop: Ariel Bishop, for the record. Hopefully, I can help provide a general definition of flyover barrier that we have been using at Kaua'i Community College (KCC). There is science to it. It is a maximum of five (5) feet away from the front of a hive, a minimum of six (6) feet tall in front of a hive, and it needs to extend outwards to the side of the hive two (2) feet in each direction. Six (6) feet is not too much. They fly straight out, hit that, and go up. Drone congregation areas where bees mate are very high up in the sky, so they do actually hang out very high up there. Those are just a couple of things. I think it is a great idea to include a definition of those requirements for a flyover barrier so that everyone has that information. That is what I want to speak about. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Can you send the definition used at KCC?

Ms. Bishop: Yes, definitely.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you.

Ms. Bishop: It is a definition you find in science books, so we did not invent it.

Council Chair Rapozo: I think that is what Mr. Sykos was inquiring about.

Ms. Bishop: We applied it at KCC with success. We did a construction project with the students there in front of our giant production hives. There are twenty-four (24) of them. We installed a flyover barrier which is a simple piece of netting, actually, so you can see through it. The bees went out, flew into the barrier, and flew up. Our construction team poured us a cement slab ten (10) feet in front of our production hives with no issues. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you. Is there anyone else?

Mr. Gates: *Aloha.* Doug Gates, again. One of the benefits of honeybees is the many types of medicines that come from the honeybee. Bee venom is an amazing thing. If you are told you need to take cortisone shots, bee venom is one hundred (100) times more potent than cortisone. It works. I am a witness to it. I went through it about fifteen (15) years ago using bee venom instead of surgery, and I gained full movement back. Medicinal honey...if you have allergies, you want to eat honey from as close to where you live as possible. By doing that, it will increase your immune system and cut down your allergies, because you are getting everything that you are allergic to. Pollen is excellent. If we wish to, we could live on pollen and honey alone. We do not need additional water or food. It has everything that we need to survive. I would not do it. You would be on one heck of a sugar fix. Royal jelly was talked about. It is a very powerful thing. Queen rearing was talked about. I personally do not support queen rearing. Let them do their own thing. Someone talked about economic people. I do not think we will have any major, huge apiaries that will send their honey off island. To my knowledge, at this point, I do not believe there is a single beekeeper who is really doing serious off-island sales. Robin Fisher sells off-island in small scale, but I do not think anyone will sell a five-gallon tub of honey to someone in California, because it will be too expensive to ship. I guess that is all I have.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you.

Mr. Gates: Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is there anyone else?

Councilmember Cowden: Can I please talk to Planning Director Hull for just a moment?

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay. Is he here?

Councilmember Cowden: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay.

KA'ĀINA S. HULL, Planning Director: Good morning, all. Ka'āina Hull,  
on behalf of the Planning Department.

Councilmember Cowden: I imagine you reviewed this and support it.

Mr. Hull: We tentatively reviewed it. We do not have a  
position at this point.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay. When we look at this item, page 3,  
which I can read for you, says, "No honeybee hive shall be located within  
twenty-five (25) feet of any property line except where a flyover barrier is situated..."  
When there is an apartment complex, where is the property line?

Mr. Hull: There are two (2) versions of a property line.  
One is an official lot line, which is a recorded lot property line and the other could be  
a condominium property regime (CPR) line.

Councilmember Cowden: What if it is not a CPR and is just a  
multi-family dwelling apartment, do you have a property line between the two (2)  
apartments?

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

Mr. Hull: There is a CPR line between the two (2)  
apartments.

Councilmember Cowden: Would that basically be invalidating a permit  
if you had, for example, twenty (20) units on that acre? I am curious, because someone  
could have R-20 land and not have anything on it, so if there is nothing on that land,  
if it is R-20, or if there are a few houses, there would be no problem putting apiaries  
there. That is the one (1) thing I am trying to look at. If there was a dense building,  
such as what is being built next door, do you see how any of this would prohibit a  
bunch of apiaries on it?

Mr. Hull: If there is a CPR line, and there often are for  
apartment complexes, the CPR lines will be within the apartment complex and  
around the physical structure itself. Outside of that line are common elements. If  
there is an apartment complex, generally, the Homeowners Association (HOA) rules  
associated with the apartment complex will also regulate what can go in the common  
areas. I imagine that in most CPR situations or apartment complexes, the rules would  
have something in which they are fully prohibiting apiary use or they could be crafted  
or updated in a way where apiary use is designated in a particular common element.

Councilmember Cowden: Yes. Okay. I am curious about something  
aside from this. When the County establishes an affordable housing project, does the  
County CPR every single apartment?

Mr. Hull: No, in those situations...

Council Chair Rapozo: We are getting away from the Proposed Draft Bill.

Councilmember Cowden: I really am not, because...

Council Chair Rapozo He already explained. He answered your question regarding a CPR line. I do not want to get into hypothetical scenarios. This is the first reading and it will go to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will dissect this Proposed Draft Bill, take public testimony, and then we will receive a bill which we have the ability to modify. This is the first reading.

Councilmember Cowden: I have the right to ask that question.

*(Councilmember Carvalho was noted as present.)*

Council Chair Rapozo: You did and he answered it. Now, you are asking about County subdivisions and County CPRs.

Councilmember Cowden: It is because he said there is a CPR and when I look at these property maps, I do not see any sort of CPR in there, so I was just trying to understand it. I do not necessarily have a problem with...I love the Proposed Draft Bill. I just want to understand what the situation is and avoid a circumstance where there is something that turns it into a bummer.

Council Chair Rapozo: Are there any other questions for Ka‘āina? I am sorry, the public testimony portion is done. Are there any other questions for Ka‘āina? If not, thank you.

Mr. Hull: Thank you.

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

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

Councilmember Holland: Thank you all. I want to briefly speak. Obviously, I am in support of this Proposed Draft Bill and I am grateful Councilmember Bulosan reached out about working on it. It is part of my bigger package of important things I am working on, which is agriculture, all local things, including value products, and all those things. Yes, it is a huge economic driver. This is a really wonderful bill for our economy, local value-added products, and obviously, food production, as we heard today. Bees die when they sting, so they do not really want to sting you. There is that aspect of the conversation that I we did not touch. I would encourage anyone who is nervous about this to take the apiary class at KCC to experience it and learn, because a lot of those fears are misplaced. The other thing I want to bring up is because I heard the Xerces Society brought up today and the collapse of our ecological systems, and as an ecologist, I want to emphasize that we are living through the great extinction of insects. It is called the “insect apocalypse” in ecological terms. We are losing an unprecedented amount of pollinators. As a home

gardener, I am literally out there with a brush pollinating some species of things in my backyard because we lost the carpenter bees that pollinate the *liliko'i*. I have been trying to build a habitat for them in an attempt to encourage them back to my yard. Overall, we really need to keep the fact that we are living through a massive decline in our insect population into perspective. There is a ton of research out there that I encourage you to follow up on. Thank you for this. This is much more testimony for first reading than I expected, but I appreciate all the engagement and I appreciate being brought in on this. Thank you, Councilmember Bulosan.

Council Chair Rapozo:

Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: I know the beekeepers in the room know how supportive I am of beekeeping. "Doug the Bee Guy" has a radio show next to mine on KKCR and I eat plenty of his honey. I am in full support of helping with keeping our pollinators strong and our bees strong. In my "yarden," as I call it, I have very active food production. It is like a little food forest and I regularly walk through the pile of bees on my basil that is next to my gate opening. I have never had a person stung. As I said, I have a child, who is now an adult, who had a sensitivity and we regularly went to field trips to apiaries, learned about bees, and had bees in the yard. I understood and we all understood how to be around bees. I did a homeschool at my house for years with all these bees and no one was ever stung with all the bee work we did. I am not afraid of bees. When I ask the question about apartment buildings, it is because we want to be conscious of what...in case there is someone, who as you said...beekeepers might be unusual people. Maybe someone is committed to having one on their porch. That one is an issue. Hooray. Thank you. Good job.

Council Chair Rapozo:  
Councilmember Bulosan.

Thank you. Is there anyone else?

Councilmember Bulosan: Again, I want to thank the Council for hearing this Proposed Draft Bill. I will admit something really shameful. When I was first approached about this bill by the community, I forgot to tell them I was deathly afraid of bees. In this whole process of working with the community, learning about the importance of bees and beekeeping, talking with the community, and working with our team, I understood in that time how important bees are and more importantly, the relation necessary to foster helping our community grow and be healthy, especially in agriculture and the byproduct of our economic diversity on the island. In that process, the fear dissipated like the sound of when you hear bees. Now, as an earlier testifier said, it sounds like a healthy ecosystem to me. When you hear bees, you really know we are in a healthy place versus being afraid of being stung. For the record, I will be forty (40) years old this year and I have yet to be stung, but apparently, there are some health benefits to being stung. What I love about this process is that it engages the community and that this particular Proposed Draft Bill came from the community, will go through the community, and I am looking forward to it being referred to the community at the Planning Commission so that the community can continue to craft a healthier bill. In just today, we had great discussion during the first reading to potentially make this an even better bill, so I really appreciate the process. Thank you, everyone, for being here, testifying, and working on this Proposed Draft Bill.

Council Chair Rapozo:

Councilmember Kaneshiro.

Councilmember Kaneshiro: I heard the Proposed Draft Bill was going around, but obviously, only two (2) people can work on it at a time. Ariel actually took us out to the KCC site. Councilmember Carvalho and I went, and I did not know what to expect. I have never really been around bees that much. I have been stung by them, although I have been stung by more yellowjackets than honeybees. I was surprised how mellow it was by the hives. We put on the bee suits and everything, and I was expecting to be completely attacked by bees, but that was not the case. They just went along and did their own thing, Ariel had us handling the things, and I was surprised they did not bother us much. That made me a lot more comfortable with the Proposed Draft Bill than I originally thought. If anyone has questions, they should probably do a site visit at KCC to see how it is done, because it will quell a lot of fear or misconception that anyone may have about beehives.

Council Chair Rapozo:

Councilmember Carvalho.

Councilmember Carvalho: I want to add on to that. The educational part of it, the educational side...because a lot of people in the community are not really comfortable, but by continuing to educate people and having them understand...the KCC experience was good for me. At the very least, everything fit me. Being able to visit that and the educational side afterwards when we went into the building and went over everything is a big, big part. Then there is the cultural side or natural side. When you were growing up, there were beehives all over the place, but you were not sure. There is a positive part that needs to resonate and continue, so I just wanted to mention that. I appreciate the visit with Councilmember Kaneshiro. Going from there and hearing in the community some people are very afraid, but we need to continue to educate and what is the positive part of this whole discussion...*mahalo*.

Council Chair Rapozo:

Councilmember Kualii.

Councilmember Kualii: I am excited to have this Proposed Draft Bill before us and that we will be able to work on this to make it the best bill that it can be. I, too, went on the tour. Council Chair and I went together. I was blown away by the whole process and the natural miracle of it all. I love the idea that it is happening here and it should be a lot more. I love our *'āina* and I love food, so we need to support the bees.

Councilmember Cowden: I have a short thing that I want to add. In all the testimony, we did not receive any opposition and I am hearing that there are a lot of people who are afraid of this, and there very well might be...no pun intended, but I will say on my radio program, I have many times over several years really promoted these concepts, and we have talked about the need for a bill and the need for the ability to do that. In the program that I do in the talk radio, I often get the back and forth, and I never had anyone say, "Hey, we do not want this." I just want to say that. I have not heard that people do not want it, but that does not mean that everyone is for it. I have not heard that. I have not received a single call, a single complaint, or a single point of resistance. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is there anyone else? I will be honest. The reason why there is no opposition here and in testimony is because they do not know about it yet. I am being real, folks. The beekeepers know about it. They are here and we received tons of testimony. If you think it will be smooth sailing through this process, you are wrong, because once the public and the residential areas...I know this because I called one of my friends who is a retired beekeeper. He thinks it is a bad idea to put it in residential areas. I am not saying I agree with that. I am just saying there is opposition and we will see opposition. Mr. Sykos left already, but he had a very good question. Who will speak for the neighbors? That is what we do. That is our job. Our job is to make sure we get educated, like we did. That was fantastic. I was freaked out in the beginning. I really was. I needed to be taped with duct tape several times because I am so afraid of bees.

(Note: There was discussion while the rules were not suspended.)

Mr. Gates: Did any of you get stung during that experience?

Council Chair Rapozo: What was that?

Mr. Gates: Did any of you get stung during that experience?

Council Chair Rapozo: No. My point is that after being with an amazing instructor, I got comfortable in that suit and I learned to appreciate these bees a lot more. This whole process is incredible. It is, as someone said, a miracle. Our job is to make sure this bill is as protective as possible for the neighbors. Again, Mr. Sykos brought up the definition issue and Councilmember Kaneshiro read the definition, but I believe it needs to be more specific, because it is subject to interpretation. What is the scientific data? You will send that to us, so thank you. For the Planning Department staff who are here, I appreciate you being here. You did not need to be here today. Hopefully, this is where the Planning Commission will address some of the concerns that we will be getting from the communities. When you talk about apartment buildings and property lines, obviously, the space required with that barrier should protect the neighbors. I want to make sure that we clearly define everything in this Proposed Draft Bill so it is not left to interpretation and that what you need to do is clear. I do not know anything about how bees fly. Thirty thousand (30,000) feet is bazaar, but I do not know how high they need to go. Is six (6) feet enough or should it be ten (10) feet? That is a discussion they will have at the Planning Commission and when it comes back to us after they are done with it. I appreciate you folks being here.

Councilmember Holland: I want to weigh in on that, Council Chair, because you brought up a great point and I meant to mention it. I also agree that there could be more specifics and a better definition, and I look forward to seeing what that is. From what I can tell across the country, a barrier is generally a minimum of six (6) feet, but often eight (8) feet, so if we want to be more cautious in residential areas, we could put a requirement of eight (8) feet, instead of six (6) feet. The definitions I see in other places say ten (10) feet is the minimum and in some places, they require a 20-foot barrier, which would mean the bee hits the barrier, goes

up eight (8) feet or ten (10) feet, and they travel for miles, so they will go from there. It is significant. There is a lot of science to it and I look forward to having that conversation. I just wanted to note that I agree that the barrier should be really clearly defined.

Council Chair Rapozo: The Planning Commission will receive tons of testimony from the public that they will need to address. To keep something broad as it is in this Proposed Draft Bill will not work, but that is easily fixed and will create a new industry for barrier netting. I like the idea of it being a net. It is not a wooden barrier or a concrete barrier. It is a barrier without flowers. Obviously, you do not want your bees hanging in the barrier. There is a lot more work to do, but the process is in place, so I look forward to it. Councilmember Kualii.

Councilmember Kualii: Council Chair, can I say one (1) more thing? I really appreciated the testimony. I learned. I loved hearing that if you eat honey from as close to where you live, it is possible that can help with your allergies. We can all...everyone out there, too...support beekeeping, beekeepers, and bees more by eating more honey. I do not eat a lot of local honey, but I will. Thank you, Council Chair.

Council Chair Rapozo: Roll call, please.

The motion to refer Proposed Draft Bill (No. 2997) to the Planning Commission was then put, and carried by the following vote:

FOR REFERRAL:	Bulosan, Carvalho, Cowden, Holland, Kaneshiro, Kualii, Rapozo	TOTAL – 7,
AGAINST REFERRAL:	None	TOTAL – 0,
EXCUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0,
RECUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0.

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

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you. With that, could you read us into Executive Session (ES), please?

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ES-1165 Pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Sections 92-4 and 92-5(a)(4), and Kaua'i County Charter Section 3.07(E), the Office of the County Attorney requests an Executive Session with the Council, to provide the Council with a briefing and consultation to discuss the status of the conveyance of Hā'ena Beach Park, Tax Map Key (TMK) No. (4) 5-9-005-019-0000 and Maniniholo Dry Cave, TMK No. (4) 5-9-005-017-0000, to the State pursuant to Council Resolution No. 2025-42 adopted by the Council on November 26, 2025. This briefing and consultation involves consideration of the powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and/or liabilities of the Council and the County as they relate to this agenda item.

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

ES-1166 Pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Sections 92-4 and 92-5(a)(4), and Kaua'i County Charter Section 3.07(E), the purpose of this Executive Session is for the Office of the County Attorney to provide the Council with a briefing on Friends Of Māhā'ulepū v. Kaua'i Planning Commission, CAAP-25-0000025, Intermediate Court of Appeals, Appeal from the Circuit Court of the Fifth Circuit (Case No. 5CCV-24-000035), including the possible consequences of the litigation and the Council's legal options as they relate to Tax Map Key (TMK) Nos. (4) 4-1-003:004 (por.), 005, 007, 011, 017; and TMK Nos. (4) 4-1-005:014 and 017 (Coco Palms). This briefing and consultation involves consideration of the powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and/or liabilities of the Council and the County as they relate to this agenda item.

*(Councilmember Kualii was noted as present.)*

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: Council Chair, we have two (2) testifiers for ES-1166.

Council Chair Rapozo: Are they registered here? Can we have the first speaker?

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: The first speaker is Judi Matola, followed by Michaela Widener.

Council Chair Rapozo: Are you cold?

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

JUDI MATOLA: I am freezing.

Council Chair Rapozo: I do not know why today is so cold.

Ms. Matola: I am Judi Matola. Kaua'i has been my home for close to forty (40) years and I worked here in the '70s. I worked for a company that brought concerts to Vidinha Stadium. I do not have anything prepared. I will speak from my heart. The Coco Palms Resort (Coco Palms) was part of my life back then. There were no traffic lights. There was one (1) traffic light in Kekaha at the cane fields. There was no traffic. I have always lived in Wailua Houselots or Wailua Homesteads. I brought my kids to see the monkeys. We would get our hair done and we would socialize at Coco Palms. That does not exist anymore. It is nostalgia. Having a hotel there is not happening. There is no beach and the traffic is horrendous. I have been to a lot of meetings with the contractors of Coco Palms, and I just feel we need something other than a hotel. We could even have communal beekeeping on the property. I bet that would be a great idea...a cultural center, a park. The people of Kaua'i would support working and volunteering. We do it at Lydgate Beach Park. We do a cleanup every Saturday. We have fifteen (15) billionaires on this island. I think we could get the money to buy that property. It is time. It really is time. I drive by it every day and say, "Oh my. What could it be instead of a hotel?" There is not even a beach there anymore. I feel the need for a park or a cultural center. It would be really cool to have a communal bee thing there. Our *keiki* would love it. That is all I want to say. *Mahalo*.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you. Next speaker.

Ms. Fountain-Tanigawa: Michaela Widener.

Ms. Widener: My name is Michaela Widener. It is not Coco Palms. It is the Valley of the Kings. This is the site. If we look at it historically, it is where all royalty of every Hawaiian island was born, so the fact that this has been sold and developed is offensive. It is a crime against humanity and against the entire Kingdom of Hawai'i. I want to advocate for the State to take it back and give it to the Hawaiians, so that they can revitalize it and rejuvenate their culture as an *ahupua'a* like it should be and we can partner with the State, because this is a massive amount of revenue that people are missing out on. I also want to point out that Native Hawaiians experience disproportionately higher rates of chronic illness and mortality compared to many other ethnic groups in the United States (U.S.). These health disparities are closely tied to historical trauma, systemic and socioeconomic barriers, and the shift from traditional lifestyles to western diets. Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders suffer from a number of poor health outcomes, such as high rates of overweight status, obesity, and hypertension, and high rates of asthma, cancer, and mortality. The thing about deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) that is really cool is that it is the oldest library that we have. It is just coded information that is passed down, so anything that your ancestors have been through is stored as information and carried over to the next generation. I also want to point out that Article 12, Section 7 of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i deals with Hawaiian law. It says, "The State reaffirms and shall protect all rights, customarily and traditionally exercised for subsistence, cultural and religious purposes and possessed by *ahupua'a* tenants who are descendants of native Hawaiians who inhabited the Hawaiian Islands prior to 1778, subject to the right of the State to regulate such rights." These lands belong to those people. It is a crime against that. I want to add how allowing Hawaiians to develop this for cultural rejuvenation will make the State and the County money, as well as helping health. It is a 67-billion-dollar industry.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you. Is there anyone else wishing to testify?

Mr. Sykos: For the public record, my name is Lonnie Sykos. Without pointing any individuals out, I will say to the public that there are some in this room who were at the County Council Meeting however long ago it was, fifteen (15) or eighteen (18) years ago, in which the permits for Coco Palms were reapproved. We are dealing with this today and all of these issues today because of the unintended consequences of the action that the Council took in the past. To the public, let this issue be a warning to you. A warning about who you elect to public office and whether or not they listen to the public about the possibility of future outcomes that the public does not like and perhaps even finds offensive. I hope that this gets resolved well, that a hotel is not built there, and that the lands are returned to the Native Hawaiians, but these are my opinions and have absolutely nothing to do with what the law calls for. I expect the Council and the law to do what is lawful, and we, the public, will find out what happens in the future. Thank you very much.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you. Next.

Mr. Passerella: Tommy Passerella. Looking at Reef Capital Partners...I do not know who they are. They have a vision of this being 350-room hotel under Kimpton flag. Let us be really honest. Who owns that land? How many acres does the Hindu monastery in Wailua have, a lot of which is leased from the State? From what I understand, they do an incredible job. Do they really need all that acreage? How much acreage does the Hawaiian Kingdom truly own on Kaua'i. I think the County owns about one thousand (1,000) acres. The Federal government owns about thirty-something thousand acres...or control, I should say. That is the land of "we the people." Coco Palms needs to be reinvented to be...that is thirty-something acres. If each of you had the ability to make it what you would love it to be and if you had a budget that was well within reason to make it happen, what would you do with that? I do not think any of you would make a 350-room hotel, but that is a decision you all need to make. This should be...we, the people, deserve to get that land back and through eminent domain, you should snatch it from whoever has it now, because those lands have been stolen. We all know the history of the Hawaiian Kingdom. I say, "Give it back to the Hawaiian Kingdom and do the right thing." How will that be done? I am not sure, but I would snatch that land so quickly it would make their heads spin and I would not be worried about lawsuits. I would just say, "This is our land based on it not being proceeded in a professional, clean way." It has been sitting like that since 1992, which is nice, because it shows the speed of things getting done. This is a side note. I am not sure, but for how long has the gym in Kīlauea been closed? That shows how slow things happen when they are not a priority. Ask Elvis' family what they would do with the thirty-something acres of the Coco Palms property. Ask real leaders, like Bruddah Iz's family, what they would do with it. Like the *kāhuna* and *ali'i* who truly represent from the 1800s...ask them what they would do with it. We need to help our seniors. How much land actually goes to unsheltered on this island? Let us be honest. Kaua'i Economic Opportunity, Inc. (KEO) is a joke to me. How many houseless people could you shelter in just one (1) of the Macy's subsections, even though it is not the right energy to have at the mall? We need to use land wisely, because that is prime land. I say to give it back to the Hawaiian Kingdom. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you. Is there anyone else? If you could, state your name for the record. I am not sure if you have been here before.

ANNA MERCER: No.

Council Chair Rapozo: You will have three (3) minutes. When it turns yellow, you will have thirty (30) seconds, and when it turns red, your time is up.

Ms. Mercer: Okay.

Council Chair Rapozo: If you could, start by introducing yourself.

Ms. Mercer: Hello, my name is Anna Mercer. What a lovely space. It has very nice crown molding. I think we need to fix the land. We need to fix the septic. It stinks. That is foremost. Finish that bridge. How long do we think that will take? That septic issue by the gas station stinks and the septic issue at Lydgate stinks. Before we even decide what we will do with land, we should fix it.

What I think we have been trying to do is break down that hotel slowly and gradually, because it has a lot of old asbestos and whatnot, so we need to think about the people. Once that is finished, then we can think about what we will do or if we will build a hotel, which is such a lovely space. Did we not all have so much fun when Elvis was around? There is a lot of fixing to do first before we decide what we will do with that piece of beautiful property. I will break my anonymity. I go to alcoholics anonymous every morning at Lydgate at 7:00 a.m. and the sunrises are gorgeous. On Fridays, we have an evening reflection. From 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. we talk story and from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. we talk about what we need to talk about. It is such a beautiful space and there are a lot of things to be...such as the wooden park. It is beautiful, but it needs some reinforcement, such as new lacquer or something. Do you know what I mean? The septic issues, the bridge issues...that is the one (1) place everyone crosses to get from the Westside to the Northside, right? Unless you go up and around. We need to, because it could be another windy, windy, windy thing, so that is structural, sewer, and trash before we think about having another bypass road, right? I hear there might be a circle, bypass thing by Healing Horses Kaua'i (Healing Horses). Healing Horses is an amazing, amazing...I work for Healing Horses. I work for Karin Stoll. We do a lot of healing, trauma, neuroplasticity, and quantum entanglement. We have a lot of healing and fixing to do. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you very much. Is there anyone else?

Ms. Widener: Can I speak for a second time?

Council Chair Rapozo: Sure.

Ms. Widener: My name is Michaela Widener. I just want to talk about how much money we could make if we work with the Hawaiians and get eminent domain, transfer it over, and work with them to do an *ahupua'a*. According to the World Travel & Tourism Council, a landmark report at the global summit in Perth, Australia highlighted how indigenous tourism is projected to contribute sixty-seven billion dollars (\$67,000,000,000) in global economy. The report showcases the sector's role in driving economic growth, particularly in remote regions, and its vital contribution for cultural preservation and community empowerment. Kaua'i really stands at this precipice where if we take whatever legal action we can to help make this happen, we could set an example of how working with the indigenous community is the way to create a good touristic economy for the future of the entire Hawaiian Kingdom. We could set the example of how indigenous revitalization is money-making. Not only is it good for the environment and the people, but it is also good to line the pockets of the State and the County. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you. Is there anyone else?

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

Councilmember Kualii moved to convene in Executive Session for ES-1165 and ES-1166, seconded by Councilmember Bulosan.

Council Chair Rapozo: Roll call.

The motion to convene in Executive Session for ES-1165 and ES-1166 was then put, and carried by the following vote:

FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:	Bulosan, Carvalho, Cowden, Holland, Kaneshiro, Kualii, Rapozo	TOTAL – 7,
AGAINST EXECUTIVE SESSION:	None	TOTAL – 0,
EXCUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0,
RECUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0.

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

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you. We will report in ES Chambers in ten (10) minutes. Thank you.

There being no objections, the Council recessed at 10:06 a.m., to convene in Executive Session.

The meeting reconvened at 11:23 a.m., and proceeded as follows:

Council Chair Rapozo: Mr. County Attorney.

There being no objections, the rules were suspended.

TYLER SAITO, County Attorney: Good afternoon, everyone. Tyler Saito, County Attorney. The Council has concluded its Executive Session on items ES-1165 and ES-1166. For the purposes stated on the agenda, discussions must be kept confidential at this time. A disclosure would frustrate the purpose of the Executive Session stated on the agenda. Thank you.

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

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you so much. With that, this meeting is adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business, the Council Meeting adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA  
County Clerk