COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 26, 2026

The Council Meeting of the Council of the County of Kaua'i was called to order by Mel Rapozo, Council Chair, on Wednesday, August 26, 2026, at 8:46 a.m., at the Council Chambers, 4396 Rice Street, Suite 201, 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 Kuali'i
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/3134?view_id=2&redirect=true. Additionally, meeting videos are available at: www.kauai.gov/Government/Council/Webcast-Meetings.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

Councilmember Kuali'i moved for approval of the agenda, 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 for approval of the agenda, as circulated, was then put, and unanimously carried.

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

MINUTES of the following meetings of the Council:

August 12, 2026 Council Meeting
August 12, 2026 Public Hearing re: Bill No. 2998 and Bill No. 2999

Councilmember Kualiʻi 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.

COMMUNICATIONS:

C 2026-203 Communication (08/06/2026) from the Planning Director, requesting Council approval to apply for, receive, and expend funds from the Hawaiʻi State Department of Transportation (HDOT) in the amount of $500,000.00, to continue supporting the County of Kauaʻi Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Coordinator position, contributing towards continued funding for a period of five (5) years.

Councilmember Kualiʻi moved to approve C 2026-203, seconded by Councilmember Bulosan.

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

Councilmember Cowden: I just want to confirm that this is for one hundred thousand dollars ($100,000) per year for five (5) years and is a recurring grant.

Council Chair Rapozo: It is not recurring.

Councilmember Cowden: Is it a fresh one?

Council Chair Rapozo: They are applying for a new grant. The position has been funded from the same grant source for the last five (5) years, but it is not recurring. It is new.

Councilmember Cowden: Is it basically the same thing that they have done the entire time?

Council Chair Rapozo: Yes. Is there anyone in the audience wishing to testify?

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

The motion to approve C 2026-203 was then put, and unanimously carried.

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

C 2026-204 Communication (08/07/2026) from the Executive on Aging, requesting Council approval to receive and expend Federal funds, in the amount of $129,802.00, and to indemnify the State Executive Office on Aging, for the provision of Rural Health Transformation Program Services.

Councilmember Bulosan moved to approve C 2026-204, seconded by Councilmember Kualiʻi.

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 2026-204 was then put, and unanimously carried.

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

C 2026-205 Communication (08/11/2026) from the Fire Chief, requesting Council approval to accept a donation of one (1) Honda all-terrain vehicle (ATV), valued at $10,061.25, from the Kauaʻi Lifeguard Association, to be used at Hāʻena Beach Park Tower to support operational readiness and emergency response.

Councilmember Kualiʻi moved to approve C 2026-205 with a thank-you letter to follow, seconded by Councilmember Bulosan.

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

Councilmember Cowden: I want to, again, give gratitude.

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

TOMMY PASSERELLA: Tommy Passerella, Līhuʻe. Just to clarify, what will this vehicle be used for and is this the best way of getting a vehicle that the County "needs," because I see so many County vehicles sitting unused? I do not mind them. If we are putting a nice vehicle out there, let us put a recruiting sign on there for our lifeguards and public safety people. Let us wrap it. Does that make sense? Use it for marketing, if it is a used vehicle. We have a bunch of used vehicles sitting in the parking lot that are hardly being used, so let us step up the game and use it for recruiting lifeguards and for getting the word out about the Junior Lifeguard Program. We could probably get it done for free. That is just a quick note. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you very much. Is there anyone else? To answer the question, this is an ATV—a four (4) wheeler—that the lifeguards use to traverse the sand in a very quick manner rather than running. It is brand-new and it is being donated by the Kaua'i Lifeguard Association. This costs the County no money. Councilmember Cowden.

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

Councilmember Cowden: I will express gratitude to the Kaua'i Lifeguard Association and acknowledge that the biggest donor is the visitor industry. Basically, the visitors...visitors and others, but it is largely the visitor industry that buys a mule or an ATV to help the lifeguards do a more effective job, so it is great. They are ridden pretty hard and they are exposed to all the elements, so they need to be replaced and I am very grateful for the gift.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you. Is there anyone else? Councilmember Kuali'i.

Councilmember Kuali'i: I have just one (1) more thing. I know I experienced it at Kē'ē Beach, and I am guessing it is the same at Hā'ena Beach Park. Basically, the beach is so long and far, and it goes around corners and things that from the tower alone, they cannot necessarily see the entire beach that they are trying to make safer, so from time to time, they drive along the coast and go further away from the tower to do checks and to make sure everyone is safe, so they really need it to cover more ground.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you. Is there anyone else? Thank you to the Kaua'i Lifeguard Association, because over all the years, over one million dollars ($1,000,000) worth of assets have been donated—trucks, ATVs, towers—so much *mahalo* to the Kaua'i Lifeguard Association and, again, to the lifeguards for being out there. I cannot imagine them operating without these ATVs. It is like having a police officer without a car walking the beat. It is the same thing. It is always sweeter when someone else pays for it, so thank you, folks.

The motion to approve C 2026-205 with a thank-you letter to follow was then put, and unanimously carried.

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

C 2026-206 Communication (08/13/2026) from the Director of Finance, requesting Council approval of the indemnification and the unspecified future obligations clauses contained in the TransUnion Terms and Conditions, to be used for fraud-prevention of the Real Property tax relief programs.

Councilmember Kualiʻi moved to approve C 2026-206, 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 2026-206 was then put, and unanimously carried.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PLANNING COMMITTEE:

A report (No. CR-PL 2026-02) submitted by the Planning Committee, recommending that the following be Received for the Record:

"PL 2026-01 – Communication (08/04/2026) from Committee Chair Bulosan, requesting the presence of Derek Alkonis, Senior Research Program Manager, Fire Safety, Underwriters Laboratories Research Institutes, and Elizabeth Pickett, Co-Executive Director, Hawaiʻi Wildfire Management Organization, to provide a briefing on the Lahaina Fire Incident Analysis Report (Phase Two) and the Lahaina Fire Forward-Looking Report (Phase Three) and to share the implications for wildfire vulnerability and the built environment on Kauaʻi,"

Councilmember Kualiʻi moved for approval of the report, 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 for approval of the report was then put, and unanimously carried.

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

Councilmember Holland: Excuse me, Council Chair. I just want to note that the Hōʻike stream is not live.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is it live on the County website?

Councilmember Holland: It is.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay. Let us move on.

FINANCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

A report (No. CR-FED 2026-17) submitted by the Finance & Economic Development Committee, recommending that the following be Approved on second and final reading:

"Bill No. 2999 – A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 6, KAUA'I COUNTY CODE 1987, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO ESTABLISHING THE SPECIAL-DUTY POLICE OFFICER PROGRAM FEE ACCOUNT,"

Councilmember Kuali'i moved for approval of the report, 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 for approval of the report was then put, and unanimously carried.

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

BILL FOR SECOND READING:

Bill No. 2999 – A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 6, KAUA'I COUNTY CODE 1987, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO ESTABLISHING THE SPECIAL-DUTY POLICE OFFICER PROGRAM FEE ACCOUNT

Councilmember Kuali'i moved to approve Bill No. 2999 on second and final reading, and that it be transmitted to the Mayor for his approval, seconded by Councilmember Carvalho.

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

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

The motion to approve Bill No. 2999 on second and final reading, and that it be transmitted to the Mayor for his approval was then put, and carried by the following vote:

FOR APPROVAL:	Bulosan, Carvalho, Cowden, Holland, Kaneshiro, Kuali'i, Rapozo	TOTAL – 7,
AGAINST APPROVAL:	None	TOTAL – 0,
EXCUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0,
RECUSED & NOT VOTING:	None	TOTAL – 0.

JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA, County Clerk: Seven (7) ayes.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you. There is no further business on this agenda. This meeting is adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business, the Council Meeting adjourned at 8:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
County Clerk

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