

Department of Public Works – Operating & CIP

Honorable Addison Bulosan
Honorable Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Honorable Felicia Cowden
Honorable Bill DeCosta
Honorable Ross Kagawa (*present at 9:01 a.m.*)
Honorable KipuKai Kualii (*present at 9:07 a.m.*)
Honorable Mel Rapozo

The Committee reconvened on April 1, 2024 at 9:00 a.m., and proceeded as follows:

Council Chair Rapozo: We will call the meeting back to order. Today is April 1, 2024 and we have the Department of the Public Works (DPW) on the agenda. Is there anyone in the audience wishing to testify? Is there anyone from the public wishing to testify? Seeing none, we will move right into the DPW Operating Budget, Administration and Fiscal.

There being no one present to provide testimony, the meeting proceeded as follows:

Department of Public Works Reports

There being no objections, the rules were suspended.

Council Chair Rapozo: Good morning, Troy. Please state your name for the record and then we can proceed.

TROY K. TANIGAWA, DPW's County Engineer: Good morning, Chair Rapozo and Councilmembers. For the record, Troy Tanigawa, County Engineer for the County of Kaua'i. Happy to be here to present DPW's budget. I will go over a brief summary of the budget and then open it up to questions. Overall, DPW's operating budget increased by approximately ten point three percent (10.3%) due to a four point one percent (4.1%) increase in salaries and wages, a three point four percent (3.4%) increase in benefits, a four percent (4%) increase in utilities, and a large increase in our operations category of one hundred forty-seven point nine percent (147.9%), which was offset by a decrease in our vehicle and equipment lease and purchase cost of eighty-six point four percent (86.4%). Overall, the salaries and wages made up the biggest portion of the operations budget. Of the budget, thirty-eight percent (38%) is salaries and wages, twenty-four percent (24%) is operations, fourteen percent (14%) is the utilities cost, twenty-three percent (23%) is benefits, and a small percentage of one percent (1%) is vehicle and equipment leases. There is a big decrease from last year. That is all I have for now. I will open it up to questions now.

Councilmember Cowden: I am sorry. You are speaking so quietly. I cannot hear you really.

Mr. Tanigawa: I am sorry.

Councilmember Cowden: Could you raise your voice a little bit? I do not quite hear everything that you are saying.

Mr. Tanigawa: Would you like me to review the opening again?

Councilmember Cowden: No, I am just struggling to hear you. Are we looking at this first page?

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes, the top portion and the pie chart.

Councilmember Cowden: Thank you.

Councilmember Kagawa: He said he is done.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay, I just could not hear what you were saying.

Council Chair Rapozo: In the overview, you referenced operational challenges. Is that department-wide? We have it broken down by division, but could you go over the packet that you provided to us? It seems like operational challenges and vacancies are an issue with everyone.

Mr. Tanigawa: Okay, I will go through that section.

Council Chair Rapozo: Yes, could you go over page 10? Then, we will open it up for questions by division and after your overview, we will get back to Administration and Fiscal and the presentation.

Mr. Tanigawa: We have continued to confront the different challenges for our operations, including recruiting and retaining personnel. Despite continuous recruitment, participation in job fairs, and expanding our online presence, the Department has struggled to fill engineering, project management, building plan review, wastewater plant operators, heavy vehicle equipment, and mechanic positions. If you look at the Vacancy Report, you will notice that they have been vacant for a number of years, and we have tried to get some movement and progress on this. We can explain further as we go through those individual positions, but we have been working with the Department of Human Resources (HR) to try and overcome these challenges by doing things a little differently. There has been a marginal increase in recent hiring in some positions and because of that, we have been able to start some movement on achieving our goals and objectives. Basically, the challenges have been related to the level of salaries. DPW has a hard time competing with the private sector. We have lost people who have sought other positions in the private sector and fortunately, we have been able to get a couple back into a couple key positions in the Engineering Division and are getting closer to being a whole division. We will be able to move a little better on our projects at least. Building inspectors have also been a very essential component in our operations. They are key staff members who help to keep constructions moving in the private sector. Residential projects, commercial projects, and vertical construction projects all require building inspectors and unless they can do their inspections, those projects come to a halt so staffing levels for the building inspector positions are essential. For the past few years, it has always been difficult to find qualified and licensed individuals. Hopefully, with the increased demand, looking at the opportunities, and

potentially doing things a little differently, we will be able to make some ground and close the gap between salaries in those civil service positions compared to those similar positions in the private sector.

Councilmember Kagawa: Are we on the Administration budget?

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes.

Councilmember Kagawa: For the reasons you stated, what positions are not filled?

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember Kagawa, we are only doing clarifying questions on the presentation.

Councilmember Kagawa: Okay.

Council Chair Rapozo: We will get through the whole presentation and then, we will get back to that division.

Councilmember Kagawa: He is stating that salary is a hard competitor. I am wondering, what positions are affected by this?

Council Chair Rapozo: If it is clarifying, then it is fine.

Councilmember Kagawa: For the reasons you stated, what positions are not filled?

Mr. Tanigawa: In the Administration budget, there are project manager positions.

Councilmember Kagawa: Which one is that? Is that the Position No. 9048 - Project Management Officer, EM5?

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes.

Councilmember Kagawa: It reads that the position has been moved to Parks Planning and Development, position moved from Public Works, Buildings.

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes, Position No. 9048 was moved over from Building as the Senior Project Manager, Position No. 1202 was moved back to Parks.

Councilmember Kagawa: Is this position under the supervision of DPW or Parks?

Mr. Tanigawa: Currently, Position No. 1202 is under DPW Administration, and we are moving that position back next year come July 1st.

Council Chair Rapozo: Let us cover that when we get to the positions.

Councilmember Carvalho: Yes, it is confusing.

Council Chair Rapozo: Go ahead.

Councilmember Cowden: We are working off this document that you gave us, correct? On the operational challenges, I really appreciated that you broke down...it looks like almost every element is having manpower challenges. On Thursday, I asked HR about whether we are able to give a stipend as some way to be adding to that value of how we attract people. I thought I heard that it is going into the budget, division by division. It looks like...I could not tell if this is a substantial challenge or almost a crisis. I am not sure where you might see it. It looks like a very significant problem. Where would you say it is?

Mr. Tanigawa: We are able to operate. However, we do not have enough redundancies. Say if staff was sick or decided to move away to another opportunity, we would be hard-pressed to continue operating at the same level.

Councilmember Cowden: I thought you very clearly put that in here. Has there been work with HR to determine if there was a way to create some type of stipend or sort of ...what do we call them...premium to be able to attract and retain the people? It looks like it is a huge problem for you. I do not see it in the budget. Were you able to have extra money placed into the budget to be able to retain people?

Mr. Tanigawa: We were able to work out solutions because we have had vacancies and we have not been able to fill them all. If we are able to fill all the vacancies and still needed to look toward options to attract more people, whether it is by increasing the salary with a stipend or hardship adjustment...

Councilmember Cowden: Hardship adjustment, that is what it is called. Thank you.

Mr. Tanigawa: That is something that we would have to look for internally, somewhere in the budget and see if there are sufficient resources. If not, we would have to come back for a money bill.

Councilmember Cowden: Currently, that hardship adjustment is not included in the budget. It is not here. I did not find the hardship adjustment. We do not have that extra...every paragraph highlighted that challenge. Thank you.

Mr. Tanigawa: I will just add to that by saying, when we fully fund a position, we are always trying to recruit for most of the vacant positions. A few months might pass in the new fiscal year and that is part of where the savings will come from.

Councilmember Cowden: In this paragraph, it states that limitations on effective prevention of sick leave abuse...as a result, at the last sentence, overtime process...

Council Chair Rapozo: He did not get to that point yet. I am allowing clarifying questions. He is still in the department of vacancies recruitment. He did not get to the limitation of effective prevention and sick leave.

Councilmember Cowden: I thought we were on this.

Council Chair Rapozo: Yes. Finish the presentation and then you can open it to questions. We are starting to jump all over. He is still on page 10. He just did the first topic. He will go through the whole presentation and then we will open it up for questions.

Councilmember Kagawa: I was confused because he spoke and said he was done and open for questions.

Councilmember Cowden: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: Right. He was done with the increases and decreases in the budget. That is not what the review is.

Councilmember Kagawa: Alright. I thought he was done when he said, "I am done."

Council Chair Rapozo: He thought he was done, too. When you folks come up to do your presentation, I would expect you folks to go over it. Then, we can go through the presentation and then we will go over the actual budget documents. Otherwise, we will be bouncing, and we will be here until the end of the day. Go ahead and finish the presentation. If there is a clarifying question based on what was said like you did not hear the speaker, the speaker mumbled or spoke softly, that is a clarifying question, but we will get to the details once we finish the presentation.

(Councilmember Kagawa was noted as not present.)

Mr. Tanigawa: Limitations on effective prevention of sick leave abuse is the secondary item that I highlighted. This might be happening elsewhere, but nowhere else is it more pronounced than at our transfer stations or different solid waste operations. We are lacking the training or the ability to effectively look at the different aspects of the leave ticket by employees. There is a contract provision that provides follow-up if there is sick leave abuse pattern behavior, but we are still struggling to get things together to effectively enforce it. With all the leave that is taken, the lack of redundancy with scheduled employees, and the need to cover our facilities is ongoing. Whenever there is activity at the site, taking in public waste deliveries, I will use the transfer stations as an example, our property permit requires us to have staffing and if there is inadequate staffing, we are not able to open the gates and let people in. There are different paths like waste screening and hazardous waste prevention. Our facilities do not take hazardous waste and so, if there is hazardous waste that is dropped off without anyone preventing or screening the materials before being dropped off, that would result in the closure of the facility. We

would not be able to manage that material unless we get it off the site and in the hands of someone who is permitted to dispose of it properly. Also, refuse collection is a big area that overtime is being experienced. We have staffing shortages there, too. Equipment failure is a large part of why we have large overtime amounts at refuse collections operation, but leave is also a factor there, too. In addition to enforcing against sick leave abuse, repairing vehicles and heavy equipment is also a major factor in the amount of challenges that DPW has in operations. Given the amount of lack of qualified mechanics and the aging fleet of automated refuse collection vehicles, that operation has frequently endured extended periods when a number of automated refuse collection trucks fall below the number of active collection routes. When that happens, we need collectors to fill in the uncollected route and collect those units on overtime. That is something that is required by the contract and it is unavoidable for us to pay those employees' overtime.

Then, I will also speak on the manpower challenges in the Engineering Division. For a number of years, we have had vacant engineering positions because the folks that we had in those positions have left. They either go back to the mainland or take on another opportunity in the state or private sector. We have continuously recruited. There were many applicants, and the selections and offers were made, but often, after the offer is initially accepted, then the individual gets here and finds out what the cost of living is, finding housing, and experiencing the related cost here, that individual ends up not being able to either find housing or a way to pay for things with the elevated cost. They end up having to reject the position. A consequence of having engineering vacancies, prior to the recent hires, is that DPW has had to look internally to accomplish tasks. The Engineering Division Chief has taken over many construction duties, including managing staff, making minor construction management decisions, and more. Also, assuming duties of regulatory section head and some duties of last staff during the reporting period. In addition to the higher-level management positions, the middle management positions have to pick up the slack. The managing section head has taken on projects himself, many more projects than I had to when I was in that position. As a result, projects have been put on hold because it is really a risk to conduct projects without having sufficient staff attention. They could go sideways and end up costing the County of Kaua'i even more.

The Civil Engineer (CE) III in the construction area had to take on duties of the construction head chief relating to private development, making him less available for his usual County projects. Building Division, operational challenges are also highlighted. Division staff were forced to temporary quarters in the Pi'ikoi Building. This is something that the Engineering Division experienced as well, to a higher level. This all resulted from a malfunctioning sprinkler head that caused all the office spaces for the Building and Engineering Division to be flooded. The office had to be gutted. Staff needed to be moved to temporary offices. The County Civic Center does not have much space available, so the staff has been in very cramped quarters for a while now. I believe we experienced the flood in July. Also, I listed here that Roads Division has operational challenges, maintaining road safety by keeping vegetation in check while using minimal herbicides. More frequent mechanical vegetation controls mean lane closures on the roads and traffic impacts. They are not able to keep up with the vegetation. Sometimes, it gets a lot higher than what we would like it to be, but we try to get to it as soon as possible. It has been a challenge, not only

because of the vegetation, all types of grass grow rapidly, but they have experienced our own shares of equipment failures as well. In Solid Waste Management, we have had challenges securing long-term disposal capacity. We have limited space for the existing landfill. During storms or other times, more than the usual amount of debris comes in. Basically, our landfill capacity is getting filled up at a pretty nominal rate. Securing long-term disposal capacity is important because not only do environmental and Department of Health (DOH) requirements become stricter every year, but it is also harder to cite and go through the entitlements each year. It gets more challenging. People are very aware, and they pay very close attention to environmental types of issues and these types of projects. It is not insurmountable; it just takes more time. It is a complex thing to explain and because the process is lengthy, we want to ensure that we undertake these projects on a timely basis, so we have enough time to complete our work before the current landfill capacity runs out.

DPW and Solid Waste Division are taking steps to secure professional services to examine the feasibility of a potential site for a new landfill that is located further west of this existing Kekaha landfill as well as updating our task selection study. That is a task that our division and DPW is looking at very intently and we will devote the resources that are needed to get sufficient progress. Also, I wanted to highlight brushfire mitigation. The departure of the sugar cane industry from Kaua'i resulted in a significant amount of acreage becoming overgrown and unmaintained. In periods of drought, these unmaintained areas have become fire hazards and unfortunately, communities on east, south and west Kaua'i are precariously close to these fire hazards. They deplete the resources, including water tankers and bulldozers, mainly served as a supporting role to the Kaua'i Fire Department (KFD) and Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) fire crew fire response. With the Mayor's support in this budget, we proposed an investment in equipment in the Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget and we hope to secure approval for this new equipment to facilitate fire mitigation at facilities and County properties.

Operational highlights from this past fiscal year. To enhance building inspection and enforcement capabilities, we have expanded our team to include two (2) dedicated building inspectors, specializing in investigating and responding to violation complaints. This was a service that was established based on complaint-based response. Now, we have two (2) inspectors that are proactively addressing certain complaints. One good example, we have had abandoned home complaints and these inspectors follow-up on those types of complaints. They are able to dedicate a little bit more time and attention to ensure that proper details are collected to make proper judgements and follow-ups. Signordinance complaints have also been addressed by this group of staff and we hope that it will result in better compliance.

The International Building Code Council Annual Business Meeting will be held in Long Beach, California from October 20, 2024 to October 23, 2024. We have plans to have our staff attend that conference for professional development. Another operational highlight that I wanted to mention is that we are commencing construction on our Best Management Practices and improvements at our transfer stations. First, our Kapa'a and Lihu'e transfer stations, the bid opened in March. We have received bids within budget, so we will be able to award and execute our contracts to have the construction crews onboard and start on these projects. The reason for these projects is to improve site conditions related to stormwater

conveyance, and segregation of storm water flows for operations water flows...basically our washed-out water and sanitizing operations and tasks create the flows that we direct to the containment systems and have that...I will just call it leachate. The leachate is collected and disposed of at our treatment plant.

The Wastewater Division is another area that I wanted to highlight. The Division has successfully implemented the first year of new rate billing. The wastewater rate increased. Bill No. 2874 was introduced and passed on July 7, 2022, increasing the wastewater rate that was effective July 2023. The increase will take place over a five-year period, beginning last July through 2028. That concludes the presentation.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you. Councilmember Kualii.

Councilmember Kualii: I think the best way is to just go page-by-page and I have a question on page 1. I appreciate these pie charts and bar graphs because they give you the big picture. I am just wondering if you have just a brief picture explanation of why the vehicle equipment lease line item under General Funds, Public Works was drastically reduced by eight hundred thousand (\$800,000) and the operations line item was drastically increased by one million six hundred thousand dollars (\$1,600,000). When you are moving moneys from one fund to another, was it covered by the General Fund before and now, it is being covered by the Highway Fund because that Highway Fund had a significant increase in revenue...something broad like that. How would that be explained?

Mr. Tanigawa: If you allow me to...

Council Chair Rapozo: To answer it, the Mayor in the last budget purchased instead of leasing, so we moved to purchasing versus leasing. The amount required for listing is obviously not listed in this budget because the decision was made to purchase versus lease.

Councilmember Kualii: Okay. There might be more to it, but I think that is a big chunk and I appreciate that, Chair. I have no further questions on page 1, unless anyone else has a follow-up.

Council Chair Rapozo: Members, are there any other questions on page 1? Councilmember DeCosta.

Councilmember DeCosta: Troy and your team, thank you for all that you do and I know it is a tough road, especially with personnel. That fourteen percent (14%) increase, I noticed operations...

Councilmember Kualii: On what page?

Councilmember DeCosta: On page 1, I believe.

Councilmember Kualii: On the pie chart?

Councilmember DeCosta: Yes, the pie chart. On the 2025 operational budget, the turquoise portion was at ten percent (10%) then went up to twenty-four percent (24%). Can you explain further about the increase of fourteen percent (14%)?

Mr. Tanigawa: Councilmember DeCosta, I have to get back to you on that.

Councilmember DeCosta: Okay, that is fine, Troy. You can send me an email. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: I just want to ask, when you get to different pages, could you say when something has shifted from one area to another, like what Vice Chair Kualii pointed out, that shift between vehicle equipment lease in the operations. I have notes all over where it looks like there might have been shifts because there would be a decrement in one area and an increase in another area so, if we see an increase, maybe you could say that it moved to another area. For example, on page 1, you see the eighty-six point four (86.4%) drop in equipment lease but on page 2, we see the one hundred ninety-seven percent (197%) increase. I started to think that maybe DPW is just paying for it from a different fund. It looks like there were a lot of balances and I noticed that from one piece to another. That might help my understanding where there is a question, so I will not reference one page to the next, but it looks like there has been shifts. If those moneys...ways of funding or switching a position, if it shifts from one area to another...could you say where it shifted to and from?

Councilmember Kualii: Are we still on page 1?

Council Chair Rapozo: Go ahead, Councilmember Kualii.

Councilmember Kualii: I am still on that same item. Councilmember DeCosta was asking about the pie chart. It is showing the percentages for that same line item on operations, which is the one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) increase, right? I would just ask...on page 8, when you speak on the one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) General Fund, Other Services, increase in Fire Mitigation, could that be it? That is an entirely new expenditure. Is it the increase in fire mitigation or do those funds go somewhere else?

Mr. Tanigawa: I can look at that and confirm.

Council Chair Rapozo: You also have some new positions as well that might equal to one million two hundred thousand dollars (\$1,200,000).

Councilmember Kualii: That might be somewhere else.

Council Chair Rapozo: After we get to the positions, I think we will be able to see the big picture.

Councilmember Kualii: Then on page 2.

Council Chair Rapozo: Members, any other questions on page 1? If not, page 2.

Councilmember Kualii: Page 2 is the same question for the vehicle equipment lease. I did see that throughout the Department, there is a lot of investment, two million six hundred thousand dollars (\$2,600,000) in brush clearing equipment under the Roads Division. Is that two million seven hundred thousand dollars (\$2,700,000) of a hundred ninety-seven percent (197%) increase primarily the investment in the brush cleaning equipment?

Mr. Tanigawa: I believe so. I think that is something that we wanted to invest in to ramp up the fire mitigation capabilities in the Roads Division.

Councilmember Kualii: Nothing more on page 2. Go ahead, Councilmember DeCosta.

Councilmember DeCosta: I had a follow-up on Councilmember Kualii's question about the brush fire management, equipment, and fire mitigation. I am not sure if this is a question or a constructive comment, but I will try to frame it as a question. I noticed that fire mitigation has become a big buzz word since the Lahaina fires, and we have been talking about this...I know I have with the Council Chair Rapozo...long before the Lahaina fires. With the new brush equipment, are we absorbing the responsibility of doing fire mitigation for the non-County lands, meaning State and private lands, or are we using the equipment that we purchased strictly for County land? I am a little bit worried that State and private landowners are not being responsible for their grass lands, and now, it seems the County has absorbed that role, which means that the taxpayers' dollars are going to come into play. Are we taking over those unmanaged lands that belong to the State and privately owned or are we just responsible for the County lands?

Mr. Tanigawa: I wanted to make a special point. I mentioned earlier that we want to ensure that we maintain County lands.

Councilmember DeCosta: Okay. My question is, when there is a fire or some sort of dry grass mitigation task that needs to be dealt with, and the private landowners are not doing it, will we now send our County employees to do those areas? Will DPW send out a public notice to the landowner stating that there is a violation and action should be taken? I am a little worried that we are taking a little more of the pie than we should.

Mr. Tanigawa: I know there has been an effort to do fire mitigation planning. I am not sure about the details and how they plan to do outreach, especially with the larger landowners. Basically, DPW will always be support to the initial

fire response agencies, whether it is the Fire Department or PMRF. If they need equipment during emergency conditions, I can see DPW most likely participating.

Councilmember DeCosta: Okay. Here is my last question. I do not mean to put you on the spot, but I think we need to address this. At our Līhu'e Transfer Station, we have brush that comes right up from private land. I believe it is Grove Farm lands. I am not sure of the zoning of those grass land area...agriculture (ag), commercial, or industrial. Those grasslands have not been touched. It is next to the airport and our transfer station. I know that DPW has done some trimming on our section, but our section borders up to the private sector section. How are they not being held accountable? I do not want the County to absorb that responsibility with our taxpayers' money. You do not have to answer that. I just wanted to put that bug into your ear.

Council Chair Rapozo: I think that equipment is under the Roads Division. Is that where it is going to be?

Mr. Tanigawa: I believe so.

Council Chair Rapozo: When we get the Roads Division up...

Councilmember Kualī'i: And that detail is also on page 8 of this report. No further questions from me on page 2, but I have questions on page 3.

Council Chair Rapozo: On page 2 or page 3?

Councilmember Kualī'i: Page 3.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay, go ahead, page 3.

Councilmember Kualī'i: Is the significant increase in the operations line item of nineteen million four hundred thousand dollars (\$19,400,00) and one hundred twenty-four percent (124%) going to islandwide road resurfacing?

Mr. Tanigawa: I am sorry. I was writing this down.

Councilmember Kualī'i: Under DPW, General Exercise Tax (GET) Fund, there is a nineteen million four hundred thousand dollars (\$19,400,00) increase in operations. Then on page 8, there is that nineteen point...that same amount actually...that has to be it, an increase of islandwide road resurfacing. I think the detail that I would request on this, and maybe it will come up later during that division's report, is how many more miles of road are we going to complete? This is a large number so we must be planning to do a significant amount more.

Mr. Tanigawa: We will have that information for you when we get to that section.

Councilmember Kualif'i: ...in a detailed report. That is all for page 3.

Council Chair Rapozo: Are there any other questions for page 3? If not, let us move to page 4, Beautification.

Councilmember DeCosta: Chair, this might be a question for...

Councilmember Kualif'i: Wait. You are looking at another page.

Councilmember DeCosta: I have my questions already.

Councilmember Kualif'i: On page 4?

Councilmember DeCosta: I do not have to look at the page.

Council Chair Rapozo: Ask your question.

Councilmember Kualif'i: On page 4.

Councilmember DeCosta: Those fees that we were discussing relating to the commercial vehicles with an increase of five dollars (\$5), residents pay five dollars (\$5) when registering a vehicle, are our tax dollars. Will the beautification fee that we are charging commercial vehicles go toward the beautification process that DPW will be doing?

Council Chair Rapozo: Yes, the answer is yes. I do not know what the number is and that is something that the Department of Finance could research now that the bill is introduced. I would be curious to see what that would equate to. I would assume that it is more than sixteen thousand dollars (\$16,000), but that is something that the Department of Finance could look at for supplemental. Okay, are there any further questions on page 4? If not, move onto page 5, Solid Waste Fund. Again, flat, and not too much. Onto page 6.

Councilmember Kualif'i: I have the same question from page 1. The vehicle equipment lease line item has gone down significantly by one million dollars (\$1,000,000) and the operations line item has gone up significantly by one million eight hundred thousand dollars (\$1,800,000). Is there something general that you could say to that, or should we wait?

Mr. Tanigawa: Our wastewater staff has all that information.

Councilmember Cowden: I cannot quite hear you. What did you say?

Mr. Tanigawa: Our wastewater staff can answer that question.

Councilmember Kualif'i: It will come later? Okay. Page 7.

Council Chair Rapozo: Page 7 and then page 8. Again, page 8 is an overview. We will get to the divisions individually, but if there are general questions on DPW for Troy, this is the time to ask. Councilmember Kuali'i.

Councilmember Kuali'i: Near the top of page 8, you have Item A, Salary and Wages with an increase of one million two hundred thousand dollars (\$1,200,00). Was that intended? It does not add up. The detailed breakdown below that, one million two hundred thousand dollars (\$1,200,00) or six point seven percent (6.7%) increase to be a breakdown of that of one million two hundred thousand dollars (\$1,200,00), because the bottom line alone is standard salary adjustments of one million nine hundred thousand dollars (\$1,900,000). It is greater, but with these detailed positions, when you say "new" and "new," the first two (2) positions, ninety-four thousand dollars (\$94,000) and fifty-three thousand dollars (\$53,000), are those brand-new positions? Where are they coming from and where will they show up in the budget later? What department or division? Was it a dollar-funded position elsewhere and did it get moved? Sometimes, you take numbers, and you move it. I think the interesting thing here, even in the overview, when you list something like this, when you break it down, just go ahead and put the position number in there because then we can tie it back to the budget or know to where to ask the question later. There are no position numbers listed here. Like the third position, for example the Solid Waste Worker I, I looked back and forth and thought maybe it was Position No. 187, but then I convinced myself later that it probably was not, so it was some other position number. Also, you say "new" and "new" for the first two (2) positions, but you do not say that for the next two, Solid Waste Worker I and Information and Education Specialist. Maybe those were existing positions that were dollar-funded before and now, you are funding it because you want to fill it. Budget-wise, as far as the cost to the budget, it is like funding a new position. I do not know if you have anything general about those things that you chose to list.

Mr. Tanigawa: Thank you, Councilmember Kuali'i. I believe those two (2) are new, but thank you for the suggestion. We will include position numbers if they are not new positions, but I believe all four (4).

Councilmember Kuali'i: And this...

Mr. Tanigawa: I do not know why I would not list...

Councilmember Kuali'i: As far as it being a new position too, what we have seen before...are you creating new position numbers because they are new?

Mr. Tanigawa: I just looked at the budget and I can confirm that all four (4) are new.

Councilmember Kuali'i: The other two (2) are new too, yes? Okay. Then, we will see it later in detail when we get the breakdown by department. Will it say "new" too or will Solid Waste Worker I and Information and Education Specialist not say "new" because it did not say "new" here.

Mr. Tanigawa: It does say "new."

Councilmember Kualifi: Okay, then that detail can come up later.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember DeCosta.

Councilmember DeCosta: My question goes to page 7. I am sorry. I am a little behind Councilmember Kualifi.

Council Chair Rapozo: Go ahead.

Councilmember DeCosta: Just on page 7. We rushed through it. Troy, you can get back to me via email because this question is a little complex. The Sewer Fund moneys are the largest contributor to DPW. I noticed the seven point six percent (7.6%) increase, almost one million three hundred thousand dollars (\$1,300,000), I do not see in the scope of works or the scope of future anticipation of our sewer conversion, that we should be putting in. When we increase the sewer rate for our customers, are we looking at putting some of that funding toward infrastructure improvements so we can put sewer across areas that need sewers? I do not see it in the scope of works, and I think it is important that we do that. We do not just raise to cover the existing costs, like the Department of Water, we raise rates, but they do it to put in new infrastructure. Are we looking at new infrastructure in sewer with some of these rate increases?

Mr. Tanigawa: At least for this year, we are not. I believe that, thinking back on the basis for the sewer rate increase...although those costs were primarily for planning and addressing deferred maintenance with something like that, when we look at expanding our sewer collection system, that is something that is going to be budgeted at that time. Right now, we are conducting planning studies to get information to make decisions on where we can expand the sewer system, where would be the low-hanging fruit, with respect to all the areas that need to convert too.

Councilmember DeCosta: Thank you for that. I just think we have a lot of extra funding and we have had funding last year and this year. It is nice to use that funding in some of our planning processes. The sewer and landfill are two (2) of the biggest issues. We cannot kick that can down the road. We should be having that in our vision, so I just wanted to let you know that if we have the funding, it should be part of our process moving forward. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Go ahead.

Councilmember Kualifi: I will go back to the entire question that takes page 7 and page 8 together. On the top of page 7, you mentioned the six (6) different funding sources, the General Fund, General Excise Tax, Highway Fund, Beautification Fund, Solid Waste Fund, and Sewer Fund. Now, on page 8, when you are doing the summary break down, like when you were doing the four (4) positions, salary wages, then you do benefits, utilities, vehicle equipment, operations...this break down, does this tie back to all six (6) of

those different funds or just to the General Fund? Give me the basic, broad understanding to know what I am looking at. Do you know?

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes, I believe so. This is the General Fund.

Councilmember Kualifi: But all funds, or just the General Fund? Probably this Solid Waste Worker I position is being paid for by the Solid Waste Fund, right? That is all for page 7 and page 8. I have another question on page 8, but I will give others a chance.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember Cowden

Councilmember Cowden: I just have a couple on page 8. When we look at the Roads Division budget and we see other services going up to nineteen million dollars (\$19,000,000), I would imagine that increase is because the GET. We have more money to spend, but when we look at automobiles, tractors, and heavy equipment, all of those are a negative number and I am imaging this is shifting to a different area because we still have all those costs. I am just wondering why we see nineteen million dollars (\$19,000,000) in other services and then a negative. I did go through a lot of these pieces to try to break those down and understand them, but can you speak to that for a moment?

Mr. Tanigawa: GET funds can only be used for specific purposes. There has been an influx there and that will all be put towards resurfacing and road construction.

Councilmember Cowden: I was just wondering why we have negative on the tractors and heavy equipment when we are certainly still using them and most of those were all on leases. I figured that this probably just shifted into another department.

Mr. Tanigawa: This is probably just because we are just purchasing less because we have purchases made already.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay, that is helpful and then, when I see the decrease in automotive repair shop budget, I just know that we do not have...we have a high need for the mechanics. Is it just that we do not have employees?

Mr. Tanigawa: Qualified applicants. We are looking for qualified applicants who will accept the offer that the County is willing to...

Councilmember Kualifi: Councilmember Cowden, where are you looking on page 8?

Councilmember Cowden: I am looking at Item M.

Council Chair Rapozo: Page 9.

Councilmember Kualifi: We are still on page 8.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is everyone done with page 8?

Councilmember Kualii: I am not done with page 8.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay, go ahead.

Councilmember Cowden: I thought we said page 8 or page 9. Sorry.

Councilmember Kualii: On page 8, Item D the vehicle equipment increases...you spoke a little on that and Councilmember DeCosta was asking and earlier, I said that is primarily about this new fire safety investment. Is it just two million six hundred thousand dollars (\$2,600,000), right? I did tie it back to the master pages and the Hanapēpē baseyard six hundred ten thousand dollars (\$610,000), Kapa'a baseyard six hundred eighty thousand dollars (\$680,000), Hanalei baseyard four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) and sign and roads marking one million one hundred thousand dollars (\$1,100,000). That all adds up to something very close to this two million seven hundred thousand dollars (\$2,700,000) and all the line items are tractors and other heavy equipment. This significant investment, what does it mean to our existing inventory? Are we doubling, tripling, or quadrupling? If we are putting all this money into buying more equipment, are we needing more operator positions as well? How is this equipment being used? We do not want nice equipment sitting, right? I think that is what I said earlier. Do we have now a new maintenance schedule, if you will, for brush clearing of our roads? Like what Councilmember DeCosta was saying, are we just doing our roads? We have an inventory of our roads. We know probably some of them have things on the sides of the roads that need to be addressed every now and then. You cut it back, it grows back. You cut it back, it grows back. There are probably some roads where the sides are rocks or something else that do not require the same attention. I think in the long road, I am hoping that you already have some sort of master schedule of what the plan is for all of this investment. As the Council, we want to support an investment that is truly going to get the biggest bang for our buck. Serving our constituents in actually...it makes it all look better, but it is also better for the fire prevention part of it too, so I appreciate what you are you trying to do, but I just would like some follow-up with a detailed schedule of what the plan is. What does this investment mean, because I see the investments spread out all over our baseyard?

Mr. Tanigawa: Just to briefly respond, so we do have a plan. This plan involves using existing positions, not new positions, but we will be able to get into more detail when the division comes up.

Councilmember Kualii: Okay.

Council Chair Rapozo: We would be very interested in seeing that. Is there a hazard mitigation plan?

Mr. Tanigawa: I would not call it that, but it is building back on our capabilities. We have had those in the past and we want to replace the dozer. We have

also looked at the equipment that is available in the industry now that will add to our capabilities.

Councilmember Kualii: I appreciate that comment because now, what you are saying is not just what I was thinking. It is not just about new things we are going to address, but perhaps it is about things that we deferred like equipment that has gotten old and needs to be replaced. There is still some of that happening.

Mr. Tanigawa: There really is a good purpose for it.

Council Chair Rapozo: It is not under that though. It is listed under brush clearing equipment and when I read that, I thought of hazard mitigation. It is not a vehicle replacement policy. We purchased a lot of equipment last year, right? I need to know because that...

Councilmember Kualii: The schedule that I am asking for will show that, right? Besides this plan for the brush clearing things, there is also an equipment purchase schedule. We want to see that, too. It all ties together.

Council Chair Rapozo: That are two (2) different things. Vehicle replacement and brush clearing equipment are two completely different things so, if you are asking for two million six hundred thousand dollars (\$2,600,000) to purchase brush clearing equipment, I am assuming this is new equipment for a new purpose. That is how it is written. I do not believe we have brush clearing equipment that we purchased for brush clearing, right? This all happened after the Lahaina fire and now, we want to put in some money. Anyway, when we get to roads, I will have those questions so whoever is going to be up there for roads, make sure you can...again, as I said before the budget started, we want to see the plan of spending the money, not just put money in the line and we will figure out how we are going to spend it later. No, that is not going to work for me and again, I am just speaking for myself. Okay, we are still on page 8.

Councilmember Kualii: Just one more thing to clarify. I was correct though, when I was looking back into the different departments that the line item for that is tractors and other heavy equipment. It cuts off, I do not think it prints it all, but it says tractors and other heavy, and then those amounts that I listed by the different...Hanapēpē, Kapa'a, Hanalei, sign, that is this two million six hundred thousand dollars (\$2,600,000), more or less.

Mr. Tanigawa: Once we get into the detailed budget, they will all be listed in there.

Councilmember Kualii: Okay, thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember DeCosta.

Councilmember DeCosta: I had a follow-up on page 8 and I am trying to stay in line with the process. Under your vehicle equipment increase of the two million six hundred thousand dollars (\$2,600,000) and the operational increase of one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000), Troy, I am in complete agreement with our Chair on having a plan, but I want you to reflect on the plan that I saw that you had. I am not sure if you will put that same type of plan here, but when DPW assisted Anahola, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) lands, and I believe the Fire Chief was involved because it was a fire hazard to have all those vehicles out there, we went in and worked together with the Fire Department, DHHL, and DPW. We did a great job cleaning up, but we did not just leave the site like that. We put in fencing. We had community members, mitigation of the land, if we are going to do...if you want my support and we are going to do private lands or State lands outside of the County, then I want to see those private and State owners get involved like at Anahola. We should not be cleaning grass if we are not going to put something that will maintain that grass. It will just grow back again. That project with DHHL was a good thing. Thank you.

Councilmember Kualii: I had a follow-up to that.

Council Chair Rapozo: Go ahead.

Councilmember Kualii: I have been driving by it every day now. The Keālia Fire Station, just immediately north of that...between the Keālia Fire Station and Saint Catherine's Cemetery, the entire hillside is being cleared now. Since it is right beside our County fire station, I assume that some of that land is our land, but some of it is State lands. What is the example that is of what we are just talking about that? Is there a partnership with the State?

Mr. Tanigawa: There is some partnership with the State, but it is only getting right-of-entry so we can have access to the area that we clear.

Councilmember Kualii: We are doing the entire clearing?

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes, we are doing the entire clearing.

Councilmember Kualii: Does it involves some State lands as well?

Mr. Tanigawa: No.

Councilmember Kualii: It is all our land?

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes, we are clearing all County lands.

Councilmember Kualii: Is that an example of our equipment at work then?

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes, we went in and it was primarily to clean up the area because there were so many homeless camps and it was becoming very unsanitary.

We had people go in and mark off the boundaries. There was not detailed surveying, but it was just based on land of site vision, that we marked off the boundaries. That was just the areas that we cleared. We stayed totally within County property.

Councilmember Kualii: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember Carvalho.

Councilmember Carvalho: Just a quick follow-up on the brush clearing equipment. Again, it is specific to, I think Chair brought it up, brand-new equipment will be purchased for this.

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes.

Councilmember Carvalho: Okay.

Council Chair Rapozo: Again, does anyone else have any other questions for page 8? If not, let us move onto page 9. Councilmember Cowden, did you want to finish your page 9 question?

Councilmember Cowden: Well, this is where I am seeing things that must have been shifted, like I gave the example of Item J where we see automobiles, tractors, and heavy equipment all have a reduction cost, but it might be that you said we are simply meaning to buy less because we bought more last year. Is that what your answer was on that?

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes.

Councilmember Cowden: Then on Item H when we have a decrease of sixty-nine thousand dollars (\$69,000), that sounds like this is a decrease of job position, maybe? I wonder if there was a job shift.

Mr. Tanigawa: I am sorry, Councilmember Cowden. Which item?

Councilmember Cowden: Item H. Those are all job-related costs, so is that a job shift? Does the funding get decreased?

Mr. Tanigawa: That is something that DPW does not input. That might be more of a Finance question.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay, and then Item M. We have a decrease of two hundred five thousand dollars (\$205,000) and the biggest piece of that is other services. I am just wondering, what is that? What is said here is that we really have a problem of not having enough mechanics and not being able to address our mechanical needs. I am wondering if we can contract hire to fix different pieces of equipment. Basically, I am

wondering why we would be decreasing by two hundred five thousand dollars (\$205,000). Give us a little bit of breakdown.

Mr. Tanigawa: Again, which item are you looking at?

Councilmember Cowden: Item M, it is on the bottom of page 9 and it goes over to page 10. I am just curious. It says that gasoline is less. I know that our automative (auto) shop is desperately in need of...the demand is too high for what the auto shop can handle, so I was surprised to see a decrease in the budget.

Mr. Tanigawa: Okay, it looks like the decreases are primarily due to gasoline and other services. The gasoline amount has probably just been adjusted based on what we feel is going to be actual consumption compared to last year.

Councilmember Cowden: Then, other services, is that...

Mr. Tanigawa: It looks like Other Services it is cost due to...I do not just want to say what it is. I will take a lot and get back to you.

Council Chair Rapozo: It does not show up in the budget itself, so I am not sure where it is coming from.

Councilmember Cowden: I did not find it. It does not mean it is not there. I just did not find it.

Councilmember Kualif'i: Can I follow-up?

Council Chair Rapozo: Sure.

Councilmember Kualif'i: I missed what you say on Item J of why the tractor and heavy equipment, Hanalei baseyard, trucking equipment, signs and roads was negative. Was it moving funds from one...

Mr. Tanigawa: In parenthesis, you have the specific location. Each baseyard has their own budget.

Councilmember Kualif'i: Right.

Mr. Tanigawa: ...their own section in the budget and so, this equipment that is budgeted there in those sections, those are the amounts that are less because of last year's equipment purchases. It is just for those purchases in those areas have gone up. We have a logistics section in our Roads Division.

Councilmember Kualif'i: I think we are going to start doing funds. Highway Fund on the master budget goes from page 245 to page 260 and on page 259, the one that is under Hanalei, it has a line item "tractors and other heavy equipment" and it says

four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000), Mayor's request. Prior to that, it was always zero dollars (\$0) and then it shows up, "replace payloader and new small excavator." That adds up to four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000), but you are saying that last year, it was over one million dollars (\$1,000,000). That is why it is six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000) less. I am sorry, this is only one hundred fifteen thousand dollars (\$115,000) negative. This is Highway Fund though, the bottom ones. This is all the Highway Fund, not the General Fund.

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes. Councilmember Kualii, I will go and look at that in a little bit more detail.

Councilmember Kualii: Then we will get to that probably when we get to the divisions, too.

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes.

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

Council Chair Rapozo: Are there any other questions for page 9? If not, let us go to page 10. I think we heard the challenges. I think every department has the same challenges as it relates to the vacancies. Are there any questions on the vacancies, recruitment, or the retention section? Go ahead.

Councilmember DeCosta: Troy, I wanted to ask you...I noticed we have a hard time competing in the trades industry, especially with engineers. We cannot pay them what they can make in the private sector, so we hired some project manager, which I am for, but the question that I want to ask you is, do we have an engineering division within our County that we go to if we need consulting on certain projects. For example, we have a project manager who is doing a project and does not have an engineering degree and you, Troy, are busy, is there a place in the County, possibly within the Building or Planning Division where the project manager can speak with another engineer or get consulting or do we always have to go outside of the realm and hire a consultant?

Mr. Tanigawa: In DPW, we have an Engineering Division. The Engineering Division is made up of, I will just say, primarily civil engineers. For various different projects, we have different classification of engineers that they need to contribute to or design. Let us just say, for building construction or site development, we have the groundwork civil engineering type work. We would be able to go our Engineering Division and get the review and comment for them to contribute to the design say for a County project, but other types of engineering, like structural engineering and electrical engineering, we would need to contract outside.

Councilmember DeCosta: But we would have to contract outside anyway because we would not hire a specific electrical engineer in the County, right?

Mr. Tanigawa: I would just qualify that by saying that for small projects...I will use the transfer station improvements as an example, we hire consultants to design it. They do the design, and we send that set of plans to our Engineering Division and they look at it in more detail. They are here on site, and they are able to contribute to the civil engineering portion of that design. Whether it is pavement design, they will provide comments on that to refine the design.

Councilmember DeCosta: Okay, thank you for that.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember Kualii.

Councilmember Kualii: I like where you talk about creating a training level position and a pathway to train the employees. I am just curious about, and I do not know how long you have been doing it and if you have seen it already work, but if train someone right and they work their way up, when they get to where we need them to be, how do we ensure that they stay? We might just end up being the training ground for them to bolt to the private sector where they can make a lot more money when they get to that level.

Mr. Tanigawa: That is why I mentioned that retention has also been a challenge. We have lost employees in the private sector. If that continues to be a problem, we are going to have to adjust because we cannot maintain that role of being trainers. We have to do something, other things to be able to retain them. I think in the Mayor's State of the County Address, he spoke about a big step. Now, we have medical coverage and medical plan. Things like that go a long way to help us with the retention challenges.

Councilmember Kualii: Would that be then the answer to my next question, which was number 2...and I am glad you are trying things...that says developing creative compensation packages. My question was going to be examples. Would that be the medical coverage or are there others, specifically for the position that you need particularly need? I think there are three (3), four (4), or five (5) positions that you listed here.

Mr. Tanigawa: This relates to what I mentioned earlier, I think the hardship differential is something. I have also seen...I guess it has to be a case-by-case basis. You cannot look at...There really is no template to follow. It is basically something that you have to go on a case-by-case basis.

Councilmember Kualii: Have you been working closely with the Department of Human Resources?

Mr. Tanigawa: We have to work with the Department of Human Resources, yes.

Councilmember Kualii: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember DeCosta.

Councilmember DeCosta: I have a follow-up to Councilmember Kualii. With the Department of Human Resources, is it possible that we can have a stipulation where they work five (5) years following all that training that they received from the County so we can ensure that they stay with us. I know that private companies do that, where if you sign on, they train you, and you work for them, but if you leave, you will need to pay back all that money used to train you. Do we have something like that in place at HR or not?

Mr. Tanigawa: I am not sure.

Council Chair Rapozo: That would be a question for Department of Human Resources. We can send it over, if we were offering a hardship or stipend, I would assume that it is coming with a commitment clause that if they do leave, they pay it back. Everyone that is offering a sign-in bonus has a requirement that you stay or pay it back.

Mr. Tanigawa: That is correct.

Council Chair Rapozo: I am not sure. We can ask HR when we have HR.

Mr. Tanigawa: I can confirm that you do have to stay a certain amount of time to be able to collect the money. I think the bonus could be split up over a number of years, maybe two (2) or three (3) years and you have to stay to be able to collect.

Council Chair Rapozo: I am not sure. We can ask HR when we have HR.

Councilmember DeCosta: Are you saying that we have that in place?

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes.

Councilmember DeCosta: Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Are there any other questions on retention, recruitment, and vacancy limitations? Troy, on this sick leave abuse and I think we have had this discussion before, you and myself, and I have this discussion with the unions and throughout the years and I am troubled that we still have not been able to establish a sufficient pattern behavior. What is the issue? What is the problem? I do not understand. I am hearing from employees that are telling me that it is happening regularly. What do we need to do to make or enforce the collective bargaining policy on sick leave abuse?

Mr. Tanigawa: I think it just boils down to training, training to be able to recognize situations and properly document. When I say properly document, I mean that we need to ensure that we are keeping subjective information out and learn to be as objective as possible and regularly, on a consistent basis.

Council Chair Rapozo: That is what supervisors are supposed to do. We are paying them as supervisors. They are getting paid as supervisors. If they cannot do the job, they should not be a supervisor. We can ask HR when they come up, but with work being

all high-tech with the sign-in, sign-out, day-off, vacation, is there not a way to print out a report of the absences from employees and look at the pattern? From what I am being told, it is a very clear pattern in some cases.

Mr. Tanigawa: Again, documentation is important. When you just look at a report, leave could change from sick leave to vacation. Those things are not reflected in reports, so the backup documentation is very important, and it looks like we still have a lot of improvement to make.

Council Chair Rapozo: Right. I guess the question is, how do we get there? This is not new; this has been going on for decades. How do we stop this? As you stated in your memorandum (memo), when we run short, we pay overtime, right?

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: This sick leave abuse is not just costing the employee sick leave hours, it is costing the taxpayers overtime, and, in many cases, transfer stations or landfill stations have to shut down. I guess I really want to see the plan going forward. How are going to hold...it is the supervisors that are responsible and should be disciplined if they cannot get their employees to work. I do not know how else to say it because I have said it so many times. There has to be a plan of how we are going to address. It is not hard if you read the contract. It is not very difficult. In fact, the union is very supportive of working with the County to enforce that policy, but we need to do something. We cannot keep saying it is hard to check. The fact that people are changing their sick leave to vacation...first, I am not sure how that works when you call in sick, that is a sick day. Later when they want to cover it to vacation, it should not be relevant to the discussion because they called out sick, which is different, right? You need to request for vacation days or get approval and if you are short-handed, guess what? That request will be denied, but they call in sick and convert it to vacation and then it is supposedly, that is how they do it. If that is how they do it, we need to fix that. The supervisor needs to be able to track. It is really not that hard to do, especially when you are looking at different work sites. If what I am hearing is true, it is just a few that are doing it regularly. We need to fix this because it is costing us a lot of money and overtime, and in some cases, shutdowns. I am not sure how you respond to that, but it is not working.

Mr. Tanigawa: It is going to involve all that like you said. We are going to have to develop a written policy, train the managers who are tasked with implementing that policy, and we would have to go back to the union with that policy to get agreed upon.

Council Chair Rapozo: The contract is there. If we use what the union has agreed to, then it is quick.

Mr. Tanigawa: Take it from me, there are details in there and we need a written step-by-step policy.

Council Chair Rapozo: I understand that, but when are we going to get that? When can the people of Kaua'i expect that so we can reduce these abuses of sick leave?

Mr. Tanigawa: I can tell you that there is urgency in this Department. We are going to put the resources together to put something in place to start chipping away at this problem here.

Council Chair Rapozo: Does anyone else have a question?
Councilmember DeCosta.

Councilmember DeCosta: I feel like I will come to Troy's rescue, which is not my plan, but with the way I am going to frame this, I might be. You are the engineer of this Department, that to me has a huge responsibility. I do not know if you need to be responsible for that sick leave and vacation leave, but this is a message for your supervisors and project managers. Human Resources should be at the forefront because it seems like we have a problem. I think the people underneath you should take more responsibility in shaping this up and I believe that a lot of our County employees want to do well, and they do well cause when I visit the transfer stations across the islands, I hear that only a few are abusing this scenario. Let us get a message out to our supervisors and it is our working supervisors, maybe that is the problem. They work with the man, and they do not want to be the bad person that never changes their vacation to sick leave. Maybe it has to be supervisor who is not a working supervisor but let us get a memo out to our supervisors and project managers to start doing their job. Right now, you are taking the brunt of it and I think it is unfair, but please get a memo out, telling them to do their job. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: You know that it is never personal, right?

Mr. Tanigawa: Of course, and I put it in the synopsis because we recognize that it is a problem, and we want to fix it.

Council Chair Rapozo: I appreciate that because you did not have to put it in and my offer is, what can we do to help? Do we need to hire a consultant to do the policy? I will tell you that what Councilmember DeCosta is saying, is true because a lot of the workers that are out there working are frustrated, too. The first opportunity that they get to leave the County is because they are tired of the workplace, they are going. It is all connected. We want to provide a workplace that is fair and consistent and where everyone works. That is collateral damage is when we allow these things to happen or continue. Does anyone else have comments on this issue? If not, let us move onto... I am sorry, I still have a question on page 10. On the repair...that has always been an issue as well with hiring the maintenance vehicles. Is there a way...we probably are doing this already...contract out to maintenance for some of these equipment? I know that some of the complaints are that these vehicles take a long time to get repaired. Is there way, due to the shortage of manpower at the shop, that we can contract some of these repairs to the private sector?

Mr. Tanigawa: I do want to mention that the delay in repairs is not all due to the shop and the shop's staffing shortage. We have had a number of equipment

under warranty that we have sent back to the manufacturer's representative on the island. It has taken a long time and some of it is due to supply chain issues, but I think the industry is recovering somewhat from that. There are still some problem items, but it is there too, and I just wanted to highlight that. What we try to do is make sure that the equipment will be able for the employees to use. When we can contract out, we will plan to do that. We do have the privatization issue that we have to consider too and so, when things come up, we work with HR to see what is possible. We will look at whatever opportunities we have.

Council Chair Rapozo: I think in a perfect world, the privatization issue, that legal challenge is real, but when are short and we need things done, I would hope that we would be able to contract out. Are there any other questions on mechanics? On your last paragraph under the same section, you mentioned "unreliable warranty operations". What did you mean when you said unreliable warranty operations?

Mr. Tanigawa: That is when we get frequent closures. A lot of people, including myself, go and do things according to a schedule and when you do not always monitor press releases. When you go to dispose something, whether green waste or mixed waste...

Council Chair Rapozo: Just basically, it creates an impact on the community. Anything else?

Councilmember Cowden: I will submit my questions in writing.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay. Now, page 11. I only have one (1) question on the Roads Division, and I was happy to hear that the road budget doubled, but I need to know if we have the capacity with manpower and contract management to handle double the workflow of road paving, building, and maintenance?

Mr. Tanigawa: Right now, I believe we do.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay. That is all that I need to know. Does anyone have anything else to ask? If not, page 12, Solid Waste Management. Go ahead, Councilmember DeCosta.

Councilmember DeCosta: I had a question on...I hope that I am on the right page. I waited for this time. On the compliance factor in the Building Division....

Council Chair Rapozo: Which page are you on?

Councilmember DeCosta: Page 12.

Council Chair Rapozo: Does anyone have any questions on Solid Waste Management? Brush fire mitigation, again, I would like to see the plan as well as, do we...we just talked a lot about the shortage of manpower...Do we have the manpower to handle all this new equipment? Okay, down below. Next is operation highlights.

Councilmember DeCosta: Thank you for correcting, I needed that. I noticed that a sign violation and building violations are in the operational highlights. I believe I spoke with you and Michael Moule about this. I wanted to know if you folks have a plan in the finalization of a permit that goes into a plan of action that the contractor does that are in violation. They are in violation because we sent a building inspector to look at the job that is not completely correct or within the budget. For example, our North Shore homes that are allowed a fifty percent (50%) renovation. I believe I had a meeting with you and Michael Moule and I told you folks an easy step to fix it would be to have that final inspection when it is done and have a cost analysis comparing what is put into the house and what was originally planned. Do we have a plan in place for our building inspectors to go and follow-up on these million-dollar homes? Do we have something in place?

Mr. Tanigawa: I think that is a question that we have to go over with Engineering and Building.

Councilmember DeCosta: Are the two (2) positions that you hired going to be a part of that inspection plan on these homes that are in violation?

Mr. Tanigawa: They could be utilized to do that.

Councilmember DeCosta: It seems like that is where a bulk of problems are. They are not small home renovations. They are the million-dollar mansions that come up based on homes that they purchased very cheap and are converted to expensive dwellings. A lot of the itemized inventory that goes in, like countertops, flooring, and cabinets are not on the original contractor's plan that was submitted to the County. It is an easy fix; we just need to follow-up and cite them.

Council Chair Rapozo: Are there any other questions on the overview?

Councilmember Kualii: I do not have a question, but I have a quick remark.

Council Chair Rapozo: But you what?

Councilmember Kualii: Quick remark.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay, go ahead. If anyone would like to make any comments, go ahead, and then we will take our caption break and then we go through each Division in the budget.

Councilmember Kualii: I just wanted to say that DPW is one of our largest and most complex departments with all the different divisions, and this is absolutely the best narrative and synopsis that I have ever seen in all my years of budget so special thank you to you and your team for the all the detail. Thank you. It moves us much further along with the budget and I will see it more when we come to the next parts.

Council Chair Rapozo: Anyone else? If not, we will take our ten (10) minutes now and then, we will come back, and we will go right down the list from Administration/Fiscal to Solid Waste.

There being no objections, the Council recessed at 10:33 a.m., for a caption break.

The meeting reconvened at 10:46 a.m., and proceeded as follows:

(Councilmember Kagawa was noted as not present.)

Council Chair Rapozo: Troy just explained to me that Mr. Tresler is out sick today, so we will try to get through Administration and Fiscal, but if there are questions that require Mr. Tresler's presence, we will either have him come back on a call-back or we will send it over in writing. That should be sufficient. With that, we will get started on page 1. Let us use the page numbers on the bottom right of the forms.

There being no objections, the rules were suspended.

Councilmember Carvalho: Page 179, right?

Council Chair Rapozo: If you want to start with the overview. Let us start with page 197 and that is Administration and Fiscal. Okay, go ahead Councilmember Kualii.

Councilmember Kualii: There is Position No. 1202, Senior Project Manager and the asterisk says it has been moved to Parks & Planning. Does that mean you are giving up that position? Do you no longer need that position?

Mr. Tanigawa: That was a position that originally, we brought over from Parks & Planning. We were trying to prepare for an eventual reorganization, but there are so many of those projects and we are not seeing the overlap that we thought we would have that would benefit from having the project manager coming over.

Councilmember Kualii: The potential reorganization did not work out and you are giving the position back?

Mr. Tanigawa: We did not officially put it in place. We started, but then we saw that we were not getting to where we wanted to be and so we are putting it back in Parks where we think that position will be a better place.

Councilmember Kualii: Final question on that, in the budget last year...it is not on the Vacancy Report, but on the budget last year, was that a unfunded, partially funded, or fully funded position?

Mr. Tanigawa: That specific position?

Councilmember Kualii: Yes.

Mr. Tanigawa: It was fully funded. There was a warm body in there.

Councilmember Kualii: Okay, and then the other Position No. 9048, which you mentioned was moved from Public Works Building and at one hundred thirty-one thousand six hundred nineteen dollars (\$131,619), that is fully funded on the Vacancy Report, it showed the range as ninety-two thousand dollars (\$92,000). Is it fully funded within the range that you require to hire at the level you hire at?

Mr. Tanigawa: Correct.

Councilmember Kualii: It says...what is the status of that recruitment, for Position No. 904? Did you promote from within?

Mr. Tanigawa: That is something that we have not recruited yet. We have been trying to fill the Project Manager position in the divisions.

Councilmember Kualii: Do you have an indication of when you plan to fill it? Have you contacted HR to initiate recruitment? It is March so there is time, but in order to fill that position and have that person start July 1, 2024 you will probably have to start recruitment soon. I am not sure how long that will take the processes that it will take if there are classes or tests involved. Is this a high enough position that will likely be filled from a promotion within?

Mr. Tanigawa: It could potentially be.

Councilmember Kualii: Okay, but for now, you see this person being in this position on July 1, 2024?

Council Chair Rapozo: Just remember that this position, while in Building, was vacant for eight hundred ninety-six (896) days, so it is not a position that you folks were successful in filling. What is the expectation of filling that this year? It has been almost three (3) years. Also, will that impact the Building Division, because we discussed the shortages written in your narrative from the Building Division?

Mr. Tanigawa: Actually, this Project Manager position would not necessarily be managing building projects, except through the type of project that we are going through now, which is renovation.

Council Chair Rapozo: You are losing one Project Manager from the Building Division, correct?

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes, we pulled that position over to Administration and we have hired a Project Manager in the Solid Waste Division, which has

been vacant for a long time. We started off with the Engineering position, but through recruitment, we were not able to fill that. We converted it to a Project Manager position and just recently, we were able to hire. We could have a candidate, maybe not at this EM5 level, but we might be able to fill this position. We may need the position. I cannot say that we will need it fully funded up to this level, but if it is possible that we could get that position fully funded, I would rather have it that way.

Council Chair Rapozo: Again, it will be hard to fully fund a position that has been vacant for that long.

Mr. Tanigawa: I understand.

Council Chair Rapozo: I am just curious. What other requirements does a Project Management Officer need that justifies one hundred thirty-one thousand dollars (\$131,000) a year? That is similar to an engineer pay, correct?

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: What is it? Do they not have an Engineering degree?

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: That is a significant amount of money.

Mr. Tanigawa: It would basically be a supervisor position. It would have a sizeable amount of experience to be able to qualify.

Council Chair Rapozo: But you do not have anyone and have not started the process. While this position was in Building, did they have any applicants?

Mr. Tanigawa: No.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you. Are there any other questions on page 179?

Councilmember DeCosta: I have a clarifying question. I noticed that you have a Project Management Officer and a Senior Project Manager. What is the difference between the two?

Mr. Tanigawa: It is a classification. The Senior Project Manager would be the project management type activities, like a middle classification.

Councilmember DeCosta: Who is the middle person? Is it the Project Management Officer or the Senior Project Manager?

Mr. Tanigawa: I am talking about the Senior Project Manager.

Councilmember DeCosta: Is the Senior Project Manager the mid-level person?

Mr. Tanigawa: Sort of. In the Project Management classification, the Senior Project Manager would be a level above Principal Project Manager...or might be the opposite way.

Councilmember DeCosta: This person gets paid less than a Project Management Officer for one hundred thirty-one thousand dollars (\$131,000). I always thought that senior meant higher. How do we classify the senior as a middle class?

Mr. Tanigawa: It is the title of the classification that we have. The Project Management Officer would have supervisory responsibilities.

Councilmember DeCosta: That pay scale is almost equivalent to what our deputies and engineers make. It is a lot of money.

Mr. Tanigawa: It is just the EM5 pay scale.

Councilmember Kualii: Most of these positions are upper management positions, right? That is why they have "Es" in front of them. The two (2) lowest do not. Does the "A26" position have an E in front of it? Are these positions civil service positions?

Mr. Tanigawa: Sorry, Councilmember Kualii. Which positions are speaking of?

Councilmember Kualii: Let us start with Position No. 9048, disposition. Most of the other positions have an "E" in front of them to indicate a high-level managerial position and higher pay, right? Should this position have an "E" in front of it as well?

Council Chair Rapozo: It has the "EM," so that indicates excluded management, right? That is pretty much the same.

Councilmember Kualii: Oh yes, there it is.

JANINE M. RAPOZO, Human Resources Manager III: Good morning, Janine Rapozo, HR Manager. Position No. 9048, if you look at the second column where it has the "SR," "EM," or things like that, you will see that Position No. 9048 has EM5. That means it would be a civil service position. The ones that say "EX" are exempt appointed.

Councilmember Kualii: What is "EM" versus "EX"?

Ms. Rapozo: "EM" is excluded managerial. These positions are excluded from bargaining. There are higher managerial level positions that are civil service and "EX" is exempt meaning that it does not have to follow civil service.

Councilmember Kualii: This Position No. 9048 only says EM5. Is it not exempt? It is a regular civil service position.

Ms. Rapozo: Correct.

Councilmember Kualii: Then, the other one says, EX-EM5 and EX-EM1. Those are both exempt but the Position No. 826 Executive Assistant to the Mayor CIP Manager...is it supposed to have an "E" in front of it? It does not. Are you saying to look at this other column, not the position number?

Ms. Rapozo: Yes, I think there was a time when all the exempt positions had an "E," but then at some point, we started using 9000 numbers as temporary positions as well. We also moved some positions around. Instead of changing the position numbers, it stayed that way and so, sometimes they have they have the "E" or have the 9000.

Council Chair Rapozo, the Presiding Officer, relinquished Chairmanship to Councilmember Kualii.

(Council Chair Rapozo was noted as not present.)

(Councilmember DeCosta was noted as not present.)

Councilmember Kualii: Is it best to look at the other column that you pointed out?

Ms. Rapozo: Yes.

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

(Council Chair Rapozo was noted as present.)

Councilmember Kualii returned Chairmanship to Chair Rapozo.

(Councilmember DeCosta was noted as present.)

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay, are there any other questions on page 179? Next, page 180.

Councilmember Kualii: I have a quick one on page 180.

Council Chair Rapozo: Go ahead.

Councilmember Kualii: At the very top, you have something called the Grant-In-Aid for seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) and the details say Kaua'i Soil Conservation. Why is it called Grant-In-Aid? Is it a grant program? How do you give out that money?

Mr. Tanigawa: I believe so. It is an annual grant.

Councilmember Kualii: I am curious throughout the County when these grants pop up here and there. Who is eligible to apply for these grants and how does it come? What is the minimum and maximum grant award, and what is the deadline? Are we giving that information to the public if nonprofit entities in the public are eligible? If people do not know about these, then it will not be very competitive. Often, we ask for the details from throughout the County because if there are any other grants, I want the details. Thanks.

(Councilmember Kagawa was noted as present.)

Council Chair Rapozo: Are there any other questions on page 180? If not, let us go to page 181. Then, we will go to Fiscal on page 183. Then, we will get to page 185, which is Engineering. Are there any questions? Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: I just have a simple question on Page 184. It says "IT Arrangement SBITA." I am assuming that is software, but what does "SBITA" mean?

Mr. Tanigawa: What line are you looking at, Councilmember Cowden?

Councilmember Cowden: It is about halfway down the page, near line 31 Dues and Subscription. It is ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), just curious, what is that?

Council Chair Rapozo: I think I spoke about it...if you look at page 186, it breaks it down, Auto CAD, Blue Beam. I am assuming that it is just a subscription.

REIKO MATSUYAMA, Managing Director: You will see that SBITA acronym in all the departments. It is for a subscription-based Information Technology (IT) arrangement. It is to comply with the GASB 96 Pronouncement so basically, from last year, you will see a bunch of dues and subscriptions that were formally classified or moved to this SBITA co-polit program.

Councilmember Cowden: Thank you, that helps. I just saw the words and did not know what they were.

Ms. Matsuyama: As far as what is in it...

Councilmember Cowden: Well, when we have these acronyms, I do not know what they mean.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay, are there any other questions on page 185.
Councilmember Kualii.

Councilmember Kualii: There are three (3) vacant positions, starting with the third from the top, Position No. 1433. It has been vacant since June 16, 2023 for two hundred seventy-three (273) days now. The funding is fifty-three thousand nine hundred forty dollars (\$53,940). In the Vacancy Report, it said one hundred fourteen thousand dollars (\$114,000) so when I do the math, that is fifty percent (50%). Are you funding this position for six (6) months?

MICHAEL MOULE, Chief of Engineering Division: Are you speaking to Position No. 1433?

Councilmember Kualii: Yes.

Mr. Moule: Michael Moule, Chief of Engineering. I believe that this position is not fifty percent (50%). We have reallocated this position down to CE I to something else so it a smaller salary rate.

Councilmember Kualii: Here it says, CE I, SR 18 and it shows the salary of at fifty-three thousand nine hundred forty dollars (\$53,940). Is it just coincidental that half of what is in the Vacancy Report for the same position prior? Did you reallocate it down without changing the title? I do not think that would work if the salary were so drastically different. It does look to me like it is six (6) months funded, but anyway, to go further, what is the status of recruitment? It only says "continuous." Are you in recruitment, requested recruitment, or planning to fill? What is happening with that position?

Mr. Moule: We have three (3) vacant civil engineering positions. I will cover them all at once.

Councilmember Kualii: One at a time. Position No. 1433, CE I, please.

Mr. Moule: We are looking to schedule interviews for this month. Hopefully, some for this next week. If not, within this month.

Councilmember Kualii: It is in recruitment, then?

Mr. Moule: It is in recruitment. The Engineering positions are always posted continuously, because the number of departments and divisions access to those positions, but right now, we just filled our last section head position as of March 18, 2024 and we were waiting for that position to be filled to do interviews for the junior positions.

Council Chair Rapozo: What is a junior-level position? Is it a CE I or not?

Mr. Moule: CE I, II, and III are what I consider junior level.
They are non-licensed.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay, is that title not going to change?

Mr. Moule: We are recruiting at I, II, and III. We have three (3) positions and right now, in the Vacancy Report, they are listed as III, III, and IV. I believe that position IV has been filled since. Bottom line, we are recruiting Civil Engineering I, II, and III. That is where we have some applicants on the list. We are looking to schedule those interviews. We will fill those new positions at whichever level we find qualified applicants.

Council Chair Rapozo: We just had this report at the end of March and typically, they get the status on here and it still says continuous, which is according to HR, they did not get any applications or requests. I do not know if you test the applicants. Do they take a test?

Mr. Moule: For Engineering positions, there is no test. They are qualified based on their level of education and experience.

Council Chair Rapozo: I guess at what point does the status on the Vacancy Report change? It still shows continuous, but you are saying that you have applicants for these three (3) positions.

Mr. Moule: We have pulled the list for CE I, II, and III and we will be scheduling this month. Hopefully, next week.

Council Chair Rapozo: Maybe Janine will come up and correct me.

Ms. Rapozo: For clarification on the continuous recruitment, whenever we do have applicants that are in the hopper and are qualified, we will send those over to the department, so that is what is happening with these engineering positions right now.

Council Chair Rapozo: But it does not reflect here. I see here in Building that they are reviewing applications or different types of recruitment. This one only says continuous.

Ms. Rapozo: It was. I think since March 15, 2024 until now, I think you just got the list, right? They might have had applicants.

Councilmember Kualii: Then, we might need to hear from you, that is why we are asking the questions.

Mr. Moule: We are actively recruiting. We were waiting for that section to be filled and we were actively recruiting since that has been filled. That has changed since you got the list.

Councilmember Kualifi: Chair, while Janine is sitting there. Sometimes there could be mistakes in the Vacancy Report. On the Vacancy Report, Position No. 1433 under the budgeted amount it says, but prior to that, it said the current annual salary range fifty-three thousand nine hundred forty-eight dollars (\$53,948) was. That is below or outside of the range so when he talked about the range, he was wrong.

Ms. Rapozo: I do not have the current budget in front of me, but what happens on the Vacancy Report, is that the budgeted amount based on whatever the budget is right now, but he might have changed the position from a CE V, or even a CE management position so the one hundred fourteen thousand dollars (\$114,000) is probably from the current year budget, but since that time, he has reallocated that position down to CE I at SR-18. That is why we budgeted for FY 2025 fifty-three thousand dollars (\$53,000).

Councilmember Kualifi: This is what you spoke about in your narrative about the training program to bring people in at a lower level and work them up to. That is why you reallocated this position.

Mr. Moule: That is exactly right. We went through a minor reorganization last year, where we had three (3) organization heads and went down to two (2) organization heads, working with HR. One of the section heads ended up being higher than the previous two and we took the other section head position and reduced it down to CE I. This position was a CE VI and then it was reduced to a CE I. This in theory, should be the amount of that.

Councilmember Cowden: Can you tell me about that? What are those called?

Mr. Moule: Yes, we have one section that is called the Project Manager section, which is essentially, working on County projects within the Engineering Division. The other section is called the Regulatory in Construction Compliance section. That side of the house is focused primarily on non-County projects as well as dealing with the sort of complaints about streets and drainage and those sorts of things. Once it gets to a larger project, then it gets transferred to the other division.

Councilmember Cowden: Which one is eliminated? You said there had been three (3). Which one was eliminated?

Mr. Moule: The Regulatory in the Construction Compliance section was a merger between the Regulatory section and the Construction Compliance section. There were a lot of reasons for that. I do not think we need to get into it today. So far, it is working exactly as we planned. It is much better than before.

Councilmember Cowden: Has it increased sufficiency? When we were looking at where your challenges are on page 11 or the other page, it looks like you folks have been in so many different directions and not been able to maybe function as well as possible. Is this helping?

Mr. Moule: Yes. So far, it is helping and if we get these last few positions filled, it will help even more.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember DeCosta.

Councilmember DeCosta: I have two (2) questions.

Council Chair Rapozo: On what page?

Councilmember DeCosta: Page 185. I noticed that there is an EM7 on the civil engineer top position, CE VII. Do we still have EM7's in our County pay scale or are we moving to changing those to EM5?

Ms. Rapozo: We still have EM7's. That is one position. We also have an Assistant Chief over at Police that is EM7, and I think the head of Wastewater is an EM7, Water Department, and Engineering.

Councilmember DeCosta: Are they basically the head of departments or the deputies? Are there other employees under that status with the EM7 level?

Ms. Rapozo: They are usually the division heads.

Councilmember DeCosta: I just wanted to make sure with the reorganization and our opportunity to attract qualified candidates, that EM7 is important to have in place because that is your highest pay scale, correct?

Ms. Rapozo: Yes.

Councilmember DeCosta: Okay, thank you. Next question, there is a big discrepancy between CE III and CE III. They are both SR-22. Why is there such a big difference in pay? It is twenty-three thousand dollars (\$23,000) more.

Mr. Moule: I can answer that question. It is a vacant position, so that number should be set at the lowest entry level step. The other Position No. 1060 is someone at a much higher step. The union contract Step D through M and Position No. 1060 should be whatever they are making right now, because they have been with the County for much longer. They make more money.

Councilmember DeCosta: I understand. I see it.

Mr. Moule: Experience-based steps.

Councilmember DeCosta: Thank you for that.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: This is related, but it came off this page 9 from that overall. I was told to wait and ask during Fiscal. It says Engineering Division budget decrease of roughly seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000) and it just seems a little unusual for me that it all came out of the employment benefits. I wonder if there was a position shift. What brought that cost down? Is it just reducing the salary or something? I would expect it to go up since we need more help. It is on page 9, Item H on the operations synopsis.

Ms. Rapozo: I do not want to speak for Ken, but Ken usually inputs the benefits amount and so, he usually uses a percentage amount based on the salaries. If the salaries did go down, then the benefits go down.

Councilmember Cowden: Is it just some little nuance?

Ms. Rapozo: One of the big things that he said is the difference of changing the division head down. That was a huge decrease.

Mr. Moule: It is related to the same thing that Councilmember Kualii asked.

Council Chair Rapozo: Interesting that the posting went down quite a bit, but the health fund contribution went up.

Ms. Rapozo: Yes, it is the full coverage insurance that we had to increase for the health fund.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is this put in place of every Division?

Ms. Rapozo: Yes, everyone should be showing an increase.

Councilmember Kualii: Continuing the Vacancy Report. Position No. 884, is it the same then when you recruit for the CE I, are you also recruiting for the CE III? Is it the same interview process?

Mr. Moule: Yes.

Councilmember Kualii: Are they all junior-level engineers, right?

Mr. Moule: Yes, that is what we are recruiting for right now.

Councilmember Kualii: Will that be filled as well? What about vacant Position No. 1876? It is a brand-new vacancy, came around February 1, 2024. Since it is a CE V and it is a higher-level position, will it be filled through an internal promotion?

Mr. Moule: On that one, it is very recent because that was one of our section head positions. It was an internal candidate that took the section head and now, his position is now vacant. It is still a CE V. That very well be reallocated to a lower level depending on the recruitment process. This process is happening this month. We were hoping to fill all three (3), but looking at the list, I am not sure we will get through. We will go back to the drawing board, trying to recruit a possibly at different levels and/or getting more publicity out there for these positions, especially since kids are getting out of college around June. It could end up being reallocated down, but we left the positions where they were.

Councilmember Kualii: In truth, budget-wise, it is vacant. It is not being recruited to be filled at that level so you can in the next round of budget, forecast when you really expect to reallocate it and what is involved with that. Obviously, with the recruitment process, we know that the best case would be thirty (30) days, but it could take two (2) or three (3) months. If it is your goal to do the reallocation, do the recruitment, and have that person in by July 1, 2024, then you put the full budget amount in there. If that is unlikely, because you have not really initiated it, where it is unlikely that you will get to it because you already spent your time and resources on the reallocation then that is going to be a budget adjustment, I believe or I hope to see it. Otherwise, we will probably look at it and cut it.

Ms. Rapozo: I think if he had his way, Michael would want to hire a CE V if we could get an applicant for him. That one is continuous as well. We do not have a crystal ball. If he gets an applicant, he can hire them immediately. I think that is what he wants, but right now he is looking at junior-level because we are unable to get. We never know though. Sometimes, you get one so right now, I think he is leaving it there so that if he can get someone at that level, he is going to get that person.

Mr. Moule: As you were saying Councilmember Kualii, between now and May when the budget is approved, if I remember correctly, we may have to change this. If that happens, we will work with HR and Finance to program in the actual amount based on any hires that occur and if we decide to take one and reallocate it down, or something. I am hoping that we are going to have updates and fill one (1), maybe two (2) positions in the next month.

Councilmember Kualii: Okay, thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Does anyone else have anything for Engineering. Moving on to page 186. Now, page 187. Alright, then that will be it for Engineering. Then, Building. Councilmember Kualii.

Councilmember Kualiti: On page 189, at the start of Building with the list of positions, the very top position is Position No. 1525, CE VII Manager. It has been vacant since October 1, 2021, one hundred ninety-six (196) days. No activity. Last year, this position was six (6) months funded, I believe. You can confirm that. Why are you fully funding it now? Do you have recruitment undergoing? Are you likely to fill it? What is the status?

Mr. Tanigawa: No recruitment is ongoing currently.

Councilmember Kualiti: What is your intention? Do you plan to contact Janine and ask her to initiate the recruitment or leave it at no activity? It is no activity and if you have no recruitment plans and the person will not be starting on July 1, 2024, then you should not fully fund it. I think that is what the Chair and several of us are looking at closely this year. Last year ultimately, maybe you came to us in March, we questioned you and then, you came back in May, your six-month funding ended. I am recommending that you do the same thing unless you plan to initiate the recruitment and fill that position to start on July 1, 2024. Does that make sense?

Mr. Tanigawa: That makes sense. Thank you.

Councilmember Kualiti: That is Position No. 1525, Chair.

Council Chair Rapozo: Yes, I got it. That is a large amount.

Councilmember Kualiti: Do you have a follow-up on Position No. 1525?

Councilmember DeCosta: I have something on this page.

Council Chair Rapozo: Go ahead, Councilmember DeCosta.

Councilmember DeCosta: Since I work so closely with this Division, it falls under my synopsis. I would really like to know Leo's title. Who is she on this lineup? What is her position number?

LEOLYNNE S. ESCALONA, Building Code Development & Enforcement Officer:
Position Number No. 1527.

Councilmember DeCosta: Position No. 1527? I am no genius, but I work closely with her and that Division. She is an EM3. I have seen people within the County at EM5 and EM7 do less work than her. How do we address this?

Council Chair Rapozo: I understand, but the person in discussion should not be on the floor. That is something that you could meet...

Councilmember DeCosta: If it is on the floor...I am discussing the title of EM3 in this position, and I have seen other positions come through that are slated to make

more money with less responsibility. When would we have this conversation? I did not know this until now.

Councilmember Kualif'i: Councilmember DeCosta, it would have been fine for you to ask about positions without tying it to a live person, but you already did that. Now, it is a personality issue.

Councilmember DeCosta: She is a live person.

Councilmember Kualif'i: Now, it is a personality issue.

Council Chair Rapozo: Now, you can have that discussion with Troy.

Councilmember DeCosta: I will, and maybe with HR.

Councilmember Kualif'i: The next vacant position, right under that Position No. 1527 is Position No. 1528. The Administrative Assistant to...wow, this may be the longest vacant position in the County, vacant since January 1, 2017, two thousand six hundred thirty (2,630) days. It is noted as under continuous requirement. What is happening with that position? Why has it not been filled for so long? Will it be filled?

Mr. Tanigawa: Currently, we are training someone to be a Teaching Assistant (TA) for that position. I am sorry. I misspoke. We are not TA-ing for that position. That position was created at that level to serve as someone who takes on administrative tasks. Right now, we have been absorbing those administrative tasks in our Fiscal office, but we have plans in the future to have that position filled and fully functional once we complete our organization for the project management.

Councilmember Kualif'i: When do you plan to get through that?

Mr. Tanigawa: That is not something that we have plans to recruit for immediately.

Councilmember Kualif'i: Could you say that again?

Mr. Tanigawa: We do not plan to recruit for that position immediately.

Councilmember Kualif'i: Will you partially fund it in some way?

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes.

Councilmember Kualif'i: ...Because you are not going to have someone starting on July 1st.

Council Chair Rapozo: I have a quick follow-up question. There are a lot of temporary positions toward the bottom of the page. There is a permit clerk and inspector. Oh, got it.

(Councilmember Bulosan was noted as not present.)

Councilmember Kualii: I have more questions about the vacant positions.

Council Chair Rapozo: Go ahead.

Councilmember Kualii: We discussed Position No. 9048 and you stated that you are letting it go so you do not need this position here. The Project Management Officer is moving to Public Works - Administration.

Mr. Tanigawa: Correct. We want that position in Administration.

Councilmember Kualii: Then, the next vacant position is...has the Position No. 1945 Building Inspector been vacant since July 16th for two hundred forty-three (243) days...oh because you are reviewing applications right now. You anticipate hiring and having that person start on July 1st.

Ms. Escalona: Yes.

Councilmember Kualii: That is good. Sorry, next question.

Council Chair Rapozo: Are there any other questions on positions?
Councilmember DeCosta, you spoke on the narrative about the enforcement of...

Councilmember DeCosta: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: I am not sure if you want to continue.

Councilmember DeCosta: I would like them to clarify and name which positions fall under the narrative that they described in the synopsis on building inspectors. There are two (2) new positions. Does that fall under the temporary hire tier? Which categories do those two positions fall under?

Council Chair Rapozo: I do not think they are new for this year. I think you have expanded.

Mr. Tanigawa: Those were existing positions that we filled, and we created an enforcement section now.

Councilmember DeCosta: Who is the supervisor of those two (2) positions?

Mr. Tanigawa: Currently, they fall under the supervision of Leo.

Councilmember DeCosta: She holds an EM3 position, correct?

Ms. Escalona: Yes.

Councilmember Kualii: I am looking at the four (4) total positions that are all listed as Building Inspector. Are they all categorized at SR-19? There are four (4) that are budgeted positions and there is another one, T1 1966, which I guess is paid by another source.

Council Chair Rapozo: I think you have five (5) building inspectors, one (1) senior building inspector...

Councilmember Kualii: Plumbing inspector.

Council Chair Rapozo: No. If you go down the list, I see five (5) building inspectors and one (1) senior building inspector.

Ms. Escalona: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: Are all five (5) of those positions filled?

Ms. Escalona: Yes, except for the one (1) position that is in process.

Council Chair Rapozo: Going back to Councilmember DeCosta's question relating to the North Shore, do we have adequate coverage to manage or regulate? I went on a site visit and saw the packets of before and after pictures and it seemed like...I am not sure if that is a building or planning issue.

Ms. Escalona: The example that Councilmember DeCosta brought up falls under the Engineering Division and they make the determination as to whether it is a substantial improvement. I believe that is what you are inquiring about.

Council Chair Rapozo: Who makes that determination? Would that be the inspector?

Ms. Escalona: That would fall under the responsibility of the Engineering Division. As far as the building inspectors are concerned, when we go out to do the inspections, that does not fall under our responsibility.

Councilmember Cowden: I have a follow-up. How does someone know who they are supposed to complain to? If someone had a concern, would they go to the Planning Building, or Engineering? Where would they send their complaint?

Mr. Tanigawa: They would come to DPW.

Councilmember Cowden: After it goes to DPW, would you folks determine where the complaint goes?

Mr. Tanigawa: Correct. To follow-up a little further on Chair Rapozo and Councilmember DeCosta's question relating to coverage, we plan to have a meeting to discuss these particulars. The Engineering Division has been working on this for some time now. Once they determine the process and how they would like to implement the inspections, determining valuations, and building permit applications whether they exceed that threshold that is set for them. We will have more information and details on how to follow up. We are considering coordinating with the Building Division to get that done. We really do not have the details yet. We will after the Building Division completes their program that they are putting together, I believe that there will be a meeting that was scheduled because our Chief of Engineering will be out of town on the initial date. Once we have that meeting, there will be more to share with you, Councilmember DeCosta. Hoping that there will be more details.

(Councilmember Bulosan was noted as present.)

Councilmember DeCosta: To clarify, is the Engineering Division responsible for enforcement of the renovation, yet our EM3 supervises the building inspectors? Do the engineers go out and inspect or do the building inspectors go out and inspect?

Mr. Tanigawa: For this type of inspection, we would want to coordinate with Engineering because they are doing that.

Councilmember DeCosta: Why is Engineering in charge of that? It should be in Building because they have the inspectors.

Mr. Tanigawa: Engineering is in charge because they have the responsibility to determine...

Councilmember DeCosta: That is why we have the problem.

Mr. Tanigawa: No, it just needs to be solved with a process.

Councilmember DeCosta: Correct. I am trying to help you folks get to that process.

Mr. Tanigawa: Exactly.

Council Chair Rapozo: The problem is that an application comes in and like Councilmember DeCosta stated earlier, they buy an old home on this property, and they hit the threshold of less than fifty percent (50%) of value. I have seen the before and after pictures. The only problem with that, they only have to do certain types of permits, but if we are not there when they start to do the construction. Now, if you try to enforce it is too late because the structure is already built. There are a lot of things. I agree with Councilmember

DeCosta as to trying to get this process in place so once they start construction, someone is constantly checking to make sure they are building what they said they would be building. Again, I think the “cows have left the barn,” but there is still a lot of future development on the South Shore, North Shore, and Westside. These folks are taking old houses and being exempt from many of the requirements because they are supposedly staying under the threshold.

Councilmember DeCosta: This adds to the property value assessment that is driving the community prices around them through the roof because someone took this old home and remodeled it into a fabulous home with upgrades that were not supposed to take place and the property tax of our community houses around them, go up. I am looking at a division that my EM3 is running—she has a lot of responsibility. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Are there any further questions on Page 189?
Page 190?

Councilmember Kuali'i: Yes. Sorry, I have a question on Page 189.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay, ask your question from Page 189.

Councilmember Kuali'i: You spoke about different building inspector positions. One of them is a Senior Building Inspector. Is the Senior Building Inspector a working supervisor or another inspector that has been in the County for some time and was promoted?

Ms. Escalona: Yes, that inspector is a working supervisor.

Councilmember Kuali'i: In your narrative, you spoke about the training and sending employees to the personal development training taking place in October in Long Beach, California. I do not see the funding in the training or travel category of the budget to do this. Is this training above and beyond what we have done in the past as far as training. Is this something new? Are we sending more people?

(Councilmember Kagawa was noted as not present.)

Ms. Escalona: We have an account in our Building Revolving Fund.

Councilmember Kuali'i: Okay. It does not need to come out of the General Fund?

Ms. Escalona: Correct.

Councilmember Kuali'i: Thank you. That is good. I think it is important that you do that training and that they all go.

Ms. Escalona: Correct.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: My question is on Page 190. Can I ask a question on Page 190?

Council Chair Rapozo: Sure.

Councilmember Cowden: I am looking at the electricity number and I am assuming that one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) cost covers all DPW. I am wondering why it falls under one division. I cannot imagine that the division has one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) worth of electricity. Are you holding the budget for the whole area?

Ms. Escalona: The electricity expense account that you are looking at is not only for the Building Division. It is for several County facilities.

Councilmember Cowden: Are those costs clustered into your area? Is it that entire side of the road? That is a lot of money—one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) in electricity.

Ms. Escalona: Yes.

Councilmember Cowden: Is this including our transfer stations and everything else?

Mr. Tanigawa: No, transfer stations have their own account under Solid Waste. This account only covers the electricity at some of our building facilities.

Councilmember Cowden: Most of this...I looked at all the electricity costs on the Budget and this expense is staggeringly higher than other divisions and departments. It is a stunning number unless it is everything. It is a lot.

(Councilmember Kualii was noted as not present.)

Mr. Tanigawa: I can get more information.

Councilmember Cowden: That is over a hundred thousand (\$100,000) a month.

Mr. Tanigawa: I can get more information on which meters this cost relates to.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay. I was thinking that it must be everyone because it is a lot. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember DeCosta.

Councilmember DeCosta: Hi, Troy. I have a follow-up question to Page 189 on the Building Inspectors, three (3) of the inspectors are electrical, two (2) inspectors are plumbing, and two (2) are building. What sort of experience are we expecting those filling these positions to have? Are they coming out of the trade with a certification like a Journeyman or are those positions based on experience and they come to work for us?

Ms. Escalona: For the plumbing and electrical inspectors, they are required to be licensed by the State of Hawai'i.

Councilmember DeCosta: What about the building inspectors?

(Councilmember Kualii was noted as present.)

Ms. Escalona: For the building inspectors, it is based on the minimum years of experience in construction and there are specific minimum qualifications listed in the job description that the Division is looking for.

Councilmember DeCosta: I appreciate that. During the inspection process in construction, a person who is not knowledgeable in that area can be easily fooled by the contractors and homeowners. I am glad that there is something in place to ensure that we hire qualified employees for these key positions. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Are there any further questions? If not, let us move on. Are there any further questions for the Building Division? If not, thank you. I am sorry. Go ahead, Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: I had a question related to the online system. Has it added to the workload or reduced the workload? Are you happy? How is that online system doing? Did that help?

Ms. Escalona: Are you referring to the electronic plan review?

Councilmember Cowden: Yes.

Ms. Escalona: It was under Councilmember Carvalho's Administration that we implemented the electronic plan review. During the first couple of years, the staff and external users went through a couple of learning curves, but last year, it proved its worth when the offices were flooded.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay.

Ms. Escalona: You, Councilmember Cowden, also did a site visit...

Councilmember Cowden: Yes.

Ms. Escalona: ...to see that amount of papers, but fortunately, because we are electronic, our office was only closed for one (1) week and after that week, the Division was up and running.

Councilmember Cowden: Are you folks happy?

Ms. Escalona: Yes.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Are there any further questions for the Building Division? If not, we will move on to the Roads Division. Thank you.

Councilmember Kualii: Are we on master page 246?

Council Chair Rapozo: I am sorry.

Councilmember Kualii: Are we on master page 246, Roads?

Council Chair Rapozo: No, we are on page 193.

Councilmember Kualii: I jumped ahead.

Council Chair Rapozo: Let me begin while Councilmember Kualii is getting sorted out because he will attack the positions. I think you heard my concerns relating to fire mitigation efforts and equipment. Could we start with the line item Other Services? Can someone help to explain that to me? It is one hundred fifty-seven million dollars (\$157,000,000), but there is no real breakdown. Did you folks want to get those details together then come back later?

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes. Could we return later with that?

Council Chair Rapozo: Could you send back the plan? One hundred fifty-seven million dollars (\$157,000,000) is a lot of money.

Councilmember Kualii: I think there was a reason that I jumped ahead to the other section. Could you turn to master page 266?

Councilmember Cowden: I have a question on that.

Councilmember Kualii: There is one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000). Turn to master page 265 in DPW Roads Division. In a different font under Other Services, it shows one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000); tree trimming is listed as five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000), automobile improvements is

listed as one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), roadway safety is listed as five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000), pedestrian crossing beacon is listed as one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), river mouth opening is listed as three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000). Altogether, those services total one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000). Did you list it all as increased fire mitigation or was that maybe a generic term for part of it?

Council Chair Rapozo: What page are you on?

Councilmember Kualii: Master page 265.

Councilmember DeCosta: I see the one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000).

Councilmember Kualii: I am under the tab named DPW Roads on master page 265.

Council Chair Rapozo: Yes, I am looking at master page 265.

Councilmember Kualii: Right there under Other Services. It is near the top or center of the page.

Councilmember Cowden: Could I ask a question on that?

Councilmember Kualii: If it relates to the one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000). Maybe they should have that...

Councilmember Cowden: Other Services is not on the...

Mr. Tanigawa: Are you reading off the Highway Fund?

Councilmember Cowden: Yes.

Mr. Tanigawa: You need to look at the General Fund.

Council Chair Rapozo: Yes, I am there.

Councilmember Kualii: It seemed to appear in two (2) different areas because it was the same amount. In one area, it was called it fire mitigation efforts and the other place...

Councilmember Cowden: On the other place...

Councilmember Kualii: Roadway Safety. What is Roadway Safety?

BRYSON I. VIVAS, Executive Assistant to the Mayor: Good morning, Council Chair and County Council. Bryson Vivas from the Roads Division, for the record. The line item named Other Service that is listed under the 201-2076 Highway Fund are the services that we have going through the Roads Division such as tree trimming. Recently, we planned to contract out the on-call tree trimming services that are too large for the Roads Division to manage. That will come out soon. Other services include the on-call guardrail contracts, flashing beacons, and managing the rivermouth in Waimea. Luckily, we have not been using it lately since fixing the flood gates, but we have the capability to open the rivermouth, if needed. Those are the services that fall under the Roads Division and equate to the one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000). It is different from the...

Council Chair Rapozo: Right. Do your other services cost three million dollars (\$3,000,000).

Mr. Vivas: That is coming from the General Fund. This is just the Highway Fund.

Council Chair Rapozo: We are the General Fund on master page 193, which is specifically for fire mitigation efforts. You are speaking about the Highway Fund that has the improvements. That is not what this is. Is this a separate one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) coming out of the General Fund for fire mitigation efforts?

Mr. Vivas: That is correct.

Council Chair Rapozo: That is what I am asking and that is what you folks would provide for us later. It is not tree trimming.

Councilmember Kualii: This is not related to Roadway Safety.

Council Chair Rapozo: No. Again, this in addition to the fire mitigation equipment of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) and more. We would like to see a plan. Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: He is first.

Councilmember Carvalho: I have a clarifying question. Is that one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) specific to the fire mitigation program?

Council Chair Rapozo: Correct.

Mr. Vivas: It is separate. That is correct.

Councilmember Carvalho: That detail is important, and I want everyone to be clear on that.

Council Chair Rapozo: We would like to see how the Roads Division plans to spend the one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000).

Councilmember Cowden: I have a clarifying question.

Council Chair Rapozo: Go ahead.

Councilmember Cowden: Will we contract someone to complete the other services?

Mr. Vivas: Correct. The other services such as tree trimming, guard rail, and all of that will be contracted out.

Councilmember Cowden: Is that a different piece?

Mr. Vivas: It is a different piece.

Councilmember Cowden: The fire mitigation efforts piece is not the equipment. Is it budgeted to hire a contractor to mitigate the fire problems? Will you folks give us those details?

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes, I have to get back to you on that.

Councilmember Cowden: On the five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) under Road Safety. We have not gotten to that part yet, but I would like to know what that means when we do.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember DeCosta.

Councilmember DeCosta: Hi Bryson, thank you for all that you do. Sometimes, we do not say that enough.

Councilmember Cowden: Yes, thank you.

Councilmember DeCosta: You have a lot on your plate, so thank you for all that you do. I am curious about the tree trimming cost of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000).

Council Chair Rapozo: That part will come up later. We are still on the General Fund on master page 193.

Councilmember DeCosta: Did we move back?

Council Chair Rapozo: No, we did not. Councilmember Kualii ran to that section.

Councilmember Kuali'i: I thought that...

Councilmember DeCosta: I will wait. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: We are back at the General Fund. We will get to the Highway Fund later.

Councilmember Cowden: The General Fund is on master page 193.

Councilmember DeCosta: Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Are there any other questions on the General Fund, Roads? If not, we will move onto the Highway Fund, which is on master page 246.

Councilmember Kuali'i: I have a question.

Councilmember Cowden: I have a question.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay. Go ahead, Councilmember Kuali'i.

Councilmember Kuali'i: Highway Maintenance Manager, Position No. 924, has been vacant since February 1, 2022 for a total of seven hundred seventy-three (773) days and the recruitment status is listed as no activity. I believe that last year this position was dollar-funded, but this year it appears that it is fully funded. Have you requested recruitment for this position? What is the status of filling this position?

Councilmember Cowden: Are you on master page 246?

Councilmember Kuali'i: Position No. 924 is at the very top of master page 246.

Mr. Tanigawa: Currently, we have Bryson managing the Roads Division and we do not have immediate plans to recruit for this position yet, but during the year...

Councilmember Kuali'i: What was the first thing that you said? Did you say that you have a person?

Mr. Tanigawa: Right now, we have a person managing the Roads Division.

Councilmember Kuali'i: Is there someone else in another position that is covering the responsibilities of vacant Highway Maintenance Manager position?

Mr. Tanigawa: Currently, we have Bryson managing the Roads Division.

Councilmember Kualii: Is he in another position?

Mr. Tanigawa: He is from the Office of the Mayor.

Councilmember Kualii: Okay. Are there any plans to fill this position?

Mr. Tanigawa: Not immediately.

Councilmember Kualii: There has not been any recruitment and it is unlikely that a new position will be in that position by July 1, 2024.

Councilmember Cowden: It is dollar-funded.

Councilmember Kualii: No, it is funded and reads ninety-five thousand four hundred eighty-four dollars (\$95,484). It was dollar-funded last year. Is that correct? We are looking at master page 246. This is another position to look at and consider if it should be partially funded or dollar funded. Come back with that information.

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is there any intent to recruit? I am trying to figure out...you already said that...

Councilmember Kualii: Someone else is already doing the job.

Councilmember Cowden: Him.

Council Chair Rapozo: Where does that position show up? Where is it?

Mr. Tanigawa: That position is located under 202 account GE.

Council Chair Rapozo: Did you say it is under the GE account? Is this position fulfilled by an Executive Assistant to the Mayor? Is there any intention to filling this position?

Councilmember Kualii: They probably missed it. It was dollar-funded last year. In the May submittal, you can correct that if you have to.

Councilmember Cowden: I have a question.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: I have a question on master page 245 under Other Services. It appears that it dropped a lot. The last time it was at three hundred forty-seven thousand dollars (\$347,000). I am trying to look at it and understand.

Council Chair Rapozo: Are you on master page 245?

Councilmember Cowden: Yes, but it is the consulting service. What is MMIS? Do you know what that means?

Councilmember Kualii: MMIS. Where are you looking?

Councilmember Cowden: I noticed that in 2023 it was three hundred forty-seven thousand dollars (\$347,000), then it dropped down to three hundred thirty-six thousand dollars (\$336,000).

Councilmember Kualii: Could you tell us the master page again?

Councilmember Cowden: I am looking at master page 245.

Councilmember Kualii: Where on the chart are you looking?

Councilmember Cowden: On thirty and it says Other Services.

Councilmember Kualii: Okay.

Councilmember Cowden: In 2023, it was three hundred forty-seven thousand dollars (\$347,000) then it dropped down to three hundred thirty-six thousand dollars (\$336,000). I was wondering what changed.

Councilmember Kualii: Two (2) years ago.

Councilmember Cowden: What is MMIS?

Councilmember Kualii: Where is the MMIS?

Mr. Tanigawa: MMIS is the Roads Division software that they have for recording and documenting road conditions that they use for decision-making. They are discontinuing that program, and we are moving the task over to LIMS elements.

Councilmember Cowden: The next item down is twenty-four thousand dollars (\$24,000) for LIMS, but it looks like you have both. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Are there any further questions on master page 246 or 247. Next, master page 249.

Councilmember Kualii: I have a question on the positions.

Council Chair Rapozo: Go ahead.

Councilmember Kualii: On master page 249, under the Hanalei baseyard, there is a vacant Equipment Operator III, Position No. 878. It has been vacant since July 1, 2023 for a total two hundred fifty-eight (258) days. It looks fully funded at seventy thousand four hundred seventy-six dollars (\$70,476) and the request to recruit was received as noted on the Vacancy Report. Has HR started recruitment on your behalf?

Mr. Vivas: We have begun the recruitment process for that position.

Councilmember Kualii: Will you get that person hired within the next few months and be onboarded by July 1, 2024?

Mr. Vivas: Yes, correct.

Councilmember Kualii: Is the status the same for the next position, Equipment Operator I, Position No. 859? It seems to have been vacant for longer and there is a note that the request to recruit has been received.

Mr. Vivas: Recruitment for that position was closed last week.

Councilmember Kualii: Did you say that Equipment Operator (EO) I, Position No. 878 closed?

Mr. Vivas: Yes.

Councilmember Kualii: Are you collecting the applicants and setting up the interviews? Is the application process moving along?

Mr. Vivas: Yes, it is moving along.

Councilmember Kualii: It says the next position has been closed. Did you close recruitment recently.

Mr. Vivas: Yes, we closed the recruitment.

Councilmember Kualii: The next three (3) positions are all Laborers, Position Nos. 914, 1942, and 1990. Two (2) of the Laborer positions have been vacant for quite some time, one has been vacant for two hundred eighty-eight (288) days and the other has been vacant for three hundred four (304) days. The third Laborer position has only been vacant for fifty-nine (59) days. They all have notes stating that the registration list has been established. What does that mean? Do you have a list of people and you are reviewing the list?

Mr. Vivas: One of the positions became vacant due to a promotion and there are interviews scheduled in the middle of this month for the other two (2) positions. We got a list of names back from HR and will schedule the interviews.

Councilmember Kualii: The Laborer III, Position No. 872 has been vacant since February of last year and for four hundred (400) days. The request to recruit has been received. Have you initiated recruitment on that?

Mr. Vivas: Yes.

Councilmember Kualii: Did you close the position?

Mr. Vivas: We initiated the recruitment for that position. It will go out at the same time as the other EO III positions. There are two EO III positions at the Hanapēpē baseyard. It will go out at the same time.

Councilmember Kualii: Does that mean it will go out soon and within the next three (3) month, it should be done?

Mr. Vivas: Correct.

Councilmember Kualii: Okay. Thank you, Chair.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: On master page 251...

Councilmember Kualii: She is jumping.

Councilmember Cowden: Am I jumping?

Councilmember Kualii: Yes, we are master page 249, but we might be done.

Council Chair Rapozo: You can go on. Go ahead.

Councilmember Cowden: On master page 251, I have some questions about the heavy equipment. The water-cooled diesel engine and pumps for Waimea and Hanapēpē levees, is that part of...I am so happy to hear...you said that the valves are working, does that mean the gauges are working on the Waimea River?

Mr. Vivas: The gates are working. These are the replacement for the irrigation pump, which is how we water the levees. Currently, the pumps that we have now are from 2014 and they constantly fail. We plan to purchase these new parts to efficiently water.

Councilmember Cowden: What does that mean? Do you keep it wet on the opposite side of the wall?

Mr. Vivas: Yes, the levees and the embankments are frequently watered so that the vegetation can grow and protect the levee system.

Councilmember Cowden: Great. Does the purpose of these equipment shelter to protect these pumps?

Mr. Vivas: No, the equipment shelter...right now, the Hanapēpē baseyard does not have a shelter to cover some of their equipment. They are just out in the element. This shelter will be similar to what can be seen at Kaua'i Police Department (KPD) or the Honsador Lot. It is a fabric shelter where small or light equipment can be stored and protected.

Councilmember Cowden: Big gratitude for the Hanalei baseyard. That is nice. The tractor and other heavy equipment, a forklift, small excavator, tractor mover, and grader. Are these just replacement pieces?

Mr. Vivas: These are new and new excavator, tractor, mower, and grader will be going towards the fire mitigation equipment. The other two (2) baseyards have a grader, but the Hanapēpē baseyard does not have. I am hoping that we can get a grader so that we can start grading our shoulders on the Westside. The forklift was not included in this fire mitigation equipment so the forklift at the Hanapēpē baseyard is an older model from 1999. It needs to be replaced.

Councilmember Cowden: Do we have people to drive this new equipment?

Mr. Vivas: We do.

Councilmember Cowden: Before you had to borrow and now, we have people and they do not have to wait. They can just use the equipment because it is their property.

Mr. Vivas: Correct. You will see this for each baseyard. A small new excavator with cutting attachment. I am looking to have each an excavator at each baseyard.

Council Chair Rapozo: How often do they use that?

Mr. Vivas: They do not use it daily, but they use it regularly.

Council Chair Rapozo: That is my point. I think that someone said earlier that we tend to buy new equipment, but the equipment sits.

Mr. Vivas: They use it regularly.

Council Chair Rapozo: I would like to see the justification for each piece of equipment because that is a significant amount of money. I do not know if we have the manpower to operate these machines among their regular workday and work duties.

Councilmember Cowden: In align with that, are these equipment shelters that would get parked under, too? Sometimes I see...some people come and show me that the machines start to waste away without a lot of use.

Mr. Vivas: With this equipment shelter, we could park most of the equipment. We will not be able to fit everything, like a big loader, but we can park the other assets.

Councilmember Cowden: You gave me two (2) examples. I like to go look at things so that I fully understand it. You named two (2) places where they have similar...

Mr. Vivas: KPD has a similar...

Councilmember Cowden: ...and Honsador?

Mr. Vivas: ...and Honsador lot by the airport.

Councilmember Cowden: Is that a big tent? I will have to go look.

Mr. Vivas: The Līhu'e wastewater baseyard.

Councilmember Cowden: Did you say the Līhu'e wastewater baseyard? Okay, I was just at the Honsador, but I will just look.

Mr. Vivas: You need an idea of what we are trying to purchase.

Councilmember Kualī'i: Chair, I have a follow-up question to what you said earlier, and this has been asked and said a few times and ways, but the plan is going forward. The cost is popping up in different places, but in the detail that you provide with that plan, also provide the position number along with the equipment and what part they are doing. That way we can see what you say is true that the equipment will not be sitting because it is all shown in the plan.

Mr. Vivas: I can provide that.

Councilmember Kualī'i: ...the positions that are operating and the equipment being used whether it is the one from the Hanapēpē baseyard or this baseyard. It is a little bit of work, but you have to schedule it out throughout the whole year.

Council Chair Rapozo: How many employees are at the baseyard?

Mr. Vivas: I can get that number to you. Between Kapa'a and Hanapēpē, they have more operators and laborers. I want to say that there are about seventeen (17), not including supervisors.

Councilmember Cowden: What I would like to see in the plan too that I am hoping is in there. From what I understand, we are mostly going to mowing County property. We heard from the State of Hawai'i Department of Transportation (HDOT), they will mow other areas where we do not have a way to get out. We are lacking evacuation routes so have a number of places that are like a big cul-de-sac or a lollipop with one-way in, one-way out. We asked the HDOT and they said we will go, and we will mow areas that put those places at a higher vulnerability. I am hoping that if we have this kind of capacity, can work with community associations or different challenges after designing a wildfire mitigation plan, we have the equipment, and identified areas that are problematic, then we could go and help reduce a problem. I heard Councilmember DeCosta make a good point that we should not be doing a lot of work for private landowners, but if we can make firebreaks around our areas, I am hoping that with the one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) in the budget that maybe there is room for that. If we bother to get all this equipment and it needs to be used regularly, we might be able to have that in our plan to work with wildfire mitigation.

Mr. Vivas: As those requests do come in, I think it will be a case-by-case basis, but at least we will be prepared to do that type of work when it does come to the Roads Division.

Councilmember Cowden: In the plan, if it says that we can look at it as a case-by-case basis...

Mr. Vivas: Right, because we do not want to do private property work or State work, but if there was an immediate threat or request that comes down to the Roads Division to do the work, we would do it.

Council Chair Rapozo: I want to see the cost-benefit analysis because we heard about the struggles earlier, about employee shortages, equipment maintenance, a backlog, and all of that. I want to make sure that we use the equipment. If we will, then I am all for it, but if it is a "nice to have thing," so if the need arises then we know we have it...we authorize you folks to rent equipment. We have long-term rental so in cases of emergencies, it is a lot cheaper to rent than purchase. We are talking about millions of dollars' worth of equipment that need to be maintained. That is my concern, because I think we heard earlier that we struggle with it and I want to make sure we are making the right decision to purchase.

Councilmember Cowden: As Committee Chair for Public Safety, I have put a lot of focus on this wildfire circumstance and listened to the different presentations at the Fire Chiefs Association. It has been identified, which is a problem of history, not current team, that the way we plan things on the island, we do not have evacuation routes. Some of this is on the County. Over the years, we have planned without proper hazard mitigation routes and just like the State is responsible, the County is responsible. I was encouraged to

hear the Mayor say that we are going to invest to help make that happen. I am going to throw it out there, like Hanapēpē Heights. It is possible to have a road come out from the top through the DHHL land somewhere. I want to see that road cut open whether it is County, State, or DHHL. We need to protect the people that are way up at that very top area, I want that in the plans. How are we going to interface with State or DHHL? I am excited that we are investing in fire mitigation, and I want it to be real. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo:

Councilmember DeCosta.

Councilmember DeCosta: I want to thank Councilmember Cowden for saying that. Often, this is the only time that we can talk. We discuss the budget, but we are sharing good, constructive information right now and you folks need to absorb and hear it. I think a lot of us have strong backgrounds with special skills. I am going to comment on Bryson right now. I am appalled that at a young age, you are running the Roads Division. There are only one (1) or two (2) roads on Kaua'i, either State or County. Where did he get all the experience? I do not think that he got the experience from County or State. He learned on-the-job and I am impressed that he came from the Office of the Mayor and did that. I have a question for you, and I am going to support the Chair in whatever decision he makes on equipment. My son has asked me to drive my new truck and I do not like him driving it. I do not think that he takes care of it. If the equipment is assigned to certain people, and I have heard this many times within the County...do employees take better care of the equipment when they know that the equipment belongs to them or their division versus when they borrow it from other departments?

Mr. Vivas: That is a good point. Yes, if they have their own equipment, they take better care of the equipment. Right now, we have a float excavator that is shared amongst the three (3) baseyards, as well as our special construction crew. Sometimes, after changing hands, there are issues with the equipment, but I believe if the baseyards take ownership of their own equipment, they take better care of their equipment.

Council Chair Rapozo: I need to interrupt. I was in the service, and I drove all sorts of things, big trucks, forklifts, and trailers. I needed to sign a checklist every time that I signed out a vehicle, even if I signed it out the second time on the same day or was the last person to use it and I went back to pick it up. I had to go through the checklist each time. While I agree with you because that is true, we need to have a process in which the employee that uses the equipment should be accountable for that equipment, whether it is their shop, motor pool, or whatever. If you rent a car, you need to walk around the car and if you notice an issue, the last person is responsible. That is the way to keep the equipment running smoothly, not be giving everyone their own. If that process is not there, then an individual could damage the truck and not say anything. No one will know. It is this process and trust me, we see them here in the claims. We see them here when we need to pay the bills for equipment that was damaged. The process is really what solves that problem. I do not care if it takes ten (10) minutes to go through the checklist. Individuals should sign out that truck, make sure there is air in the tire, there is oil in it, and everything—if the equipment breaks down while being assigned to someone, it is on that person. That is the process to keep our equipment in good shape.

Mr. Tanigawa: Absolutely. Chair, that is absolutely correct. We need to have our middle management involved in holding people accountable. They have a tough job, but it is their job. It is part of their job.

Council Chair Rapozo: One piece of equipment is eight hundred thousand dollars (\$800,00). What was the cost of that dozer?

Mr. Tanigawa: Eight hundred thousand dollars (\$800,00).

Council Chair Rapozo: We better be sure that employees are checking fluids and checking everything. I do not know anything about that piece of equipment. I have never driven one in my life, but we better make sure that we have operators checking the equipment. That is how it works. The same process goes for the smallest excavator. If there is something wrong with it, it needs to be reported. There needs to be accountability because if not, there can be broken equipment that always needs fixing.

Mr. Vivas: For the most part, Roads Division operators do take pride in their equipment. They appreciate the equipment that they have and take pride in the equipment that they can operate.

Councilmember DeCosta: My point was not to buy each division a large excavator that cost eight hundred thousand dollars (\$800,000). My point was relating to the smaller pieces of equipment, like Parks having lawnmowers assigned to a driver and a park. That person would take better care of the riding lawnmower than if it was shared amongst three (3) or four (4) different parks, that was my point. I was trying to compare. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Are there any further questions? Are there any further questions on any of the large equipment for any of the different baseyards? If not, we will move on. Let us go to the Kapa'a baseyard on page 253.

Councilmember Kualii: There is one (1) vacancy. It is very new, but Equipment Operator III has been vacant for almost a month maybe with no activity. Have you requested recruitment?

Mr. Vivas: We have begun.

Councilmember Kualii: Did you begin?

Mr. Vivas: Yes, we began the recruitment process internally.

Councilmember Kualii: Very good. Thanks, Chair Rapozo.

Council Chair Rapozo: Are there any further questions on page 255? If not, let us move on to Hanalei baseyard on page 257? Go ahead. Do you have any questions?

Councilmember Cowden: I have...the tractors and other heavy equipment are four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000). I have that highlighted, so let me look here.

That is a replacement payloader and new small excavator with cutting attachment. That is the basic equipment that is needed, not the fire equipment. Is that correct?

Mr. Vivas: The payloader and the grader are replacement equipment.

Councilmember Cowden: What are those?

Mr. Vivas: Replacement. The excavator with cutting attachment is a new piece of equipment.

Councilmember Cowden: Is everyone happy up there?

Mr. Vivas: I think so.

Councilmember Cowden: It amazing. I see it regularly. Is it all working well? Have we filled out the buildings?

Mr. Vivas: I think so. I think it is working well at the Kapa'a baseyard.

Councilmember Cowden: I highlighted one hundred sixty thousand dollars (\$160,000)...road maintenance materials needed to...pavement patching the shoulder. This is routine and common. That is on page 258. Those are my questions.

Mr. Vivas: Is that for the Hanalei baseyard?

Councilmember Cowden: Yes.

Mr. Vivas: On page 258? Are we still on the Kapa'a baseyard?

Councilmember Cowden: I thought we got to Hanalei baseyard. Did we move?

Councilmember Kualii: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: Page 258 is Hanalei.

Councilmember Cowden: Yes, so it is Hanalei.

Council Chair Rapozo: I am assuming that comes up in every baseyard, right?

Mr. Vivas: Right.

Councilmember Cowden: Yes. Okay

Council Chair Rapozo: Are there any further questions for Hanalei?
Then we are moving on to Signs, Roads, and Markings.

Councilmember Cowden: What page are we on now?

Council Chair Rapozo: This would be on page 261.

Councilmember Kualii: The first vacant position is Position No. 1007, Laborer I, vacant since April 16, 2022 for six hundred ninety-nine (699) days. It has been vacant for a while, but it says that registration list was established. Does that mean you are on the way to hiring someone?

Mr. Vivas: That is correct. We requested recruitment, and we are waiting for the list to come back to review possible applicants for that position.

Councilmember Kualii: Okay. Then the next one is Position No. 1542 Traffic Signs & Markings Helper, vacant since June 1, 2023 for a total of two hundred eighty-eight (288) days. It says no activity. Have you not requested recruitment? What is your intention?

Mr. Vivas: For that position, there were qualifications that needed to be met and the current laborer finally met those qualifications, so we are going to move forward and fill that position.

Councilmember Kualii: Are you at a stage in recruitment?

Mr. Vivas: Correct.

Councilmember Kualii: Did you already determine...

Mr. Vivas: We are in the early stages of recruitment; it was more so discussions stating that we were going to move forward with filling this position. I still need to send in the request for recruitment of this position.

Councilmember Kualii: Are you doing that? That is good, you will have the two (2), three (3) months, however long it is going to take. The last one is Position No. 862 Equipment Logistics Crew Operator. This is very recent, about three (3) months. What is the plan?

Mr. Vivas: This is a recent recruitment due to retirement. We have an active operator list that we can select from, we need to move forward with working with HR to fill this position.

Councilmember Kuali'i: Sometimes, vacant positions due to retirement need to stay vacant for a short while because some part of it is still funded...at the end the retirees have vacation and sick leave, right? Is that the case for this position? Would the new person be hired and start on July 1st, or does this position need to remain vacant for a period?

Ms. Rapozo: After a position becomes vacant, it does not necessarily need to be held, but there are some costs associated with vacation payout, compensation time, and things like that. The department must determine whether they are able to sustain their operations and still hire. There is no waiting that needs to be done. It is a matter of whether the department feels that they can do it. With a larger department like this, they probably will be able to fill the position right away, if they wanted.

(Council Chair Rapozo was noted as not present.)

Council Chair Rapozo, the Presiding Officer, relinquished Chairmanship to Council Councilmember Kuali'i.

Councilmember Kuali'i: Okay, thank you. Members, are there any further questions on positions or on page 261?

Councilmember Cowden: I have a question for page 262.

Councilmember Kuali'i: If there are no questions for page 261, then let us go to page 262. Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: It relates to the one million one hundred thousand dollar (\$1,100,000) tractor and heavy equipment. Will the eight hundred thousand dollar (\$800,000) bulldozer or dozer be used to dig roadbeds? What is that for?

Mr. Vivas: The dozer is a bigger piece of equipment. That one is an older dozer, 2012. That one there would be for replacement but could be used for fire mitigation also. If we needed to clear fields, the dozer would be brought out to the job site.

Councilmember Cowden: I am not a heavy equipment operator, so I am just going to acknowledge that. I think of a dozer as mostly for digging soil. Does a dozer scrape off the plants, too?

Mr. Vivas: Correct. It does not dig. It pushes and breaks.

Councilmember Cowden: It pushes and breaks and the an excavator digs.
Sorry.

(Council Chair was noted as not present.)

Councilmember Kuali'i returned Chairmanship to Council Chair Rapozo.

Councilmember Kualii: Is the dozer located in this Division because it is being shared by everyone?

Mr. Vivas: It is under...

Councilmember Kualii: Signs and Roads.

Mr. Vivas: Signs and Roads. Other than Signs and Roads, we have our logistics crew, as well as our bridge maintenance crew that works out under this titled signs and roads marking. It is...

Council Chair Rapozo: It is deceiving.

Mr. Vivas: Yes, it is deceiving. There are three (3) different crews wrapped up into one.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay, because that was my confusion. I was thinking of signs and markings as the slowdown and yield signs and putting the yellow stripes on the road.

Mr. Vivas: That is signs and markings.

Councilmember Cowden: I could not figure out what an eight hundred thousand dollar (\$800,000) piece of equipment would be, but that is for clearing areas. Would you use a bulldozer when putting in a new road?

Mr. Vivas: We would use it to clear fields and push material. Our logistics crew usually operates our bigger pieces of equipment.

Councilmember Cowden: Can you help me? What does a payloador do? Does it lift things up?

Mr. Vivas: It has a bucket that scoops up material and can fill little dump trucks.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember DeCosta.

(Councilmember Kualii was noted as not present.)

Councilmember DeCosta: Yes, hi, Bryson. I wanted to ask you a question on page 262 relating to the third of the fifth-year lease on two (2) replacements, EQ 027, EQ 028 crew cab, 4x4 trucks. It is listed there for one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000). Explain to me how this five-year lease works, and the amount of money being allocated per

year. I see sixty-five thousand dollars (\$65,500). Is that the allocation per year per truck? Tell me about our lease program.

Mr. Tanigawa: I can answer that, Councilmember DeCosta. Take the estimated price, one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000), divide that by five (5) years, and add interest. Each year would be...

Councilmember DeCosta: I appreciate it. Correct. In five (5) years, would we be better off owning that vehicle or leasing it? In five (5) years, we would not have a payment on the truck. We would own it outright.

Mr. Tanigawa: This is a lease to purchase.

Councilmember DeCosta: Are you saying that after five (5) years we would own it?

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes.

Councilmember Cowden: What is the difference between buying a vehicle outright versus leasing?

Mr. Tanigawa: It is the cash outlay all at one time.

Councilmember DeCosta: Is it cheaper for the County?

Mr. Tanigawa: If purchased outright, the County saves on interest, but it results in a larger financial burden for that year.

Council Chair Rapozo: That was the reason for leasing during Mayor Carvahlo's term. We could not afford the upfront cost, so we leased.

(Councilmember Kuali'i was noted as present.)

Councilmember DeCosta: Now it seems like we can now. I am wondering why we are still leasing.

Mr. Tanigawa: This is the third year.

Council Chair Rapozo: We are on the lease and cannot break the lease.

Councilmember DeCosta: Right, but at the end of five (5) years, will we own this or will need to go pay another price to the company?

Mr. Tanigawa: It is lease-to-own. We would own it.

Councilmember DeCosta: Will we own it? Okay. Have you folks looked at every three-year lease to see if County has ever turned something back in? Have you ever looked into that?

Mr. Tanigawa: I think they just rent. If they need something temporarily, then the division will go that route. Otherwise, for a permanent basis, they either go outright purchase or lease-to-own. Okay. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: Again, I am not a heavy equipment operator. What puts the plastic striping down? What piece of equipment does that? We contract that out like a striper, or do we stripe it ourselves?

Mr. Vivas: The striping usually comes with bigger projects. Within the Roads Division, we do more maintenance such as stop bars, and stop lines. Those are put down with a thermal machine.

Councilmember Cowden: Is it easy to use? Can we ever...I can see where we need those so badly and we do not have it, like around the curve out to Wainiha. I know that road is a State road and they have not stripped it in forever. It is life-threatening to not have a stripe on a dark road next to a cliff.

Mr. Vivas: There are different ways to put down the strip. One way is with rolls of strips that you can roll out and burn. That is usually for straight roads, short holding lanes at the yellows at the stop bars, stop bars, or crosswalks. For long roads or bigger projects, a machine is needed to put down the thermal plastic striping.

Councilmember Cowden: Is that a big machine that the contractors only have?

Mr. Vivas: The Roads Division has that machine as well.

Councilmember Cowden: We have that as well...that is one location. If we need to strip, the Roads Division has that machine in one of the big baseyards.

Mr. Vivas: We have a team that can do striping.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay.

Mr. Vivas: Right now, the Roads Division has one (1) crew for traffic signs and markings, one (1) crew for logistics, another for bridge maintenance. They all fall under this account.

Councilmember Cowden: Do they use the equipment for the whole island?

Mr. Vivas: Yes.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay. We are on page 262. Are there any further questions on page 262? I know you will cover the thermal plastic coming up in the next division, but...are there any further questions for page 263? Okay, let us go to Roads Maintenance. Again, we are still on the Highway Fund on page 265. Councilmember DeCosta, did you have a question on this page?

Councilmember DeCosta: I have been waiting a long time to ask my sassy question. Sorry to frame it like that, but it is going to sound like that. I see tree trimming for five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) and I believe we had a situation in Hanapēpē Valley where we could not get a branch trimmed. With revenue set aside, could we take a little bit out to trim a branch? Could the County make an executive decision? If the State did not want to do it, could the County do it with this fund?

Mr. Vivas: With a contractor, we can find another route. If it is not a tree that is in the County right-of-way with direction, we can find another route to include it in the contract.

Councilmember DeCosta: Thank you for that because we were busting our little brain, trying to figure out how we would help our constituents at Hanapēpē Valley with the tree branch. The second one is...I have a pet peeve about this one, one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for pedestrian crossing beacons. The administration at Waimea Canyon Middle School called me again, asking for a pedestrian crosswalk. I brought it to Michael Moule's attention. It is on a County road across from a low-income housing project built by the County. The kids walk down to the main highway, cross by the Catholic Church, and walk all the way up. Most of the kids run across the road in the morning, so can this bank account be used to put a flash beacon in Waimea town? Please tell me, "yes."

Mr. Tanigawa: If it is on a County road, the Engineering Division will have to do a project because crosswalks normally require a landing, and so it is not simply striping. They need to ensure that there is a landing for the crosswalk on each side.

Councilmember DeCosta: Right, but I brought this to Michael Moule's attention a while ago, and I am just wondering, would an account like this be used to take care of a problem like that?

Mr. Tanigawa: For the purchase of the equipment, there would have to be a separate budget to install the landings.

Councilmember DeCosta: Why not include another portion for landing so that can get projects taken care of? Would that be possible?

Mr. Tanigawa: I will have a discussion with the Engineering Division.

Council Chair Rapozo: Did you put in a formal request? We will put in a formal request for the crosswalk because I think there are other pots of money for the construction of the...because you need to do the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) landing.

Councilmember Kualii: Do a follow-up on that.

Council Chair Rapozo: Do you have a follow-up on that?

Councilmember Cowden: No, I have a different question on page 265.

Councilmember Kualii: On this group of expenditures, you spoke about the tree trimming, and I thought I heard you say, "with our contractor" and it sounds like you have a maintenance schedule of tree trimmings that you probably cycle through throughout the year, and the contractor follows that. My question is, could share that plan? How is the five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) spent on this contract? Additionally, if it is a contract, then how do you select the contractor and how often do you allow other people to have opportunities to be that contractor?

Mr. Vivas: With the tree trimmings, the Roads Division tries to take care of the ones that we can handle in-house with the machines that we have available. Trees that are huge, not safe for the crew to cut, or are in power lines, are included in the contract. Recently, we did the Invitation for Bid (IFB) on the tree trimming contract. I believe that the contract is closing today. The Division had already been working on this for a few months, and that is the process of selecting a contractor.

Councilmember Kualii: You stated that the crew will do work some in-house. Obviously, that is with our equipment, manpower and staff, so it is paid elsewhere. Is the five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) listed here for the contract?

Mr. Vivas: This is going to be for the trees that we cannot do in-house. We have a backlog of trees that we need to address.

Councilmember Kualii: Was the IFB that was recently closed for five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000)?

Mr. Vivas: Correct. It is for this year.

Councilmember Kualii: It would probably be clearer to state if there is one (1) contract or if it opens once a year. I do not know what it is, but is that what it is?

Mr. Vivas: Yes.

Councilmember Kualii: Okay.

Council Chair Rapozo: I have a quick follow-up question. In the Other Services category, are any of these items new or is a carryover or duplicate of last year?

Mr. Vivas: It is a carryover from last year.

Council Chair Rapozo: I am looking at the year-to-date and we are about halfway through the year. It is written that year to date, three hundred ninety-five thousand dollars (\$395,000) have been spent. Let us just say we spent four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000), and we are asking for one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000). Where do we anticipate the increase in those funds?

Mr. Vivas: A lot of the contracts we are going through during this past year, we are trying to get them out. Once we get these on-call service contracts out, then we can start continuing them. Therefore, we can keep it alive. We can keep on moving forward each year to do tree trimming work and to do guardrail installation. In the past, we did not have it. At least now, we are moving forward to—if something does happen or if we need a service that requires us to cut a tree or fix a guardrail, we have a contractor in place to do this work.

Council Chair Rapozo: Got it. Thank you. Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay, very simple. Is guardrail installation roadway safety?

Mr. Vivas: Correct.

Councilmember Cowden: What else would be in roadway safety or is that most of it?

Mr. Vivas: Mostly that and if there is damage to the shoulder and require a little bit more work outside of what we could do.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay, is that fixing potholes, too?

Mr. Vivas: We take care fixing the potholes.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay. What does the “SE” stand for in the indirect cost, Central SE for one million dollars (\$1,000,000)? It is right below what we are looking at on page, 265. It is one million dollars (\$1,000,000).

Mr. Tanigawa: SE is for central services.

Councilmember Cowden: What does SE stand for though?

Council Chair Rapozo: This is what you folks need to pay to Administration.

Councilmember Cowden: What does it stand for though? Do we know what it stands for? I just wonder, I get lost when we use these words. I would think that maybe it stands for shared equipment. Is that what SE stands for?

KEN SHIMONISHI, Budget Administrator Ken Shimonishi, Budget Administrator. SE stands for Central and Services, but it was cut off.

Councilmember Cowden: Services?

Mr. Shimonishi The General Fund houses all of the centralized accounting, the legal, the administration, and all of that. This is sort of a charge back to those funds and you will see it like in the Liquor Fund. I think it also in Golf Fund and other areas, so it is pushing the cost out to where it belongs.

Councilmember Cowden: I asked him about the bid machine that puts down the hot plastic. Would that be central services, too, or is it electric and things?

Mr. Shimonishi No. Are you talking about road striping?

Councilmember Cowden: Yes, because it says indirect cost central services. Tell me one more time, I was lost. We have so many acronyms, I was trying to figure out what SE is. Explain the central services again. Is it the administration that is...

Mr. Shimonishi It would include things like the County Attorney, the payroll, the administration, and all those things.

Councilmember Cowden: Alright, okay. It has nothing to do with the road. It is the umbrella for the whole organization.

Councilmember Kualif'i: Is there a reason why that is at zero dollars (\$0) for year-to-date? Is that paid out at the end of the year?

Mr. Vivas: Yes, at the end of the year, the accounting people book the adjustment to push all of that cost out and recover it in a General Fund. The offset is in the accounting division in the Department of Finance.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember Carvalho.

Councilmember Carvalho: On the same page, there are street lights for five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000). Could you explain that?

Mr. Vivas: Street lights...

Councilmember Carvalho: I remember...

Mr. Vivas: Is it the street light installation?

Councilmember Carvalho: Yes, for five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000).

Mr. Vivas: I know that the Roads Division will receive the bill
for the street lights.

Councilmember Kualii: Did you say what road safety was in more detail,
the five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000)?

Councilmember Cowden: Guardrails.

Mr. Vivas: Guardrails.

Council Chair Rapozo: Are there any further questions on page 265?

Mr. Tanigawa: Chair if I could just add, Councilmember DeCosta
had a question about the crosswalks and I mentioned that in addition to the striping, we also
have to make sure that there is a landing on each side of the crosswalks. In that budget line
item, there is a text line item for multimodal improvements. We could use that fund, too.

Councilmember DeCosta: Perfect. You make me happy right now. We are
getting somewhere to work.

Council Chair Rapozo: We will be happy when they say okay.

Councilmember DeCosta: I will be happy when I can press a button and
cross. The kids are not crossing right now. They are running.

Council Chair Rapozo: Are there any further questions on page 265? Let
us close Roads Administration portion before...by the way, on page 266 there is a striping
machine. Are you folks replacing that machine?

Mr. Vivas: Correct. The striping machine broke down, so we
need to get it replaced. That is the only one we have.

Councilmember DeCosta: I have a question. Do the employees, Laborer I go
with the roller and make the stripe in the hot sun? That might not be a bad thing, right?

Council Chair Rapozo: Page 279.

Councilmember Cowden: I have a question on page 279.

Council Chair Rapozo: Go ahead.

Councilmember Cowden: Thirty-five million dollars (\$35,000,000) under Other Services. Is that when we contract a paving company? Am I missing something? Other services?

Council Chair Rapozo: That is the doubling of the road surfacing money that the Mayor spoke about. That was the Highway money, right?

Councilmember Cowden: It is the highway money. Does that money go to contractors?

Council Chair Rapozo: I am sorry. This is the GE Fund.

Councilmember Kualii: Yes.

Councilmember Cowden: It says Other Services, so are we going to spend thirty-five million dollars (\$35,000,000) in other services? Does that go to a contractor that fixes the roads?

Councilmember Kualii: Look at the narrative.

Mr. Tanigawa: That is for islandwide resurfacing.

Councilmember Cowden: Resurfacing. Is that physically...

Mr. Tanigawa: Text item includes islandwide resurfacing and road and bridge repairs.

Councilmember Cowden: Is that another company, like Goodfellows or someone that would get that money?

Mr. Tanigawa: It goes out in an IFB.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay.

Mr. Tanigawa: It would be a contractor.

Council Chair Rapozo: And we are honest that number, the year to date...that answers my question about the capacity.

Councilmember Cowden: A wider program.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay, I think that wraps it up for Roads with the different funds. There is also the auto shop that we skipped. Let us do that before lunch.

Councilmember Cowden: Yes, it has been sitting.

Council Chair Rapozo: Let us go to page 287.

Councilmember Kualii: Auto should be quick. Are we on page 268?

Council Chair Rapozo: Yes, page 268. Go ahead.

Councilmember Kualii: The first vacant position is Position No. 897, Repair Shop Supervisor, vacant since April 29, 2023, for over three hundred twenty-one (321) days. I think that it is fully funded. The status for recruitment says continuous. Is this position in recruitment? What stage is the Division at? Will the Division hire someone to be working on July 1st?

Mr. Tanigawa: Councilmember Kualii, these heavy mechanic positions...

Councilmember Kualii: This position is a Repair Shop Supervisor.

Mr. Tanigawa: Oh, supervisor. Sorry.

Councilmember Kualii: Position No. 897.

RUSSELL IZUMO, Automotive Equipment Superintendent: Good afternoon, Russ Izumo, Auto Shop. That F2 Supervisor is currently in the recruitment process, but the Division has not received any qualified candidates.

Councilmember Kualii: Again, keep trying and maybe you will not have someone on July 1st, but we will know when May comes, and you resubmit. The next one, I think then you were about to talk about, Position Nos. 1343 and 1853, Heavy Vehicle Construction Mechanic I. Both positions were vacant for a while, one vacant for five hundred sixty-six (566) days and the other was vacant one thousand four hundred seventy-five (1,475) days. I believe that the longer one was partially funded, a nine-month funding, but this year you are looking to fully fund it. Are you having better luck? Are you going to hire someone?

Mr. Izumo: We have a prospect. I promoted an employee from BC5 service up to BCA trainee and that is the way that we are going to try recruit BC11 position where they can meet the qualifications for the Commercial Driver (CD) licensing. We are under continuous recruitment.

Councilmember Kualii: Then, Position No. 1338, Heavy Auto Equipment Welder, vacant since October of last year.

Mr. Izumo: The candidate that came in did not pass the practical exam, so we are still in recruitment.

Councilmember Kualii: Are you back to looking for more candidates?

Mr. Izumo: Yes.

Councilmember Kualii: Auto Mechanic I.

Mr. Izumo: The Auto Mechanic I position was up for recruitment, but there were no eligible candidates. We could use that position later if we have another trainee position.

Councilmember Kualii: Same position. You were trying to fill one (1) position with two (2) vacancies. You just said that. The last one is a brand-new vacancy.

Mr. Izumo: We have not put that position up for recruitment yet. The vacancy opened about a week ago.

Councilmember Kualii: Repair Shop Utility Worker. Do you expect to initiate recruitment and fill that?

Mr. Izumo: Yes, it will be opened for recruitment shortly.

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

Council Chair Rapozo: Are there any further questions? Councilmember DeCosta.

Councilmember DeCosta: Thank you. Thank you, Russell. I know that you run a tight ship and it is very difficult to be in your position because your role is to manage mechanics. It is hard to find mechanics and mechanics need to know what they are doing. It is almost like a hospital. You cannot fake your way into being a mechanic. I know that. Overall, how do many employees do you supervise and how many are under you?

Mr. Izumo: I have fourteen (14) people.

Councilmember DeCosta: Are you the only supervisor?

Mr. Izumo: Until the F2 gets filled, but we have a position in WS11, Working Supervisor. That person manages the heavy side.

Councilmember DeCosta: Do you still supervise him?

Mr. Izumo: Yes.

Councilmember DeCosta: My next question is, when I am looking down at that mechanic position, BC10, you have quite a bit—are you working with the Kaua'i Community College (KCC) when those applicants come out of college to possibly get them...

Mr. Izumo: Not yet sir.

Councilmember DeCosta: I think you should.

Mr. Izumo: That is an idea.

Councilmember DeCosta: That is a great idea. Thank you for letting me share that great idea with you. Go look at KCC for some potential applicants. Often times, our used car dealerships, Kūhiō Ford and Kūhiō Chevrolet grab them, but I see the medical plan now available, which was a great implementation by our Managing Director, and she is sitting over there. We can recruit those kids right out of KCC. Thank you, Russell.

Mr. Izumo: I know the instructors there. I can speak with them.

Councilmember DeCosta: Thank you for all that you do, Russell.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: On page 269, I see training is dollar-funded. I am wondering about that. Is that correct? Am I seeing that right? Training has one dollar (\$1). It shows one dollar (\$1) in the column. Russell, I am worried a little bit about succession planning because if we only have one kind of training supervisor in there. What if anything ever happened to you? Do not get in a car accident. We need to train people up.

Mr. Izumo: Yes, it is a hard thing to get an official trainer to come in. It costs a lot of money to bring trainers in. When I first started, we did an elementary level, beginning level, basic electronic troubleshooting class. When Ford came in for the buses, that was about sixteen thousand dollars (\$16,000), seventeen thousand dollars (\$17,000). Further training would probably be double or triple that amount to have them at the level they need to be if they are not there right now. As we move into 2024, the technology in the changing world...the technology in the trucks is almost similar to the technology in the cars.

Councilmember Cowden: Thank you for saying that. That has been a big concern of mine with our fire trucks and all these things, like if those chips go out, which they do, my pretty new car is already having little signs of a nervous breakdown on its chips. It is not even half a year old yet. I am wondering if we have things in place as we are getting more of that in. You look as old as I am. If you were to retire, would the whole Division fail?

Mr. Izumo: That is possible.

Councilmember Cowden: Probably, right? To the Managing Director, Troy, or you, we really need to think about that because when we have all this very expensive equipment that we are buying from bulldozers to--do you guys fix the bulldozers, too?

Mr. Izumo: No, that is a different category of mechanics. We are heavy vehicles and construction equipment now.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay. Well, it looks like we have a lot of very expensive equipment. Thank you so much for what you worked on, in a building that has not been expanded. My guess is since 1972, but my sense is that you would be very hard to replace. I am a little worried about that, so I am looking at you, but I am really speaking to whoever is above you...how we do succession planning and how we do training, and capacity in case, God forbid, anything happened to you, or you got tired of what you are doing. You probably are old enough to retire.

Mr. Izumo: I am almost there.

Councilmember Cowden: Almost there. Are you going to retire? We cannot ask that. I do not want to lose...

Council Chair Rapozo: No, I understand what you are saying.

Councilmember Cowden: It is a good deal because if we lost him, it would shut down our departments quickly.

Council Chair Rapozo: We need to be careful with personal questions.

Councilmember Cowden: Okay, sorry.

Council Chair Rapozo: No, no problem. Russell, are you telling me that there are no training funds in your budget?

Mr. Izumo: We do not know if trainers can come down to train or if the crew needs to go to the mainland.

Council Chair Rapozo: No. Do you have any training funds?

Mr. Izumo: No, I did not make any training funds.

Council Chair Rapozo: How did you folks do training? Do we have any kind of specialty training available for our mechanics?

Mr. Izumo: Not yet. The Ford training was a specialty training.

Council Chair Rapozo: Right, but that was because the buses came.

Mr. Izumo: Yes, that was for the buses. If the crew needed training, a trainer would have to be brought down from the mainland. If not, the crew would have to do several online hours of training before they could even...

Council Chair Rapozo: My point is, right now, based on this budget, we have no funds for any training.

Mr. Izumo: I did not put any training in.

Council Chair Rapozo: My question is, mechanics need to be trained constantly, every year, right?

Mr. Izumo: They are supposed to be at journeyman level when entering the shop.

Council Chair Rapozo: Right, but as new equipment is being acquired by the County...

Mr. Izumo: I am doing the training now. If they are stuck, I train.

Council Chair Rapozo: Where do you get your training?

Mr. Izumo: From Cummings. I am a Certified Mechanic, Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Certified and State Licensed.

Council Chair Rapozo: What about the Ford, Toyota, regular vehicles, and the other cars that we have? Are we not training our people at all? Are they not getting operator training?

Mr. Izumo: I do not know if the factory offers training. The deal with the Ford buses is that they offer training when you buy the equipment. If I have inspections on those trucks, there is Peterville and for rubbish trucks, there is McNeals. They would come in to train the crew. It is written in the contract when procuring the vehicles, to go through a informal training would be expensive.

Council Chair Rapozo: That is why we are here today. You saw the moneys that we are talking about. Each department is sending someone to a conference, to a trainer, they are sending someone. My point is, there is nothing in your budget, even to send a mechanic to a mechanic's auto mechanic's annual conference, National Association of Auto Mechanics Conference. None of that, right? I am asking if you could consider adding that.

Mr. Izumo: Yes. Okay, I will do that.

Council Chair Rapozo: I think that is a department that needs constant training.

Mr. Izumo: I still go to training myself.

Council Chair Rapozo: Yes, but you are paying for that on your own.

Mr. Izumo: Yes, I pay for it on my own.

Council Chair Rapozo: That is not how it should be, that is my point. I would love to see your budget, and tell us how many mechanics you could send away to get formal training?

Mr. Izumo: Eventually, I probably would have to send all.

Council Chair Rapozo: Throughout the year, if you plan to send two (2) or three (3), however many it will be, but figure out that cost and let us know because we want to provide that for you folks. We have to keep our people trained. I think that often, maybe that is the issue. As we acquire new pieces of equipment and vehicles, we should be keeping our guys up to par.

Mr. Izumo: I write in the contract that the contractor needs to provide training.

Council Chair Rapozo: Well, I am just making that up. We would like to see all our mechanics get out and learn new trends, techniques, tactics, and hacks with the equipment that we currently have. Councilman Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: He brought up conferences. We go to conferences. It is so valuable and so, it might be that...I would have to look it up, but if there is some type of conference that is going to help our team know how to deal with all these new pieces of electronics that are usually proprietary in all these different pieces of property or even if we have...I do not even know if there is insurance that helps when these things fail early because when we see that we had to basically toss two (2) pretty good fire trucks because the electronics went out in it, I am just worried that if we lose someone like yourself...we really need to have that next layer because the mechanics, I would say, is a very quiet hero in the County. I have to go snooping around to sort of check on you folks because you do not come forward. You do not complain, but if something happened to you, it would shut down this whole County. I really want to emphasize putting money in for the training and looking to see if we should be sending a team member to a conference just to understand the trends because everything is changing like this and getting so expensive. I want you to hear my gratitude for the good work that you have done and the fact that we do not even think about your Division very much. I hardly recognized you when you came in because you do not complain, but that does not mean you do not need attention and nourishment. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember DeCosta. This will be the last question then we will break for lunch.

Councilmember DeCosta: I wanted to ask you about the mechanist position. I noticed it is not in our budget, I think. Did we do away with that position in the last budget?

Mr. Izumo: We did away with the position because, honestly, for recruitment, we do not keep them open. Everything is sourced out parts already. To make a part like how the machinist was designed for the position is like on dying breed. A

lot of times you can buy the parts made. The only thing the machinist is good for is the aging compactors at the transfer station to make parts for them.

Councilmember DeCosta: Who does that machinist work at your shop right now?

Mr. Izumo: Darrin.

Councilmember DeCosta: What is his last name?

Mr. Izumo: Machado.

Councilmember DeCosta: I heard that he is good, maybe one of the best.

Mr. Izumo: His is good.

Councilmember DeCosta: Do you have a repair shop supervisor?

Mr. Izumo: Excuse me?

Councilmember DeCosta: Do you have a temporary repair supervisor at the shop?

Mr. Izumo: Yes, he is the TA now. He has the most experience in the shop and years of service.

Councilmember DeCosta: Okay. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: With that, we will take our lunch.

Councilmember Kualifi: Could I make a quick comment? Thank you for what you do, and I will assure you that in three (3) of the positions that we identified earlier and asked them to come back, those positions totaled two hundred fifty-four thousand dollars (\$254,000). Even if they funded it at half time, which they may still not fill and it might be surplus funding, there is one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$125,000) in your budget.

Councilmember DeCosta: For training?

Councilmember Kualifi: For anything. It is important that you do the training.

Council Chair Rapozo: I think the training is critical. With that, we will take a break and be back at 2:00 p.m. We will come back with Wastewater and Solid Waste.

There being no objections, the Council recessed at 1:01 p.m., for a caption break.

The meeting reconvened at 2:01 p.m., and proceeded as follows:

(Councilmember Bulosan was noted as not present.)

Council Chair Rapozo: I will call the meeting back to order. For your information, Councilmember Bulosan had to run to a doctor's appointment, so he will be back when he is done. With that, we will start on Wastewater on page 345.

There being no objections, the rules were suspended.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember Kualii, I am assuming that you are going to...

Councilmember Kualii: Yes, but we only have one (1) vacant position, and it is newly vacant. Troy, are you handling the Wastewater Division yourself?

Mr. Tanigawa: No, that staff should be on the way.

Councilmember Kualii: This one is easy, though. I will just mention it.

Council Chair Rapozo: I know that you have a couple of new positions here, Wastewater Operations Assistant and Sanitary Chemist.

Councilmember Kualii: Oh, there. They are next to each other.

Councilmember Cowden: I have a question, but I am not sure whether it is appropriate.

Council Chair Rapozo: Go ahead.

Councilmember Cowden: That chemist position when you were talking about the transfer stations, would they be keeping a regular eye on contaminants in the water or contaminants in the environment? What does the chemist's position do?

Mr. Tanigawa: Primarily for testing F fluid prior to...

Councilmember Cowden: Wastewater, I am sorry. Even on that chemist's position for wastewater, does our chemist check for contaminants?

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes. They test for different constituents, but primarily, they look at the water quality to ensure that it complies with our National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for discharge. After treatment, prior to discharge, the chemist will sample in.

Councilmember Cowden: It might be a hard thing, but when I was thinking about the leachate going into the wastewater treatment facility...we learned that the

leachate comes out of the transfer station and goes into the wastewater. Some of the issues are dissolved heavy metals and heavy metals that are not dissolved. How do they deal with that in the wastewater? Does the chemist look after that position?

DONALD M. FUJIMOTO, TA Chief of Wastewater Division: Donald Tsujimoto, Chief of Wastewater. My understanding is, the amounts of heavy metal are diluted with our normal flows and we still meet the minimum requirements once it is treated.

Councilmember Cowden: Do you check for that?

Mr. Fujimoto: Yes.

Councilmember Cowden: I am thinking about the ocean outflow and all that, but it is checked for.

Mr. Fujimoto: Right. Depending on the quality of the leachate, we may not accept it. I think we have it tested intermittently. I think at the Kekaha landfill, we will not accept leachate.

Councilmember Cowden: Does the accepted leachate go to any of the wastewater facilities or mostly in Līhu'e?

Mr. Fujimoto: Right now, from my understanding, we are only taking leachate at the Līhu'e and 'Ele'ele landfill.

Council Chair Rapozo: Are there any other questions on page 347? It looks like this Division is fully staffed, except for that one (1) position.

Councilmember Kualī'i: That position is a brand-new vacancy that opened a couple weeks ago, right? It is a working supervisor. Is that a position to be filled with an internal promotion that could happen quicker, or are you doing regular recruitment? Have you started recruitment?

Mr. Fujimoto: Well, unfortunately, I think that position requires a grade IV, so we have a few grade IV, but they do not have the minimum years of experience. We are going out right now.

Councilmember Kualī'i: You have started recruitment, and you should get it filled in the next couple of months, for July 1st. Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

Council Chair Rapozo: Are there any further questions on page 347? Go ahead.

Councilmember Cowden: I am still on page 346. You also have a remarkably high electric bill. Is that the cost of running four (4) wastewater treatment plants twenty-four seven for three hundred sixty-five (365) days a year?

Mr. Fujimoto: Correct. The process of treating wastewater requires a lot of energy. A lot of it is with motors and blowers. We constantly need to add oxygen to the mix to keep the bugs alive and neutralize our wastewater.

Councilmember Cowden: Is the two million four hundred thousand dollars (\$2,400,000) on the line item 44 for loan service? It is one-third of the way up on page 346. Is that debt service?

DONN T. KAKUDA, Civil Engineer VI: Donn Kakuda, Civil Engineer, Wastewater. Yes, those are all the State Revolving Fund (SRF) loans over time, some are from nineteen (19) years ago.

Councilmember Cowden: Is that interest that we pay every month, the debt service?

Mr. Kakuda: It is the interest plus the principal.

Councilmember Cowden: It is our monthly payments.

Council Chair Rapozo: Page 347, 348 covers positions. Go ahead.

Councilmember DeCosta: I have a question for you, Donald. Maybe a year or two (2) ago, I remember we conversated about the overtime, the standby pay for a call out, and the standby electrician. I know we were going to hire a second electrician. Did we hire that second electrician, and did it help with covering some of the standby and overtime? I did not see the number put onto the budget to reflect that hired position.

Mr. Kakuda: The standby is not all, it is for coverage. The County of O'ahu has three (3) shifts so that the plant is fully staffed at all the times. For the County of Kaua'i, we only have one (1) shift and the standby to cover emergencies at night. It will not go down. We need electricians to respond in a timely manner if there is an emergency.

Councilmember DeCosta: What about the standby pay for a call out? That is two hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$275,000). Would we be better off putting in another position to rotate during that shift? That quite a bit of money that being is allocated for a call out.

Mr. Kakuda: To me, that is cheaper than having three (3) or two (2) more fully staffed shifts of workers.

Councilmember DeCosta: Did we do the cost analysis of hiring two (2) more?

Mr. Kakuda: We need to hire everyone. It would be three times the staff we currently have. This is to cover.

Councilmember DeCosta: This is not two (2) people, right?

Mr. Kakuda: We would have to triple our staff.

Councilmember DeCosta: That is why I asked, and I am not against overtime if it is used for a critical situation.

Council Chair Rapozo: Page 348. Page 349. Councilmember Kualii.

Councilmember Kualii: Did the consultant services line item go up five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000)? If so, what is different now? Does this everything cost more, or did we add new consultants?

Mr. Kakuda: There are some increases around some of the other line ups, but the main increase was the Septage Receiving Station design. As Donald said, we take pumpers and hollers at the Lihu'e and 'Ele'ele plant, but our septage receiving station is bad, and the Department of Health (DOH) has been asking us when it will be fixed. This money is to do the design for both plants, Lihu'e and 'Ele'ele.

Councilmember Kualii: Okay, I see that it is five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000). Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Are there any further questions for page 349, page 350? Stormwater Mitigation and BMP Repair. This is on the contractual repairs, two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000). Is that islandwide?

Mr. Kakuda: Technically, that is for our Wailua plant. Last time, DOH requested that we touch up some of our dry beds. That money would be to try to repair the dry beds to meet their conditions.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you. Is there anything else on page 350?

Councilmember Kualii: On the last one, how about this repair and maintenance equipment? There was an increase of about nine hundred thousand dollars (\$900,000). Is it something specific that new, or is it everything else that is being...

Mr. Kakuda: We spoke with all the supervisors and asked them what they thought we needed, right? Obviously, this one has a lot of 'Ele'ele. We have come to the Council before to discuss Wailua and Lihu'e, but this is just to keep 'Ele'ele whole and running at a good state.

Councilmember Kualii: Is the first one, the one million nine hundred thousand dollars (\$1,900,000) for all over?

Mr. Kakuda: That well cleaning will either be at Līhu'e or 'Ele'ele. We have a bid out, so this is the money to continue the cleaning, possibility at Līhu'e or 'Ele'ele.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember DeCosta.

Councilmember DeCosta: I have a question on the same page, page 350, on the replacement 'Ele'ele riding mower. Is that a zero turn? Explain to me a mower, cost thirteen thousand dollars (\$13,000). We do not have much to mow in that area, correct? Is that not smaller?

Mr. Fujimoto: It is a good size property.

Councilmember DeCosta: What is a good size, a half-acre?

Mr. Fujimoto: It is three (3) acres.

Councilmember DeCosta: Three (3) acres. Okay, this is an industrial commercial mower. I did not know that I understood that. That fits the price. Thank you, Donald.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is there anyone else with a question on page 350?
What about page 351...352...353?

Councilmember Cowden: I have a question.

Council Chair Rapozo: Go ahead.

Councilmember Cowden: Towards the bottom there, on the Līhu'e Wastewater Treatment Plant, replace centrifuge, that is nine hundred thousand dollars (\$900,000). How often does that get replaced?

Mr. Kakuda: Probably every ten (10) to fifteen (15) years.

Mr. Fujimoto: Right now, we are in the process of purchasing a centrifuge, but the one that we have now is very unreliable. We wanted to get one for Wailua this year, but due to the high cost, we ended up purchasing this to back up Līhu'e for now. We will probably buy the Līhu'e one and might send this one to Wailua.

Councilmember Cowden: Did you say that the one we are buying for Līhu'e will be sent to Wailua because Wailua is in too bad a shape?

Mr. Fujimoto: Yes.

Councilmember Cowden: Then, we would need to order another one soon for the Līhu'e site.

Mr. Fujimoto: Yes, that is the reason for the nine hundred thousand dollars (\$900,000) for Līhu'e. This year our budget was six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000). It was not enough to get a replacement for Līhu'e.

Councilmember Cowden: Wow. Two (2) years ago it would have been enough, but that is how much the inflationary increase has been. I think that is important for us to pay attention to because...

Mr. Fujimoto: Yes, since COVID. The prices have gone up two (2) to three (3) times, especially with wastewater equipment because they are specialized.

Councilmember Cowden: It sounds like we need two (2) centrifuges, though, not just one (1).

Mr. Fujimoto: We are hoping to be able to fix the Līhu'e plant. We are still working on it. We have an order, and it is going to take about six (6) to eight (8) months.

Mr. Kakuda: I think it will be longer than that.

Mr. Fujimoto: Yes, maybe longer, so by the time we order this, this will probably be another six (6) to eight (8) months off. Hopefully, we will have some backup.

Councilmember Cowden: This funding, I am trying to see if it comes out of the Sewer Fund, or does it come out of the General Fund, or both?

Mr. Fujimoto: We are supposed to be funding from the Sewer Fund, but there is no way we can afford to...the budget is subsidized through the General Fund.

Councilmember Cowden: I know that we did just raise all the rates, but still, we need this outside of that.

Mr. Fujimoto: During our proposal, our goal was to minimize subsidy to about one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) once we hit the fifth year.

Council Chair Rapozo: How old are those two (2) pickup trucks? Do you folks know?

Mr. Kakuda: I am not exactly sure, but we usually run them until they die. Once the Automotive Division tells us to buy a new one, then that is when we buy one.

Council Chair Rapozo: What is a skid steer loader?

Mr. Fujimoto: It is like a Bobcat that has a finger lift and front loader.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is that for Līhu'e?

Mr. Fujimoto: Yes, for the Līhu'e mechanics, I think.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember DeCosta.

Councilmember DeCosta: I had a couple of questions on the supplies to maintain, chemists' supplies, laboratory supplies for chemists. I noticed that you folks have quite a large amount, twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000), thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000), and thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000). Can you explain that? Are these office cleaning supplies that we use to clean, or do we hire a cleaner to sanitize for all employees?

Council Chair Rapozo: Are you on page 352.

Councilmember DeCosta: Yes, right here.

Mr. Kakuda: Our employees clean their own. This is to buy gloves, (inaudible).

Councilmember DeCosta: Twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) is quite a bit of money for a one-year supply. How many of those rooms are we taking care of, and how many restrooms? How many are there?

Mr. Kakuda: Each plant has one (1).

Mr. Fujimoto: I think this also includes the chemicals needed to do their testing.

Councilmember DeCosta: I know. I saw that testing fund. The testing fund falls underneath the thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000), so you have twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000), thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000), and thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000), which totals eighty-five thousand dollars (\$85,000).

Mr. Fujimoto: The thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) is for the equipment and twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) is for cleaning supplies for the plants, too. It is not only for the chemist, but also for the people at the four (4) plants.

Councilmember DeCosta: Do our numbers stay somewhat consistent throughout the years, except for the raising prices.

Mr. Kakuda: Sort of. This year was okay, we were sort of in line, but in the previous year, the prices jumped twenty-five percent (25%), so I hope that these numbers stay close.

Councilmember DeCosta: Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Are there any further questions on page 352? If not, let us move on to 353...354, which are the salaries. Are there any further questions for Wastewater? Are there any questions at all?

Councilmember Kagawa: I had a follow-up on the centrifuge. Does the centrifuge by the falls work? It separates the sludge from the...

Mr. Kakuda: We do not run it twenty-four seven. We have to put them in bins then bring those to the landfills so once the bins are full, we cannot run the centrifuge. You just need the centrifuge. We run them almost every day, but not at night when no one is present.

Councilmember Kagawa: If a centrifuge at one of the transfer stations breaks, then can you borrow one from another?

Mr. Kakuda: We try to send it to the other plants, but every plant is different. As you know, Councilmember DeCosta brought up the chemicals, the centrifuge uses different kinds of polymers at every plant. If we brought it to another plant, then sometimes, it could cause problems. You have to use different polymers and things like that, but that is what we do it. We try to haul the sludge to a different plant and process it there as best we can. If not, we have to dump it into the dry beds, let it dry, and then scoop and dump them into the landfill.

Mr. Fujimoto: The Līhu'e centrifuge was down for a while, I think for a couple of months now, and we still have not started accepting septage because we are still watching and seeing whether the thing is reliable. During that interim, we were sending the sludge to Waimea and we are trying to dry whatever we can so we are getting close to the wire.

Councilmember Kagawa: Do all the cesspool pumpers need to drive all the way to Waimea?

Mr. Fujimoto: Well, we stopped accepting septage because Līhu'e was down so we could not process those solids.

Mr. Kakuda: To clarify, we were accepting cesspool and septage. We were not accepting sludge. Other plants used to bring the sludge to us because the cost is cheaper. They rather not process it at their plant. They bring it to us. In those cases, we told them they cannot bring sludge.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember DeCosta.

Councilmember DeCosta: I have a follow-up question. Right now, you made a point that we are so cheap that the other sludge plants come to us to process.

Mr. Kakuda: That is my opinion.

Councilmember DeCosta: I like it because you are a professional and as a person, you can make an opinion, write a comment...let me finish, Donald. Why are we so cheap? I am looking at those other plants. Are they servicing community members or are they servicing spectral interest groups?

Mr. Fujimoto: Can I clarify? I do not think any other plant is taking septage. Right now, the County is the only agency that takes septage or sludge.

Councilmember DeCosta: Is it because they are cheap?

Mr. Fujimoto: Other people do not want to upset their plant. They are afraid that if they start taking it, they are afraid that their process is going to be...

Councilmember DeCosta: We have the maintenance occurred on that. Why would we want to do that to our own plant? It is the taxpayers' money. These are going to be taxpayers' dollars fixing the plant from other sludge coming from another plant. I am asking you about the other plants that do not want to process sludge, might put too much strain on their plant, who are those plants servicing? Are they servicing other constituents like our community member or are these high-end subdivisions, hotels, or Kukui'ula subdivision? I want to know.

Mr. Fujimoto: My predecessor started the practice, but I think it is a good public service because if we do not do it, who would do it? There would be no one to accept percentage. We are providing a big public service to the community.

Councilmember DeCosta: That is on behalf of our taxpayers.

Mr. Fujimoto: Yes, but we are doing it. We just did the rate study. I think we adjusted the rate; it went up quite a bit. The public is very upset, asking why it is expensive? That is the cost to treat it.

Councilmember DeCosta: I appreciate you folks raising the cost. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Are we or are we not taking sludge? He said we were not taking sludge.

Mr. Fujimoto: No, temporarily, but we are taking septic. Septage is from the tanks where they pump the septic tanks.

Council Chair Rapozo: We are taking that, but we are not taking sludge from other plants, then?

Mr. Kakuda: Temporarily. The centrifuge is running so in the interim when it was broken, we were not taking it, but now, it feels like it is in a good spot, I

think we will be starting to take sludge again or we will be taking on a limited basis at another plant, like at 'Ele'ele or something.

Mr. Fujimoto: I think we are going to start; I think we are going to watch for one month. We just had it fixed and it seems to be holding so we are going to start receiving sludge.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember Cowden?

Councilmember Cowden: A few years back, have not gotten any complaints lately, but people were accusing others of dumping that sludge and septic clean things in different lava tubes, etcetera. What do they do with the sludge if they cannot give it to us? Do they send it to O'ahu or something?

Mr. Fujimoto: They have to hold it.

Councilmember Cowden: What if they cannot? Do they just dump it somewhere?

Mr. Fujimoto: Hopefully they are not pumping it if they cannot. Wherever the sludge comes from, they will need to leave it there until we can take it.

Councilmember Cowden: I see. Okay.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember DeCosta.

Councilmember DeCosta: Could you send me an email of all the companies that run the private sewer treatment plants? Are the major contributors of the sludge larger trucks or are they smaller trucks pumping residential homes? Which one would you say it is or is it an equal balance?

Mr. Kakuda: We can send you the list. It just depends on because sometimes the hotels hire a hauler to bring them to us.

Councilmember DeCosta: I do not mind helping our constituents, right? A private person on a half-acre has a cesspool that they have to pump, too. Otherwise, their toilet will overflow, but if we give preference to hotels who put in this sewer treatment plant to service their hotel, then they should pay the highest rate possible. If not, they should not accept so many hotel guests that overflow this sewer treatment plant.

Mr. Fujimoto: We did not want to seem like we had preferential treatment, we were not taking any sludge. During the process, when our centrifuges were down, we tried to fix it. We are hoping that it is going to last. Right now, it is holding. We have a temporary fix, and it seems like it is going to hold.

Council Chair Rapozo: Scary, you folks make me nervous.

Councilmember Kagawa: My apologies for opening up that can of...

Council Chair Rapozo: This is what I keep talking about, wastewater and infrastructure. Those are the things that we need to fix and not put temporary fixes and hope that it works.

Councilmember Kagawa: I have another question.

Councilmember Cowden: After him, I have another question.

Council Chair Rapozo: Go ahead.

Councilmember Kagawa: When the sludge builds up, how does it get disposed?

Mr. Fujimoto: It goes through a process. We treat it, dilute it with our waste, and treat it through the process, the same process. We neutralize all the bad elements.

Councilmember Kagawa: Does it go to the landfill or something?

Mr. Fujimoto: Yes, the solids go through the centrifuge. We digest it, then it goes through the centrifuge, and lastly, it goes to the landfill.

Councilmember Kagawa: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

Councilmember Cowden: Without a complicated answer, when we were talking just a little bit ago about mechanics and needing to fix machines, is the centrifuge something that a mechanic can come to fix?

Mr. Fujimoto: Both mechanics and electricians. We have been very fortunate to have a good crew. They are amazing.

Councilmember Cowden: Is that our own team?

Mr. Fujimoto: Yes.

Councilmember Cowden: Are we holding onto them, is our retention on them good?

Mr. Fujimoto: One of them will retire soon, but I am hoping that he will stay on as long as possible.

Councilmember Kualii: When you were talking about the centrifuge earlier, you said nine hundred thousand dollars (\$900,000), and you need it in both places, and you are not doing it in Wailua, but you are moving Līhu'e. I know you said that you have

this limit, but the limit is what you put on the subsidy, which is one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000), right? If this is critically important and a core service, then maybe you should make an exception to that limit and go ahead and use some General Funds to help with that, because it is critical. It seems critical and I think you will have our support Do it if it needs to get done.

Mr. Fujimoto: That is the goal. I am hoping that we are going to stay close to that, but again, that goal was at the end of the fifth year of increases. This year, the subsidy might be a lot more.

Councilmember Kuali'i: If it has to, it has to.

Council Chair Rapozo: Eight hundred thousand dollars (\$800,000) for a dozer or eight hundred thousand dollars (\$800,000) for a centrifuge of something that we need. I need to tell you that it is not a difficult decision.

Councilmember Cowden: Or one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for the turf. I know you all are football people. Artificial turf or centrifuge, you need to get the centrifuge. That seems like something you do not skimp on so, if you need to buy two (2), buy two (2). That is what I am saying, buy two if you must because we do not want to have it break.

Councilmember Kuali'i: We saw what happened at Wailua for a while there.

Council Chair Rapozo: Then you see throughout the year, you folks will come for emergency funding to fix. I do not understand the mentality and it is not for you, Donald. I am just saying, let us put the priorities up first, let us fund the priorities. If there are left over funds, then buy the nice things to have. That is how I look at this and when I hear you explain the process right now, and that we had to shut down temporarily because we do not know if it will hold. We hope it keeps working, that tells me we need to fix these things, and I think this Council agrees that we need to reset the priorities. Unfortunately, some of these other things can wait till next year. That is what makes sense to me.

Councilmember Cowden: And me.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember Carvalho.

Councilmember Carvalho: Important discussion. We are all at the table, all of us, and whatever we have to do to support and make sure that we are managing this the right way. Let us not wait till later, do these things now. What can we do to make sure that it happens now? I just wanted to say that.

Councilmember Cowden: In another year or two (2), it will not be nine hundred thousand dollars (\$900,000). It will be one million two hundred thousand dollars (\$1,200,000), so I would buy the two (2) now.

Council Chair Rapozo: Are there any further questions for Wastewater?
Thank you. Now, Solid Waste on page 311.

Councilmember Kualii: Starting with Position No. 1855, a brand-new vacancy, vacant for fourteen (14) days, with no activity. Are you requesting for it to be recruited, and will it be filled well before July 1st?

ALLISON A. FRALEY, Environmental Services Manager: Correct, yes.

Councilmember Kualii: Then the next one, position 1921, vacant since June 1, 2023 for two hundred eighty-eight (288) days, with no activity. Why not? Will you be filling this position?

Ms. Fraley: We will be filling; we have put it in to be filled. This will be an internal—we are recruiting internally and so, we expect it will be filled before the end of the fiscal.

Councilmember Kualii: Are you about to request that the recruitment begin with HR, and will it be internal?

Ms. Fraley: Yes.

Councilmember Kualii: Then, the last question, and then I will let Chair ask about the new positions, is vacant since November 16, 2023, for one hundred twenty (120) days—offer made. Are you filling the Solid Waste Worker I?

Ms. Fraley: Yes, they started on the 15th of March.

Councilmember Kualii: Wonderful. That is all, Chair.

Council Chair Rapozo: Are there any further questions on page 311? I am going to ask her to talk about the two (2) new positions, but are there any questions on the existing vacancies? I think you covered them all. Allison, maybe you could share with us the positions.

Ms. Fraley: Yes. First, the Solid Waste Worker I for the Hanalei Transfer Station, that one first. We have had staffing shortages. This will allow us to operate safely at the Hanalei Transfer Station. We have minimal staff up there so, this would be...

Council Chair Rapozo: Do you have staffing shortages because people are not coming to work or because we do not have the right number?

Ms. Fraley: We do not have the right number. We do have the issue of people not coming...

Council Chair Rapozo: How many solid waste workers do we have there?

Ms. Fraley: At Hanalei, there is just one (1), I believe. The attendant position is what we are trying to fill so that we will have two (2) and then two (2) operators at Hanalei.

Council Chair Rapozo: What is the difference between an operator and a worker?

Ms. Fraley: The operator operates heavy equipment, and the worker greets the customers, makes sure that everything is used properly and that they are disposing, screening the waste, things like that.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay, Councilmember DeCosta.

Councilmember DeCosta: When you have that operator and that laborer, and one of them is absent, let us say that the laborer is absent, is that when we do not have another laborer to fill that position?

Ms. Fraley: Currently, we have a pool of laborers that we use that started when we switched over to automated refuse collection, so we will call on the pool to fill those empty positions.

Councilmember DeCosta: How is, calling on the pool to fill that route? Are we okay, or are we short on the pool side? Do we need more attendants to be in the pool section to pull from?

Ms. Fraley: Well, we are short at that transfer station, that is where we need to get this position.

Councilmember DeCosta: Why are we short? Is there no one that wants to apply for a job?

Ms. Fraley: We do not have the position in place yet, so that is what we are asking.

Councilmember DeCosta: Thank you, Allison. I hope you feel better.

Ms. Fraley: Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Then, the Information and Education Specialist.

Ms. Fraley: Yes. That position would be under the Solid Waste Programs Coordinator, and the responsibilities would be to plan, develop, and execute public education activities for the entire Division. First, the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan has called out a lot of public education programs that we do not have staff

to perform. These are things like educating about the true cost of refuse program, promoting a State green recognition program, developing, and managing a recycling block leader, like these new initiatives that we are not able to do to be able to increase our diversion. Then also, we have regular ongoing activities to continue to educate the public about our recycling programs. We divert forty percent (40%) of the waste at this time, but without continued repeated education, we are talking website updates and a green guide that we update and distribute, things like that. This will really help us to push our agenda of diverting waste and reducing and reusing waste before it gets to landfill.

Councilmember Cowden: I have a follow up on that. I am wondering, can you do field trips where people can visit? I know that when I took my home school group with a handful of others, there were about thirty (30) of us who went out there. It was amazing what we learned, and it was one of the best field trips we have had. It was touching how much the staff wanted to help people to know, but then I had twelve (12) kids that year. Without even thinking about it, we dropped our waste stream by seventy-five percent (75%) and the other families, parents, all teachers all said they dropped a lot too because a lot of times, if you do not know, you do not know. When you see how hard these people work...and just like I was talking about with the mechanics, if that is shut down, we all shut down. It kind of goes in one eye and out the other when you read a little pamphlet. I think if people can see it and understand it...we have to find some way to incentivize people to be able to be aware of our infrastructure. By the way, we went to wastewater plants too, and it makes a difference. You cannot affect how much comes out of your body, but you can certainly affect how much goes in your trash can. I think that if you look in that direction, it might be troublesome to have people come by, but you have to think about how to do that. It might make a difference.

Ms. Fraley: That is a really good point. We do that upon request, but this would allow us to be able to actively pursue these kinds of tours and, there will be a lot of public education when we are doing our landfill expansions, new waste management. We need to reach out to the community, have public meetings, and this position would help with all of that.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember DeCosta?

Councilmember DeCosta: Allison, I do not want to mention names on the floor, but we had a meeting, I believe maybe Troy and Boyd were in a meeting. We were introduced to a new person from Oregon. I believe his position was the Program Development Coordinator.

Ms. Fraley: That was the Recycling Coordinator from...

Councilmember DeCosta: Hang on. That is what I want to know. Right now, do we still have the Recycling Coordinator on our staff?

Ms. Fraley: Yes, he is managing dozens of programs.

Councilmember DeCosta: We hired this person because we needed to fulfill recycling, do better at the landfill, help with our plastics and paper, and all that, correct?

Ms. Fraley: It was a vacancy. We hired the vacancy, correct.

Councilmember DeCosta: This new person that you want to hire is the Information and Education Specialist. Is that current person who we hired doing some of that work right now?

Ms. Fraley: Yes, we are dividing that work among many, many staff people.

Councilmember DeCosta: Would this lighten the load?

Ms. Fraley: Yes.

Councilmember DeCosta: I just see some of our engineers, project managers, and deputies being overworked. We want to try and make work a little bit easier for another person. I was just wondering because we do not have recycling right now. We do our recycling as individuals, but we do not have curbside recycling. I wanted to know if the Information and Education Specialist would be worthy of the funding that we will spend on it versus coming up with brochures or coming up with a website that we can implement with technology today. I was wondering if we really need this position.

Ms. Fraley: I believe that we need them to initiate these new programs that were called out in the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan. There is a whole section, and this position is called out in the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan to increase our diversion and to educate the public properly.

Council Chair Rapozo: What are the duties of the Principal Project Manager?

Ms. Fraley: That person is overseeing the (NPDES) compliance at the transfer stations. They are also assisting me with landfill projects such as new landfill siting, vertical expansion, lateral expansion, soil, and those are the ones I can think of off the top of my head.

Council Chair Rapozo: What about the Program Technician?

Ms. Fraley: The Program Technician oversees our billing. We have billing for landfill and all the residential accounts. We have eighteen thousand (18,000) customer accounts for residential, and so any time there is a cart switch or people want a new service, they do that. Also, there is the billing for the transfer stations and accounting for all the waste that is accepted at landfill.

Councilmember Kagawa: I have a follow up question.

Council Chair Rapozo: Go ahead.

Councilmember Kagawa: Regarding the carts, I noticed that some of the cans for the automated are getting worn out. How many years has it been?

Ms. Fraley: Yes. Some of the carts are hitting the expiration date.

Councilmember Kagawa: How many years is that?

Ms. Fraley: It is about ten (10) years.

Councilmember Kagawa: Has it been about ten (10) years already?

Ms. Fraley: The Ray-Rig carts are around ten (10) years old now.

Councilmember Kagawa: Are planning to switch them up?

Ms. Fraley: Yes, that is in the Operating Budget. Right now, we are purchasing a bunch of bins then we will be purchasing next year and the year after that to make sure they are all replaced as they fail.

Councilmember Kagawa: Excellent. My observation has been that those receptacles have been very durable, but it looks as if some of the cans are a bit worn. Thank you.

Councilmember Cowden: Where is that? Do you have purchases here?

Councilmember Kagawa: It is in the Operating Budget.

Ms. Fraley: It is in there. I can tell you the page if you want to go there.

Councilmember Cowden: Which page is it? Mine is in good shape, but...

Councilmember Kagawa: You must be nice to your cart.

Councilmember Cowden: Hardly put anything in it as part of it. Put it out every other week or something.

Ms. Fraley: That is in the 203 Section. I will give you the page number. Pardon me.

Councilmember Kagawa: I fill mine to the rim. I need to sit on it.

Ms. Fraley: It is on page 322. It is at the very top of the page.
Refuse carts and parts, two hundred twenty-two thousand dollars (\$222,000).

Councilmember Cowden: Okay.

Council Chair Rapozo: Are there any other questions on page 311? If it gets approved, do you anticipate hiring for that position? Would you go right through the process, right?

Ms. Fraley: Yes. We would go right away as soon as it were approved.

Council Chair Rapozo: How long does it take? It always baffles me. We struggle to hire people for the County, but when we are on budget and ask, "When do you expect to hire?" The response is, "Right away," but we know that it is a difficult task.

Ms. Fraley: We would start the process and work with HR to get the recruitment going and once we have our list, we would hire as soon as possible.

Council Chair Rapozo: I know it is seventy-one thousand dollars (\$71,000). That is a decent pay.

Councilmember Cowden: Council Chair, I learned last year that you cannot start the process until it is completely approved through the budget, right? It is not available until almost the beginning of June for a July start for the hiring?

Council Chair Rapozo: Yes.

Councilmember Kualii: Unless it is a position where there are multiple positions.

Councilmember Cowden: What about the brand-new positions? Is it a an (inaudible).

Council Chair Rapozo: Right.

Councilmember Kualii: The other position is Solid Waste Worker I. It is a new position, but it is not a new category so they can still recruit for that one.

Council Chair Rapozo: Now, on to page 312...313. Go ahead.

Councilmember Kualii: What is the one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) item near the top labeled Financial Assurance Landfill Closure?

Ms. Fraley: That is the funding that we set aside to make sure that we can close Kekaha when it closes. There are all these different activities that are

associated with closure and the estimated closure cost is thirty-four million dollars (\$34,000,000). We have already set aside twenty-two million dollars (\$22,000,000). We have to make up that additional eleven million five hundred thousand dollars (\$11,500,000) in the next six (6) years of anticipated life of the landfill.

Councilmember Kualii: Should we expect to see this for a few years?

Ms. Fraley: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: Forever. Is this for Halehaka?

Ms. Fraley: No, this is for Kekaha. This is Financial Assurance Landfill Closure, if we are talking about, the one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000).

Council Chair Rapozo: Yes, so you mean decades. Is there anything else on page 313. Councilmember DeCosta?

Councilmember DeCosta: I have a couple of questions. Allison, my first one would be on...I noticed that you put five thousand dollars (\$5,000) towards public education. Is that the same new position that you would acquire doing that type of public education?

Ms. Fraley: No, that would be more. There is a Public Education line item under the recycling budget, which is a separate budget toward the end. This is for signs for the transfer station or things like that, like flyers and things that we need to hand out to customers. It is a small budget.

Councilmember DeCosta: My second question is, I noticed you do not have anything in this budget for any kind of green apparatus or air mask.

Ms. Fraley: We do. Those are the personal protective equipment (PPE).

Councilmember DeCosta: I can get there when we get there. The last question that I want to ask is, explain to me about the cover soil and aggregate for Kekaha Landfill. Where does that soil come from and who hauls it?

Ms. Fraley: Currently, we have two (2) soil sources. For the long-term, we have been working--and we have talked about this at another meeting--we have been working with the Kekaha Agriculture Association (KAA) and the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC).

Councilmember DeCosta: Besides KAA, who else sell us the soil?

Ms. Fraley: We have a contract with both ADC and KAA and they split the royalty for the soil, which is five dollars and twenty cents (\$5.20) per ton.

Councilmember DeCosta: Whose land is that dirt on?

Ms. Fraley: ADC.

Councilmember DeCosta: ADC land, yet KAA splits royalties. How can they split royalties? They do not own the land that the dirt comes from.

Council Chair Rapozo: We are looking into that.

Councilmember DeCosta: I am sorry.

Council Chair Rapozo: No, that is a proper question, because I do not see why we pay a private nonprofit for State dirt, but we are looking into the legality of that. It makes no sense, but it is what it is so, we are looking into that.

Councilmember Kualiti: We will leave it to the State, right? We are the State, also. It is our dirt.

Council Chair Rapozo: Correct. The State has this political ADC organization that, for some reason now, is with a private nonprofit, which is KAA, and they have a lease to State land, or they control the State lands, and then they charge us to take the dirt. I do not see how that can even be legal, but we are pursuing it. Go ahead.

Councilmember Carvalho: Allison, I wanted to ask about the consultant services, the seven hundred thirty thousand dollars (\$730,000). You also had another one down below, two hundred five thousand dollars (\$205,000).

Ms. Fraley: Seven hundred thirty thousand dollars (\$730,000). Sorry. I see that one. Pardon me.

Councilmember Carvalho: That is okay.

Ms. Fraley: That one is the Kekaha Landfill Permit Compliance. We have well groundwater monitoring and permit reporting requirements that we consult with our contractor Geosyntech Consultants, who make sure that we are working in compliance. There is an annual report as well, and things like that.

Councilmember Carvalho: What about the two hundred five thousand dollars (\$205,000)?

Ms. Fraley: The two hundred five thousand dollars (\$205,000) is for the final engineering support for the vertical expansion.

Council Chair Rapozo: What is the Construction & Demolition (C&D) diversion pilot program? Was that there last year, too?

Ms. Fraley: Yes, it was there last year. Now, we have an RFP that we are working with purchasing to put it out, and we are hoping to award this year. We do not know what the award is going to be like if it is going to be like an ongoing service. Of course, it is a competitive procurement, a request for proposals, which evaluates all kinds of things besides just price.

Council Chair Rapozo: We did not spend any last year, then?

Ms. Fraley: We did not spend anything last year yet though we are looking to award that this year.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember DeCosta.

Councilmember DeCosta: I have a follow-up on Chair Rapozo's C&D diversion pilot program. Is the RFB going out right now for the landfill and solid waste trash? Does it include the C&D diversion?

Ms. Fraley: Those are separate procurements.

Councilmember DeCosta: They are separate.

Ms. Fraley: Yes.

Councilmember DeCosta: Is there a C&D portion in the RFB that will go out for bid before the trash that will go to the landfill also? Are we awarding two (2) separate contracts, one being C&D and the other being the landfill trash. Explain that to me because I am lost now.

Ms. Fraley: You are talking about the alternative technology to landfill versus C&D.

Councilmember DeCosta: Yes, that is the RFB that will have in place, it is supposed to go out soon.

Ms. Fraley: Yes.

Councilmember DeCosta: Does that have C&D?

Ms. Fraley: It could include C&D, but we are not sure if we can get someone to award on that, so we are doing both so we can find out what we are going to get, basically. We will be coordinating the award on that, too.

Councilmember DeCosta: What happens if you folks award the five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) for a pilot one-year program and the people or companies that are bidding on it want that C&D divergent? Will they be able to get that in their RFB after the one-year pilot program is up?

Ms. Fraley: It says pilot program there, so that is interesting.

Councilmember DeCosta: It says pilot program. What does that mean, is it a pilot program for a year, or once they get the bid, they are going to get it for the years after?

Ms. Fraley: Well, we had anticipated that we could have something that was long-term, the pilot would be the initial funding of it, that it could be a long-term program.

Councilmember DeCosta: I understand, but can you see the...

Ms. Fraley: Yes, I understand what you are saying.

Councilmember DeCosta: We have a RFB that I hope will go out soon, it should go soon. Does it have a component for C&D? If it does, all the companies bidding for this might look at C&D as being a big portion of that contract, but now, you folks are stating that the plans are to award it to a subsidiary out here, which might be long-term. Those bidding on the current RFB, high-energy energy, whatever you folks call it, will not have that portion of it. That is what I am asking.

Ms. Fraley: That is a good point.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember Kagawa.

Councilmember Kagawa: I would like to go back to the seven hundred thirty thousand dollars (\$730,000). Will those funds be for services at the new landfill?

Ms. Fraley: No, those are for the existing landfill.

Councilmember Kagawa: Do you mean permit compliance for the existing landfill?

Ms. Fraley: Correct.

Councilmember Kagawa: When we let go of Waste Management, did we have to hire another consultant at a much cheaper cost than Waste Management?

Ms. Fraley: Yes, at a cost.

Councilmember Kagawa: Is that consultant on board?

Ms. Fraley: Yes, they have already completed the design, the environmental assessments process, and the permit request to DOH for the vertical. Then this would be when construction begins, they would help us put it out to bid. They would be the construction manager.

Councilmember Kagawa: Were they the previous construction managers when we did other vertical expenses?

Ms. Fraley: No, but they developed the design, so that is a good fit.

Councilmember Kagawa: Alright. Thanks.

Council Chair Rapozo: Go ahead.

Councilmember Cowden: I just want to follow up. Is that consultant the same... I am forgetting his name...the man who worked for us for a while in your position before?

Ms. Fraley: No. That consultant is Tetra Tech. We do not have the other person employed anymore.

Councilmember Cowden: Alright.

Council Chair Rapozo: Have we ever done an analysis to see what was a better fiscal option for the County, whether it was privately-owned versus what we pay now? When I look at all these expenses, staffing, and benefits, are we in a better place now?

Ms. Fraley: We need to do the analysis then.

Council Chair Rapozo: I think we do because I remember we paid a lot of money for the private contractor, but that encompassed a lot of the expenses that we did not have to see. Now, looking through budgets, I am thinking about all the additional staffing, equipment, insurance, and consultants, I do not know if it is better to contract out versus in-house.

Mr. Tanigawa: From my understanding, at the time of the transition, a cost-analysis was prepared. It showed that it was likely a possible wash, if not better for the County to take it over. At the time, Waste Management was asking for more, and they wanted to do less, so that was a decision that was made at that time. Now, we know a lot better since operating it, but we have not done a follow-up cost-analysis.

Council Chair Rapozo: At some point, could you do the analysis? Maybe it will be something we want to explore again. It is very expensive, and as we are considering possibly another landfill or another technology, we need to know that. Are there any further questions on page 313? If not, let us go to page 314.

At the very top, the Equipment and Excavator Rentals, recently we discussed purchasing a ton of equipment for DPW. Are these rentals Princeville? Is it tied to the green waste? These are for the landfill. These are equipment rentals for the landfill.

Ms. Fraley: These the equipment rentals for the landfill.

Council Chair Rapozo: Are these emergency rentals?

Ms. Fraley: Right now, there is an emergency rental for the dozer that you folks approved when we recently got a substitute dozer. The excavator...

Council Chair Rapozo: I think in the budget, there are three (3) or four (4) excavators, right? I am trying to figure out if these are long-term or short-term rentals? Short-term rentals may be cheaper.

Councilmember Kagawa: Chair Rapozo, I think sort of what you were asking relating to analyzing whether private or County is better, I think a list of dating back to when we took it over till now with the brand-new equipment would be helpful. You also stated that if we owned it, then it would be a cost savings. Could we get a listing to see the status of the equipment bought, if it is now broken and unusable? I think that would be helpful to analyze the decision we made. We were told that the equipment we were buying was going to be used properly and used for a long time.

Council Chair Rapozo: We know that we have to put out money for equipment, broken, damaged, and rentals. I want to figure it out on these.

Councilmember Kagawa: If it is landfill equipment rentals, then that means we are probably renting because our machines in the shop or it is completely broken. As a follow up, could we get a listing?

Council Chair Rapozo: Was this for an emergency?

Ms. Fraley: Right now, we are using it for soil harvesting, getting soil, and excavating the soil site.

Councilmember DeCosta: I have a follow-up.

Council Chair Rapozo: Go ahead.

Councilmember DeCosta: Is it soil site where we buy ADC dirt?

Ms. Fraley: Correct.

Councilmember DeCosta: We provide our own equipment, go there, grab, and haul the dirt. They just sell us the dirt.

Ms. Fraley: Correct.

Councilmember DeCosta: Okay, thank you Allison.

Councilmember Cowden: I have a question.

Council Chair Rapozo: Go ahead.

Councilmember Cowden: With this Kekaha Gas Collection Control System (GCCS) that is in its sixth year, is that somehow something that we are leasing? Why does it tell sixth year, then below that fourth year? Is this the way the loan is structured?

Ms. Fraley: Yes, six (6) years ago we instructed GCCS and now, we are paying off the loan for the construction.

Councilmember Cowden: How many years do we have on that loan?

Ms. Fraley: I believe it is seven (7) years.

Councilmember Cowden: We get approached by a lot of different people doing alternative methods. Do you know, just so I know that these people are wrong, what the GCCS pipes are made of, are they made out of metal or plastic?

Ms. Fraley: They are made from plastic.

Councilmember Cowden: Someone pitching, saying that these melt after time in the heat. Are they wrong? They must be. There is so much heat in the mountain that it tends to melt the pipes.

Ms. Fraley: I have never heard that.

Councilmember Cowden: I do not know, when we are listening to where they say is a problem...they said there is a plastic gas control system so at least I know that we have plastic, but you do not have any indication that there is failure on that system.

Ms. Fraley: They are not melting.

Mr. Tanigawa: Excuse me, Chair Rapozo. I have some follow-up information on the equipment, excavators. There are two (2) excavators on page 317, the list of equipment that we are paying for. One excavator is for the landfill and the other is for green waste operations. We have a loading and hauling of green waste operation.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is that existing equipment?

(Councilmember Bulosan was noted as not present.)

Mr. Tanigawa: Correct

Council Chair Rapozo: Are we paying leases for those?

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes. Then, the rental is an additional piece of equipment that was being used to assist our operation to mine soil at our soil mounting ADC location. That was necessary due to the amount of separation that had to occur.

Council Chair Rapozo: Were those two (2) excavators specifically for the soil collection?

Ms. Fraley: No, the base that does not have a name to the equipment...sorry we are on page...

Council Chair Rapozo: Equipment Rental.

Ms. Fraley: That is for any kind of emergency. Right now, we are using that budget. Remember that our dozer went down because it is a three-month repair time so we rented another dozer, that is the budget that it comes from.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is the excavator rental of one hundred five thousand dollars (\$105,000) for the soil?

Ms. Fraley: Correct.

Council Chair Rapozo: That is perpetuity, right?

Mr. Tanigawa: We are renting it as long as we need.

Council Chair Rapozo: How often are we mining soil from the place?

Mr. Tanigawa: Right now, I think it has slowed down because we are paying a contractor...

Ms. Fraley: They are still mining in Kekaha as well.

Council Chair Rapozo: I am assuming that rented excavator is on that property all day, every day and we have to pay that rental.

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: How long do we expect that rental to be on that property? A landfill will not go away, we still need to cover the landfill every day, and get dirt every day, right?

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes. They will continue to mine until the site is used up.

Council Chair Rapozo: What is the timeline that we are looking at?

Ms. Fraley: At this point, that site may only have a year.

Council Chair Rapozo: One hundred five thousand dollars (\$105,000) times twelve (12)...are you saying just one (1) year?

Ms. Fraley: We believe yes, at that site. We may have to find other sources.

Council Chair Rapozo: You stated that they have another contractor hauling dirt for the cover as well.

Ms. Fraley: Correct.

Council Chair Rapozo: Where is that dirt coming from?

Ms. Fraley: From Līhu'e. Right now, that is being stockpiled on Phase II.

Mr. Tanigawa: Chair, in addition, daily cover is required for landfill operation. That is a regulatory requirement. Even when we stop using the particular excavator for landfill covers or mining, we are still going to ask for a rental budget in case our primary equipment goes down. We are still going to need a backup.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember DeCosta.

Councilmember DeCosta: I have a follow-up on excavators. Who do we rent the excavator from? Is it from the local Allied Machinery Corporation here in Līhu'e, Puhi?

Ms. Fraley: That one is from Hawthorne Cats.

Councilmember DeCosta: Is the machine used from Monday through Sunday? The keys are in the machine. No personnel other than our County driver can use the equipment, right? No one that goes into the area through ADC can access the equipment, right?

Ms. Fraley: Yes, just our staff uses it.

Councilmember DeCosta: If I was to ask you about the whereabouts of the excavator, where our County employees are not scheduled to drive it, and will it be parked at that site, then, if it is not parked at the site, would we know where the excavator is?

Ms. Fraley: Yes.

Councilmember DeCosta: Are you sure? I am sorry that you are the person who we need to ask these tough questions to. I really am sorry because it seems like you are the one who takes the brunt of this, but this is a big problem that we have. Solid Waste is our biggest problem, we have kicked the can down a road for so long and now, we need to solve it. This is part of solving it, accountability for that money that you spend on the

excavator and making sure that our machine is not being used by some other entity when we are not using it. Thank you.

Councilmember Cowden: I have a follow-up. I am just curious, while we are getting that soil, are we digging a big hole? How are we dealing with it so that we are not creating another environmental problem by taking dirt away every day?

Mr. Tanigawa: The soil is overburdened on existing ground, so we are restoring the existing condition.

Council Chair Rapozo: Are there any further questions on page 315 or page 316?

Councilmember Cowden: On page 316, tractors and other heavy equipment, one million dollars (\$1,000,000). This is all a lease, right? The landfill...when it says fifth of seven-year lease, is this whole stack from the compactor to the excavator all purchased in one (1) packet? Are they all on the fifth year of the seven-year lease?

Ms. Fraley: They were purchased in the same year, some of them were purchased together and others were purchased separately.

Councilmember Cowden: Is that landfill compactor seven million one hundred thousand dollars (\$7,100,000)?

Ms. Fraley: No.

Councilmember Cowden: Is it one million one hundred thousand dollars (\$1,100,000) and we are paying a portion of it?

Ms. Fraley: Correct.

Councilmember Cowden: Is two hundred ninety thousand dollars (\$290,000) the amount that we are paying for all of those for this year?

Council Chair Rapozo: No, we are paying seven hundred sixty thousand dollars (\$760,000) for all of it. Are all of these in working condition?

Ms. Fraley: The dozer is under repair and the compactor is working.

Council Chair Rapozo: Then everything is working.

Councilmember Kualii: I might have missed it. What is that column of all the values then? Is that what it would cost if we bought it?

Council Chair Rapozo: That was the purchase price.

Councilmember Kualii: Do we pay that upfront and then pay a small...

Council Chair Rapozo: No, that was the purchase price. That is what we bought it for and then the lease payments is what you see in the text amount. Go ahead.

Councilmember Kagawa: I see an excavator at five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) and then another for one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000). What is the difference, besides being four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) more. Is one bigger?

Ms. Fraley: I can get back to you on that.

Council Chair Rapozo: We have two (2) compactors there at the landfill.

Ms. Fraley: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: You stated that both are operating, working.

Mr. Tanigawa: Last reported to be working.

Council Chair Rapozo: Also, you folks are asking for a skid steer with rubber tracks and four-in-one bucket mower deck and mulcher shredder attachments. What do you folks have out there for Halehaka grounds maintenance?

Ms. Fraley: For that is Halehaka. We are still monitoring the old landfill site. We need to keep it mowed down so that we can easily access the wells.

Council Chair Rapozo: Again, this equipment is one hundred eighty-seven thousand dollars (\$187,000). How often do they mow the grass?

Ms. Fraley: That grass grows quickly, it is about once a month that they have to go out there.

Council Chair Rapozo: I am asking for a breakdown of all of the new purchases and replacement vehicles throughout DPW because I see so many of the same equipment being purchased for different departments and divisions. I could be completely wrong, but I think we are reordering too many new pieces of equipment that will not be in operation on a regular basis. I do not think we have enough people or enough work to keep all those pieces of machinery working. Is it possible to somehow have a motor pool, like vehicles? Does every single department need their own thousands of dollars' worth of equipment? That is what I am hoping to see when you share the list of all the new purchases, where we can possibly combine.

Mr. Tanigawa: We will send you that plan. I wanted to correct something I stated about the two (2) excavators. The second excavator in the equipment list on the fifth of seven-year lease list is actually an excavator that that is for the landfill site. I

believe that the second excavator has an attachment that they use for maintenance of vegetation.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay. Councilmember DeCosta.

Councilmember DeCosta: Hi, Allison and Troy. Have we thought about contracting that once a month lawn mower of the Halehaka area through a private company? What would be the cost?

Ms. Fraley: It is a privatization issue we cannot.

Councilmember DeCosta: Okay. I thought we would be able to.

Councilmember Kagawa: Going back to the compactor, we compact the waste at the transfer stations.

(Councilmember Bulosan was noted as not present.)

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes.

Councilmember Kagawa: When they are driving from the transfer stations, it does not need to be compacted, right?

Mr. Tanigawa: No, it needs to be.

Councilmember Kagawa: It compacts again.

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes, as far as compacting, the kind of the kind of compacting they do with the transfer station is much less than what we target or shoot for the landfill as far.

Councilmember Kagawa: The public brings the rubbish there and dumps it on the ground. Do we use a machine to put it in a compact to compact it again?

Ms. Fraley: We roll over it with the compactor.

Mr. Tanigawa: Is it a large heavy equipment.

Councilmember Kagawa: Do they roll it right on the dirt?

Ms. Fraley: Right on top of the other trash or the cover.

Councilmember DeCosta: It looks like a steam roller with big knobs, and it runs over the trash to compact it in place.

Councilmember Kagawa: I have seen a lot of those on the cartoons.

Councilmember DeCosta: I asked about the gasification mask. I was very concerned about the health of our workers out there. With the amount of burping that a landfill has, I am wondering what protection do our drivers have? If they are not in a vehicle that has air conditioning or are in a vehicle that has covers...

Ms. Fraley: Well, they are in closed cap vehicles with air conditioning and there is PPE available if they need it. I am trying to find that.

Councilmember DeCosta: What about for the ground crew, do they have that protective, highly certified mask type of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements.

Ms. Fraley: If they are on the ground, then they are at the transfer station.

Councilmember DeCosta: They are still breathing it all. Do we make the PPE available to them if they would like it?

Ms. Fraley: Yes.

Councilmember DeCosta: I think it is important and sorry to ask those types of questions, but our employees are our constituents, too.

Council Chair Rapozo: Are there any further questions on page 317? For those of you that are here for CIP, you folks can probably leave if you want to; you are welcome to stay but it does not look like we are going to get to CIP today. It is already 3:15 p.m. so unless a miracle happens in the next five (5) minutes. On page 319, Solid Waste. Okay, go ahead.

Councilmember Kualii: Starting with first two (2) Equipment Operator III. You had tests scheduled for April 4, 2024 with "perf" in parentheses. What is that?

Ms. Fraley: That is the performance test.

Councilmember Kualii: Once this test is completed, and you develop a list of who passed the test, are you on your way to doing interviews?

Ms. Fraley: Correct, we already have our panel formed and are ready to enter.

Councilmember Kualii: Then, you will have those two (2) filled in time. Then the Solid Waste Worker II—they are both Solid Waste Worker II positions, but one is short-time, only forty-three (43) days vacant and the other one is long-time, three hundred four (304) days vacant. They are in the same position; they both have the recruitment status of pending reorganization. What does that mean? What is going on? How long are you going

to take? Once the reorganization is completed, will you start recruitment and how long will that take? Ultimately, how long will it take for you to get these positions filled?

Ms. Fraley: We have been working with the Union to make a deal. I do not know how much I could talk about that, but we have reallocated these positions and we are going to recruit for those now. We have sent that into HR, so we plan to do that quickly.

Councilmember Kualii: That was it. Thank you, Chair.

Council Chair Rapozo: Are there any further questions on page 319? Go ahead.

Councilmember DeCosta: This might be a question for Janine. I see a Work Site Supervisor, but there is no manager with an EM level that oversees the operation there.

Ms. Fraley: They are covered in the Administration Budget so that supervisor is supervised by our Solid Waste Operation Supervisor. That position is shown on the very first page of the budget, page 311, that position that supervises the other work site supervisors.

Councilmember DeCosta: Is that person out on the landfill?

Ms. Fraley: No, he is in our office and in the field the landfill.

Councilmember DeCosta: Who manages the landfill when that person is at the landfill?

Ms. Fraley: The Landfill Site Supervisor.

Councilmember DeCosta: Should that be a Landfill Manager? They are not only supervising, but they are also managing the whole operation.

Ms. Fraley: If you are talking about the landfill person, the title is County Landfill Worksite Supervisor.

Councilmember DeCosta: Looking at the number of duties that this worksite supervisor has with all the equipment and workers underneath that person, that is a lot to be called a supervisor.

Ms. Rapozo: Looking at the Solid Waste Division, you have the Division Head Allison Fraley, then the Operations Supervisor, which is a Unit II position and under him, he has landfill, refuge, and transfer stations. That is how it is.

(Councilmember Bulosan was noted as present.)

Councilmember DeCosta: That person has three (3) sections. I want to understand the whole scope of work and management. I am okay with that explanation. Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Are there any further questions on page 319? Page 320?

Councilmember Kagawa: I have a question on page 319.

Council Chair Rapozo: Go ahead.

Councilmember Kagawa: I can see how a lot of overtime comes into play with the Solid Waste Workers. Do all these workers manage the transfer stations?

Ms. Fraley: Correct and these are the refuse collectors.

Councilmember Kagawa: As of this point, are you already at two hundred six thousand dollars (\$206,000) or two hundred eighty-two thousand dollars (\$282,000)?

Ms. Fraley: Correct.

Councilmember Kagawa: You are already way over one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000). How do you expect to control it so it drops or are you hoping to use unexpended salaries to cover that?

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: Be careful, you might not have as much unexpended salaries by the time Councilmember Kualii finishes with his calculations. I was talking to the Police Chief the other day. You are already at two hundred eighty-two thousand dollars (\$282,000) and it is about halfway. Like Councilmember Kagawa said, how do you expect to pay those staff members? Unless there are some major changes in structure, I do not understand how you expect to get higher one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000). Are you paying that overtime now with unexpected salaries?

Ms. Fraley: Yes. One thing that will help is that new Solid Waste Worker I, the one attending the transfer station. That request that we made will help. That is the area where it will help.

Councilmember Kualii: Chair, historically, we have always been very conservative with partial funding.

Council Chair Rapozo: I think that the compromise was six-month funding, which is the reason we still have that issue because every budget, the Council does not put their foot down. I would rather see a factual budget with real-time over time. Then, the department will be forced to try to recruit and if there is an issue, then there is an issue,

but I do not like seeing one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) budgeted and this what the public sees, one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) in overtime. At the end of the day, you are probably spending double that, but it is not portrayed in a budget. What is shown in the budget is vacant positions that do not get filled. That was always my pet peeve. I would much rather see an accurate number for overtime and put that sense of urgency in filling those positions. Again, that is just my opinion.

Councilmember Kagawa: I have a follow-up to that. Would the holiday pay fall under the regular overtime?

Ms. Fraley: Yes.

Councilmember Kagawa: I concur with Council Chair. I think the nature of that that business, having coverage for leave, looks like a higher number, I recommend that if the intention is to cut the salaries as Councilmember Kuali'i suggested.

Council Chair Rapozo: Simply because if departments are relying on the unexpended salaries to pay for overtime, then it is very difficult for them to hire because they need that money to pay for overtime. I think that is where we need to draw the line and say that this is what you get. If you need more overtime, let us give you more time but we need to get those positions feel. Councilmember DeCosta.

Councilmember DeCosta: Help me understand, Allison. Is this only for the positions that are not filled or does this also address overtime employees when another worker calls in for sick leave?

Ms. Fraley: Correct.

Councilmember DeCosta: Are we incurring these costs because we have employees that are abusing the sick leave program, but once we curb that, should we be in a better place?

Ms. Fraley: Correct.

Councilmember DeCosta: I am trying to help you, so you are not taking so many darts. I think that is what you were thinking, right? Am I correct?

Ms. Fraley: Yes. You were thinking what I was thinking.

Councilmember DeCosta: Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember Cowden.

Councilmember Cowden: I was trying to find where I read this...sometimes, the Solid Waste collection trucks are not operating correctly then, we send one crew out and another crew afterwards so that truck makes two (2) runs in a day. Is that how that happens?

Ms. Fraley: Yes, and that is another way we incur over time.

Councilmember Cowden: What page is that on?

Mr. Tanigawa: I think it is under the challenges.

Ms. Fraley: We are tracking that now, too.

Councilmember Cowden: That is what I am looking at with the mechanics. Although if I remember correctly, whoever we buy the trucks from, they send someone out to fix our landfill trucks, correct?

Ms. Fraley: Only if they are under warranty. Most of the time the auto shop fixes them.

Councilmember Cowden: I am just looking at how we have all the stack up of challenges. If a truck breaks down, without any bad intention or abuse of the system, would we be incurring overtime?

Ms. Fraley: Correct.

Councilmember Cowden: Let us say, when someone starts work at 11:00 a.m. instead of 4:00 a.m., is that what happens? What are the shifts?

Ms. Fraley: Those refuse collection shifts for the automated report at 4:30 a.m., they do not get out of the yard until 4:50 a.m.

Councilmember Cowden: What time do they finish?

Ms. Fraley: They are on the *uku pau* system, which means that when they finish their designated number of stops, then they are paid for the entire day. After they finish their shift, they get paid for their ten (10) hours then at that time they would go out and work overtime to pick up someone else's route if a truck was broken.

Councilmember Cowden: Does the same driver go out with the same truck?

Ms. Fraley: Yes.

Councilmember Cowden: What happens to the employees whose truck is broken? Do you pay two (2) different sets of pay?

Mr. Tanigawa: Whoever goes out and does a collection will get time and a half.

Councilmember Cowden: What about the person who does not go out, but they were intending to go out because their truck broke? They still probably get paid.

Mr. Tanigawa: From my understanding, they get paid up until quitting time. If they do not go out on a collection route, say the route takes or the available trucks become available later, and they are not the ones that go out, then they will not get paid, but they are on staff at work for the eight- or ten-hour period.

Councilmember Cowden: Am I hearing this correctly? If a truck breaks down, then we pay the driver of that broken down truck a ten-hour shift and whoever has to go pick up that route in another truck, we pay them time and a half their pay or overtime pay. We are basically paying two and a half shifts for one route of pickup.

(Councilmember Kagawa was noted as not present.)

Mr. Tanigawa: That is why it is so critical to have equipment operating so we do not have that overlap.

Councilmember Cowden: I never thought about that before. Did you understand that? I did not realize that either.

Council Chair Rapozo: I understand it, I did not realize that is how it works. I think I am going to drive a rubbish truck.

Councilmember Cowden: That is more than time and a half and is incredibly expensive. If I could know how many route shifts, we typically have in a year of broken down, that would be helpful for me. How many times do we have a disabled vehicle for a route?

Council Chair Rapozo: That also works if someone calls in sick, right? If someone calls in sick and that person is a driver, that that route does not happen, right?

Mr. Tanigawa: No, it does. They are replaced by someone from the pool. We have a pool of workers that are qualified to operate the refuse collection trucks. If someone calls in sick, a person from the pool is pulled to man that collection truck and then the route continues.

Council Chair Rapozo: Are there people in the pool that do not drive and are waiting to be called to go drive a truck?

Mr. Tanigawa: No, they have assignments every day.

Council Chair Rapozo: I know, but are they qualify to drive the truck as well?

Mr. Tanigawa: Correct.

Council Chair Rapozo: Most of our trucks cannot be fixed the same day that it breaks down, right? Let us say that you have a truck that went down today and will

be down for a week. Is someone going to get paid overtime, or do you grab someone from the pool?

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes, until the trucks are available from another route...

Council Chair Rapozo: Someone will be paid time and a half, then?

Mr. Tanigawa: They will be paid their regular pay unless they participate in the collection.

Council Chair Rapozo: Again, if the truck is down for a week, then are we paying someone overtime to pick up that route?

Mr. Tanigawa: Correct.

Councilmember Cowden: Also, we will be paying someone who is not even driving the truck, so it is two and a half times. My next question is, if someone works two (2) shifts and normally a shift is ten (10) hours, I will think two (2) shifts is probably sixteen (16) hours or so, are they exhausted? We see claims with our Solid Waste or refuse pickup trucks. I am wondering if they are tired working in their fifteenth hour and if that is the reason they banged a car, house, or something.

Ms. Fraley: Although it is a ten-hour shift, it is on the *uku pau*. Usually, they will be done around noon, so that is when they would start.

Councilmember Cowden: Maybe it would take them another hour or eight (8) hours for the next. They would be working sixteen (16) hours, then? Would they get paid for twenty (20) hours?

Ms. Fraley: They would be paid the overtime, however many hours were passed that first shift.

Councilmember Cowden: Do we track if we have exhausted drivers on overtime that are causing these claims? We have a remarkable number of claims from refuse trucks.

Mr. Tanigawa: That has not come up as a concern. Drivers are interviewed after an accident; I have not seen exhaustion in any of the reports saying that exhaustion is the reason for the accident.

Councilmember Cowden: We are tracking that, then. If someone has a problem at 4:00 p.m., then they are probably on a second shift. I think we would want to look for that because not only does it cost us money and everything else, but it is dangerous. Those trucks have the potential to do some harm.

Council Chair Rapozo: Do we have any backup trucks?

Ms. Fraley: Yes, we have backup trucks.

Council Chair Rapozo: How many backup trucks do we have to prevent...if we have the pool of workers that you say we do, then we just need trucks, right? I do not know how many trucks break down at the same time.

Ms. Fraley: That happens sometimes. I do not have the number with me right now, but we have a redundancy of trucks. It is rare that all of our trucks are being used and that we are down a truck, but it does happen.

Council Chair Rapozo: Perfect. Thank you. Now, on to page 320. It is so interesting, during every budget, we learn something new. Page 321.

Councilmember Kualii: The line item that is Other Rentals went up from five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000). It says equipment rental, but what is that?

Ms. Fraley: Those are rentals for equipment that goes down to the transfer stations. Before we did not have a contract in place to be able to do that. We went out to bid and put that contract in place. Now, if a loader or something breaks, then we can rent one and not have to close the station.

Councilmember Kualii: Then, the next item is an R&M building, it went from one hundred sixty thousand dollars (\$160,000) to thirty-six thousand dollars (\$360,000). Are you installing a new fence or replacing a fence?

Ms. Fraley: This is a fence to secure the transfer station and Kaua'i Resource Center. We have had some issues with homelessness in that at that location. The camera would be for that, too. This year we are doing the design and then next year, we will do the construction on that.

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

Councilmember Kualii: Is it just for the Kaua'i Resource Center? Immediately adjacent to that is the transfer station.

Ms. Fraley: It is for the transfer station as well. It says both of those on the text.

Councilmember Cowden: From when I first took this position five and a half (5½) years ago, the Kapa'a Transfer Station had problems with the fence getting cut, people coming in, and pooping in there whether the bathroom was open or not. Has that been addressed? Do we have a camera there, do we have the fence fixed, and is there still an issue with the portable toilet?

Ms. Fraley: We are not having problems with the portable toilet. We are not getting the same level of break-ins, but Līhu'e has been very bad, but nothing has been addressed at Kapa'a.

Councilmember Cowden: What can we do to address it at Kapa'a? That was a dire problem back then, and the people complaining the most managed to transfer out of that station. It seemed like it was an incredible problem, breaking our equipment, cutting on the battery lines, busting the windows, and ruining our equipment that was behind the fence. They showed me. Is that still happening, equipment being abused?

Ms. Fraley: We have locked up any kind of mobile equipment at that station. I am hearing more about the Līhu'e Transfer Station so we are addressing Līhu'e.

Councilmember Cowden: I will go out to Kapa'a to see how they are. They were bitterly angry at not being able to resolve it.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember DeCosta.

Councilmember DeCosta: I have a question on the fence. I hope that I heard wrong. You stated that it would be one hundred sixty thousand dollars (\$160,000) for the design alone.

Ms. Fraley: The design was budgeted this year, and we are working on procuring the designer right now.

Councilmember DeCosta: Is one hundred sixty thousand dollars (\$160,000) to build the fence?

Ms. Fraley: Yes, and the camera system, both.

Councilmember DeCosta: Thank you for that.

Council Chair Rapozo: What type of fence are we talking about?

Ms. Fraley: Sorry, I have not seen the design yet. I imagine that it will probably be a chain link fence.

Councilmember DeCosta: Did you folks go out to bid through the procurement process?

Ms. Fraley: Yes, through Professional Services and we are finalizing that now.

Council Chair Rapozo: How big is this property? Is this for the transfer station and Kaua'i Resource Center?

Ms. Fraley: Both, so it is several acres, but that also includes the security system, so I am not sure of breakdown of those. I can get back to you. Sorry.

Council Chair Rapozo: Okay. Are there any further questions on page 321? Page 322?

Councilmember Kualif'i: Under tractors and other heavy equipment, it is up to two million eight hundred thousand dollars (\$2,800,000). A lot of the details say, replace for and it lists numbers replace. Is this all according to a replacement schedule that has already been in place from years ago? Can you provide those details?

Ms. Fraley: Yes.

Councilmember DeCosta: I have a follow-up on page 322. I noticed that we have new back holes for Kapa'a Refuse Station. I was just at Lihu'e Transfer Station and their back roads looked bad. Will be putting something new at the Kapa'a Refuse Station? How are we doing that?

Council Chair Rapozo: It is showing two (2), but it is only showing Kapa'a. Are the two (2) going to Kapa'a?

Ms. Fraley: Yes. Those are for after we have the renovations. We are to have top load systems; the construction has gone out to bid now. It is coming up soon, so we will have to tap down with those back.

Councilmember DeCosta: How do we address Lihu'e? Lihu'e's backroads look a little run down.

Ms. Fraley: Recently, we purchased a new one for Lihu'e and then this year, we are purchasing...

Councilmember DeCosta: Do you have that in the budget?

Ms. Fraley: Yes, in the current Fiscal Year 2024 Budget.

Mr. Tanigawa: Councilmember DeCosta, basically, Lihu'e will have a primary and secondary backhoe.

Councilmember DeCosta: Are Hanapēpē and Hanalei okay?

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: On to page 323. Will each transfer station have a backup and a primary?

Ms. Fraley: For backhoe?

Council Chair Rapozo: I am not sure. What did you say, Troy?

Mr. Tanigawa: I was only speaking about Kapa'a and Lihu'e. Eventually, when the construction is done, the Kapa'a operation will change from the compactor system that is there now, to a top load. Then they will use the backhoe there to tap down on the on the waste in the trailer.

Council Chair Rapozo: Are you only using one backhoe at a time?

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: Are you suggesting that there be two (2) backhoes in Lihu'e and two (2) brand-new backhoes at Kapa'a?

Mr. Tanigawa: There will be a backup, so we could share a backup between Kapa'a and Lihu'e.

Council Chair Rapozo: That is what I am thinking. We would share the backup because it would be unlikely that two (2) brand-new back holes would go down at the same time.

Mr. Tanigawa: We list here, two (2) back holes at Kapa'a as a backup.

Council Chair Rapozo: Right. In the 2024 Budget, did we approve two (2) backhoes for Lihu'e?

Mr. Tanigawa: I think we have always had a backup or a working backhoe. When we purchased a new one, the primary turned into the backup and at that time, before the purchase, the backup was disposed because at that point that backup was ready to go.

Council Chair Rapozo: Yes, but now, are you asking for two (2) brand-new backhoes? Then, will one new backhoe be a backup?

Mr. Tanigawa: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: Does Lihu'e have a new one?

Mr. Tanigawa: Lihu'e has two (2) new backhoes, one that was purchased last year.

Council Chair Rapozo: Yes, so I do not think we need two (2) new backhoes for a backup.

Mr. Tanigawa: Here is what happened. Last year, we purchased one and in this year's group of purchases, a new one has arrived.

Councilmember DeCosta: Where is it now?

Mr. Tanigawa: They are settling the payment and once the payment is made, then they will release the backhoe.

Councilmember DeCosta: Then we do not have the new backhoe.

Mr. Tanigawa: Not yet.

Councilmember DeCosta: Do we have two (2) more orders? Then, is a total of three (3) coming in?

Mr. Tanigawa: These two (2) here are for the new Kapa'a Transfer Station. Lihu'e needs two (2) backhoes because the backhoe is critical for the operation.

Councilmember DeCosta: I understand. Right now, do we have one (1) backhoe at the Lihu'e Transfer Station?

Mr. Tanigawa: At the present time, they are working on the on the backup.

Councilmember DeCosta: What do we have at the Kapa'a Transfer Station right now?

Mr. Tanigawa: I believe the Kapa'a Transfer Station has loader for green waste, but no backhoe because it is a compacter type system that does not require the tapping of the trailer.

Councilmember DeCosta: I was hoping that we would not buy new equipment for a facility and then take their used facility equipment to another transfer station.

BOYD GAYAGAS, Deputy County Engineer: Right now, we have two (2) backhoes at Allied Machinery Corporation. They are waiting for payment, but as soon as that is completed, they will move it to Lihu'e. Lihu'e is borrowing a backhoe from Kapa'a Roads Division to keep the operation running. The two (2) new back holes listed in this budget will be for Kapa'a.

Councilmember DeCosta: Where will that Roads one go?

Mr. Gayagas: It will go back to Roads.

Councilmember DeCosta: Thank you for that. You should sit there more often.

Council Chair Rapozo: Do you have two (2) brand-new backhoes, but only one can be used one at a time, right? There are two (2) at Kapa'a Transfer Station so there will be four (4) backhoes. That seems expensive. Could you have one (1) backup to share? Would that make sense?

Ms. Fraley: It can be shared between the transfer station as a backup.

Councilmember DeCosta: How long does one of these typically last? What is the lifespan of a backup? The one at the golf course seems like an amazing piece of equipment. Do you know that one? It is like a John Deere. Look at that one and it is not that new, but it is great piece. How long do you think they last?

Mr. Tanigawa: If it is used properly, then it will last a long time, maybe eight (8) to ten (10) years.

Councilmember Cowden: When we are talking about having a backup and a regular one like at Kapa'a, that backhoe was badly damaged from people jumping the fence and vandalizing it on a regular basis. There was a fight between logistics, I am not sure what logistics mean but trying...it was like the baseyard in Kapa'a also has a backhoe. Driving it down to Lihu'e is not easy, to have the secondary one at Lihu'e and trying to move it around. It seems that the equipment was completely trashed by vandals so I will go and look again, but that was that was their complaint on why they needed something else. I wonder if we could drive it at night to the baseyard near Bryan J. Baptiste Ball Park to keep it in good shape. It is not that far away. I have not looked for a year or two (2) or three (3) maybe, but their equipment was ruined up there by vandals. Is this consistent with your memory? I know what I saw. I think getting a new one and parking it where it will not get ruined is really important.

Mr. Tanigawa: We will look into it.

Councilmember DeCosta: Thank you for that...taking care of equipment even when you are not in the area. Are we going to put a fence at Kapa'a to try and protect these new backhoes?

Councilmember Cowden: It is ripped.

Councilmember DeCosta: Are we planning to fix the fence, or do we plan to build a warehouse to house our equipment? What is our plan? Before you start, my last question is, what does Hanapēpē Transfer Station have? If there are two (2) brand-new machines sitting, can Hanapēpē have a new machine if they do not have one?

Mr. Tanigawa: At this point, we have not had a request for equipment at the Hanapēpē Transfer Station. They have a loader. They have a truck tractor. They have that they need right now, but we will keep an eye on it and talk to the employees.

Councilmember DeCosta: What about the fence?

Mr. Tanigawa: We will look at the fence at Kapa'a. If the fence is ripped, then we will have it repaired. I think chain link fences are not that expensive to repair.

Councilmember Cowden: It is still a good idea to consider parking it in the baseyard because people jump over the fence. It goes up against the mountain. It was amazing how much damage was happening.

Council Chair Rapozo: Moving on to page 325. Are there any questions?
Councilmember DeCosta.

Councilmember DeCosta: Position No. 1912, Recycling Program Coordinator, I swear I saw this earlier within the budget. Did you have a position like this earlier?

Ms. Fraley: No, only our fully dedicated recycling staff is under that budget.

Councilmember DeCosta: What is that new position that you folks wanted to hire?

Ms. Fraley: Education Specialist, they would be doing recycling activities, but they are under the Administration.

Councilmember DeCosta: The Education Specialist educates the public on recycling. The recycler does the recycling. What does the person supervising the two (2) do?

Ms. Fraley: The Recycling Coordinator is managed by the Programs Coordinator who manages all the solid waste programs and the recycling programs.

Councilmember DeCosta: We have quite a bit of recycling staff underneath that position.

Ms. Fraley: There is just one (1) recycling staff.

Councilmember DeCosta: Is this the staff person that you are asking for?

Ms. Fraley: The new staff person that we are asking for is the Public Information Specialist who would focus on a lot of diversion but would also educate for our entire Division.

Councilmember DeCosta: Could the Recycling Program Coordinator do the education?

Ms. Fraley: Well, they are managing all these different various programs that you see here and taking on new initiatives, so their plate is full.

Councilmember Cowden: I have a follow-up regarding the bottom of page 325 that extends over to page 326, which is Other Services for four million five hundred fifty-five thousand dollars (\$4,555,000). When I look at this, I think that it is a combination of Puhi Metals, probably Garden Island Disposal (GID), maybe GID, Nursery and Landscaping.

Ms. Fraley: Are you talking about the last item on page 325?

Councilmember Cowden: Yes, it goes down to page 326 under Other Services.

Ms. Fraley: They are all named. The first text is for the Kaua'i Recycles Program. It is a drop-in program, GID.

Councilmember Cowden: There is Puhi Metals and a handful of the other...each of these is an outside contractor.

Ms. Fraley: Correct.

Councilmember Cowden: Do we outsource that? Those things all seem to be working reasonably well. Are we happy with it and are we not micromanaging it? That is their *kuleana*, they make it work.

Ms. Fraley: We may have to manage the contracts to make sure that they are providing the service. The contracts are running smoothly contracts.

Councilmember Cowden: Is it several different companies?

Ms. Fraley: Correct.

Councilmember Cowden: I am trying to look for automobile disposal. Is picking up cars along the road under KPD's budget?

Ms. Fraley: They have a budget for towing and then we pay for the contract. That is the sixth item down on the taxes vehicle appliance and scrap metal recycling.

Councilmember Cowden:	Would that be Puhi Metals?
Ms. Fraley:	Correct.
Council Chair Rapozo:	Do we pay seven hundred twenty-five thousand
dollars (\$725,000) to Puhi Metals?	
Ms. Fraley:	This is subsidized by the Beautification Fund as
well.	
Councilmember Cowden:	Is that on a different sheet?
Ms. Fraley:	Yes.
Council Chair Rapozo:	How much do we pay for Puhi Metals?
Ms. Fraley:	We pay seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000) a
month to Puhi Metals.	
Council Chair Rapozo:	What does that entail? What does the County get
in return?	
Ms. Fraley:	That they manage all the scrap metal on-island,
all the automobiles, propane tanks, electronic waste...	
Council Chair Rapozo:	Can the public drop these items off for free?
Ms. Fraley:	Correct. Now, there is a commercial charge for
scrap, but there is no charge for electronics.	
Councilmember Kualii:	The follow up line item that says Commercial
Recycling for nine hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$920,000). What is that for?	
Ms. Fraley:	GID accepts cardboard and manages all the
cardboard on-island. We do have a ban on cardboard at the landfill. They also accept all the	
HI-5 material, and under this contract, they accept all plastic, glass, and aluminum that	
comes through the State HI-5 program as well. Also, if any business wanted to start a	
recycling program where they would be able to self-haul and smaller haulers could go to GID	
to drop off their material. They are the only recycling process on the island.	
Councilmember Kualii:	Does that first part mean it is not just businesses,
it is also others?	
Ms. Fraley:	No, it is strictly the commercial side of recycling.

Councilmember Kuali'i: This is a contract, not for any kind of volume, but for an ongoing service, then?

Ms. Fraley: Correct.

Councilmember Kuali'i: You pay seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000) a month to Puhi Metals, do you pay Garden Island Disposal one twelfth of nine hundred twenty thousand (\$920,000) as monthly contract?

Ms. Fraley: Correct.

Councilmember Kuali'i: There are no other choices, right?

Ms. Fraley: Correct.

Councilmember Kuali'i: We do not know if we are getting the "bang for our buck". We just know that the commercial cannot bring their cardboard to our landfill. They have to bring it somewhere and this is what is available.

Ms. Fraley: This allows the cardboard ban to stay in place and allows for the HI-5 program to work.

Councilmember Kuali'i: As a part of this contract, does GID and Puhi Metals report all that they are taking?

Ms. Fraley: Yes, we have the data.

Councilmember Kuali'i: It would be interesting to share if it is not too much and have it already. It can be electronic.

Ms. Fraley: We have all the data if you need it.

Councilmember Kuali'i: Thank you.

Councilmember DeCosta: Thank you, Vice Chair, for that. It looks like I am talking to Donald Fujimoto again, with the sewer costs, which we do not charge hotels for, but they bring the sludge to us and with taxpayers' money, we take care of it. I am looking at the same thing right now. Commercial recycling, which means that it comes from commercial buildings. If I look across Kaua'i, I think the largest commercial companies that have a lot of cardboard would be Walmart, Target, Costco, and Home Depot. We are subsidizing their price, nine hundred thousand dollars (\$900,000). Why do we not make the large box stores pay that money? Why should our taxpayers pay that money? There are a few "mom and pop" out here, maybe Pho Kaua'i or Rob's Good Time & Grill, but how much cardboard do they have compared to the large box stores? Help me find wrong on this. It is not sitting well with me right now.

Ms. Fraley: I can give you a little insight on the cardboard. The majority of the big box stores backhaul their cardboard. They do not pay someone to come and take it and manage it. They put it in their own empty shipping containers and ship it off-island. We track that. It is a very large quantity of cardboard.

Councilmember DeCosta: How do we track that?

Ms. Fraley: We go and do interviews with the box stores.

Councilmember DeCosta: You ask the box stores managers at Walmart if they are sending back their cardboard and not sending it to GID, green container. Does the County believe that?

Ms. Fraley: No, then we ask for estimates and further information.

Councilmember DeCosta: What estimates would they provide?

Ms. Fraley: How many bales per day, per month, and how often they send out their shipping container to get the details. This serves smaller businesses that are getting like self-haulers or small hauling businesses that are complying with the cardboard ban but would not have a place to take it if GID did not offer this service.

Councilmember DeCosta: Are we talking about the GID green containers at the Hanapēpē Transfer Station? Can they stop and put their cardboard or paper in those?

Ms. Fraley: That is a different contract, the first one that we discussed, which is the residential contract with GID. I am talking about small businesses.

Councilmember DeCosta: We have two (2) contracts, residential and commercial, then?

Ms. Fraley: Correct.

Councilmember DeCosta: I am still not sitting easy on the fact that we subsidize costs for commercial recycling.

Councilmember Carvalho: Question on the Recycling Coordinator. Where is that position located?

Ms. Fraley: Down at the Kaua'i Resource Center. Then, we have two (2) HI-5 Specialists that are State funded, managing the HI-5 program. They also help us with education.

Councilmember Carvalho: Are they all located in that area?

Ms. Fraley: The recycling team are all down there together, but since the HI-5 specialists are State funded, they are focused primarily on the HI-5. We cannot have them manage these other County programs.

Council Chair Rapozo: Go ahead.

Councilmember DeCosta: Please help. If we go do curbside recycling, we have discussed that. We plan to put the cost on constituents, that is where we need a survey or study. Why do we not want to do curbside recycling? It is due to a taxpayer paying this extra amount for an extra can, correct? Why do we not charge the box stores, the commercial folks, to throw the cardboard? The “mom and pop”, I can see us helping them, like Pono Market, Fish Express, and the smaller businesses. I cannot see us helping the large box stores. What are we doing? I cannot see it and help me see it.

Ms. Fraley: As I said, the box stores are not using that service. They are directly shipping their material back in their empty shipping containers to the mainland.

Councilmember DeCosta: Do we have an inspector, similar to how we have a building inspector following up on projects?

Ms. Fraley: The Recycling Coordinator does, that is part of the way he spends his time.

Council Chair Rapozo: Let me help. Also, on the GID side, they would not be accepting it from Walmart, or would they report if they got it?

Ms. Fraley: They would report it.

Council Chair Rapozo: You would get that data.

Councilmember DeCosta: You have a plan in place so that they are not turning it in, then? Walmart, Costco, and Home Depot are not turning in the large cardboard.

Ms. Fraley: They are back hauling it. They are not turning it into this program.

Councilmember Cowden: I have a follow-up on that. Am I accurate? My memory as a retailer for a couple of decades, we had to pay tipping fees on all that, right? It goes to GID, but I am sure at some level, it comes back in (inaudible) because we have a recycling tipping fee and garbage tipping fee. Commercial places are still paying tipping fees for both recyclable and regular garbage. It comes out of the common area maintenance fee. The “mom and pop” are in fact paying for it.

Ms. Fraley: They are paying for the hauls, but the actual processing of the cardboard is what we are subsidizing. Once it gets to GID, to be able to bail it and then get it to market.

Councilmember Cowden: That tipping fee does not cover that.

Council Chair Rapozo: The tipping fees are for the landfill.

Councilmember Cowden: If a small business is in a shopping center, you pay GID to come pick up your trash every couple few days. We pay quite a bit of money to do that, which I would think covers. The taxpayers are not paying it. GID is doing it.

Ms. Fraley: They charge for the haul, but as far as trash, they charge for the haul and the disposal at the landfill. It is one hundred nineteen dollars (\$119) a ton. They are charging for the haul on the cardboard but then the processing for the recycling is not charged.

Councilmember DeCosta: What about transient vacation rentals (TVRs)? They are a commercial entity. Are they being responsible with their trash? Can the recycling analysts look into that? If they are not a TVR, they should be responsible for their cardboard and trash that they can easily put in the landfill as a residential home. They could easily do that, correct?

Ms. Fraley: Correct.

Councilmember DeCosta: They can drive their little car if they are the owner of the TVR and drop it in the can at Hanapēpē Transfer Station. How do we know if they own a TVR if they drive a little car to the station? How do we hold them accountable?

Council Chair Rapozo: You cannot. There is no way you can.

Councilmember DeCosta: I am going to brainstorm.

Council Chair Rapozo: Yes, figure out a way. I would love to be able to do that.

Councilmember Carvalho: I have another follow-up. Again, to clarify, does the Recycling Coordinator oversee all of this? Is this person making sure that we are holding big stores accountable?

Ms. Fraley: Yes, they have a big job.

Council Chair Rapozo: Vehicle pickup program. Is that what I think it is?

Ms. Fraley: That is the low-income vehicle.

Council Chair Rapozo: Do you mean the one hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$120,000). What is that for?

Ms. Fraley: That is to assist renters or homeowners with getting abandoned vehicles off their property. We are about to launch that.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is this new?

Ms. Fraley: No, it was budgeted this year, so we are going to launch it this year. This will be a continuance.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is this only limited to low-income?

Ms. Fraley: Yes. We do free disposal at Puhi, but you have to get your car there.

Council Chair Rapozo: The problem with that is getting a tow truck. Do you know how much it costs to get a tow truck to Puhi Metals now? Do you have an idea?

Ms. Fraley: A couple hundred dollars.

Council Chair Rapozo: A lot of people do not have or want to pay, then it ends up on the side of the road or in the bushes. I am not sure. Who does abandoned towing? It is not KPD.

Ms. Fraley: It is still KPD, but we have a different contract for this.

Council Chair Rapozo: Whatever we have is not working. It is not. I have seen bright orange stickers on windows for days.

Councilmember Kualii: KPD is here on Friday.

Council Chair Rapozo: I do not remember seeing this vehicle pickup program. Does that mean that we will pick up the cars from people?

Ms. Fraley: If it is on their property. This would be a different program than the regular program.

Council Chair Rapozo: Is this for picking up cars from private property? Not abandoned, then?

Ms. Fraley: This is for those that have a bunch of junk cars on their property.

Council Chair Rapozo: Instead of dumping them on the road, they need to find someone to bring it to their property.

Councilmember Kualii'i: Someone that is poor.

Council Chair Rapozo: Then we will go get them. Whatever works. I think it is brilliant. I think we need to get these cars off the sides of the roads. Councilmember Bulosan, are you here?

Councilmember Bulosan: Yes. What is the low-income threshold to utilize the program?

Ms. Fraley: We are following the same thresholds as Real Property.

Councilmember Bulosan: Is the Department open to increasing the budget and increasing the threshold?

Ms. Fraley: We could look at it.

Council Chair Rapozo: You set that. If you get the vote, you can set it to whatever you want. All jokes aside, I think we really have to look at, even if it is for one (1) year, going out and cleaning up these roads while we try to figure out other ways to mitigate. I think we pay Puhi Metals a lot of money. I am sure that they are getting paid for the metals that they are taking.

Ms. Fraley: They do have a tip fee for commercials, but you know the processing of metals and the shipping is very expensive.

Council Chair Rapozo: Yes, but I do not think that they are losing money.

Ms. Fraley: They signed a ten-year contract. Every year, it is harder for them.

Council Chair Rapozo: With this pickup program, we will not get charged, right? We pick up and drop the cars and it is free, right?

Ms. Fraley: Correct.

Council Chair Rapozo: Councilmember DeCosta.

Councilmember DeCosta: In my experience at Reynolds Recycling, they are always pleasant, they always go out of their way to help us, so I am glad that we have that in place for the residential people. I somewhat agree with Councilmember Bulosan. Thank you for speaking. I appreciate that. You start at Kekaha, DHHL. There is a side road that goes past the community. Everyone has a bunch of wreck cars; it looks like a dump on DHHL

land. We should clean that up because it came from our community. The cars did not come from DHHL Hawaiians. The cars came from random people that live on Westside community and dumped them on the road. If you head a little more inland, Waimea Valley, by the main crossing that you need to cross to go to the State hunting area, across the Kapaho house. There are about twenty (20) very old vehicles, if there were a fire, they would be hazardous. It is on a private piece of property. Head a little more east, right down in town, there are a whole bunch of hazardous vehicles there. They are a fire hazard right outside our city. We, the County, needs to take the initiative. I heard that if it is not on County road, we cannot touch it, but these folks push the car onto private property. That poor private folk does not the resources to move the car, so maybe the private folk should push the car back onto a County road at night and let the County pick it up. We need to do an islandwide cleanup. I am for an islandwide cleanup. I am willing to cast my vote with Councilmembers Bulosan and Kualii, and include DHHL, to clean up this island. Let us get rid of all these cars. Let us craft a bill that holds people accountable for dumping any more cars. If they dump a car, then we call them felons. Let us make a bill, do something. We need to clean this island up. It is a shame. Sorry.

Council Chair Rapozo: No problem. See what you started Councilmember Bulosan.

Councilmember DeCosta: Do not talk.

Councilmember Bulosan: I just had the comment, it is a similar experience that happened a few months ago at Anahola. That recent brush fire was due to abandoned vehicles. There is a nonprofit there that has removed almost forty (40) vehicles, but that is a nonprofit doing work that could be prevented if a program like this was more extensive, which is why I think investigating whether we have budget for this. I am willing to investigate on our end where we can.

Ms. Fraley: We do want to open it to nonprofits and small farms, as well. We feel that residents probably come first, that is the way we were looking at it.

Council Chair Rapozo: This is just towing, right?

Ms. Fraley: Yes.

Council Chair Rapozo: We can contract out and tell the tow trucks that if they get the contract, then they will get volume.

Ms. Fraley: We will be taking applications from the people that want the service, vetting them then going ahead to schedule the tows. That is what our office, the Recycling Coordinator, will do.

Councilmember DeCosta: Can we have an incentive? If they tow more, then they can have more of the contract. If they are willing to do ten (10) a week, then we can give

ten (10) more in the following week. That will incentivize these towing companies to want to pick up those derelict vehicles.

Ms. Fraley: For this contract, we have already hired a company to do it, but as far as KPD, I am not sure.

Councilmember DeCosta: How do you know that we are not going to put more money in the budget item to tow more? We just might.

Council Chair Rapozo: We might.

Councilmember Kualifi: One last thing. You stated that it was for families or individuals, but I think it is obvious that the nonprofits are helping the families and the individuals, so they might be an intermediary to help you help more of our families. They could still get the families to apply or whatever.

Council Chair Rapozo: The key for abandoned vehicles, and I have shared this with our Legislature, is that we need to hold the last registered owner accountable. Right now, as long as you fill out the Notice of Transfer paper and submit it, you are off the hook. These cars are being sold and resold and no one is going in to fill out the new registration. As long as they have that notice of transfer, they cannot be cited, right? Their obligation or duty is done. We need to have State pass that law where that last register. I know it is inconvenient, but if you sell your car, you need to be sure that the person buying it registers the car. In other words, meet at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to sign the papers. Then, the seller is truly out, but if I do not do that then, six (6) years from now, if my junk car is in some place, I could still get the ticket.

Councilmember Kualifi: That happened to me.

Council Chair Rapozo: Where, on the mainland?

Councilmember Kualifi: No, here.

Council Chair Rapozo: Did you have a Notice of Transfer? You probably did not complete the Notice of Transfer.

Councilmember Kualifi: The other side did not complete it. That person sold it and I was held responsible for it.

Council Chair Rapozo: Anyway, on to page 327.

Councilmember Kualifi: Almost a blank page, just a total.

Council Chair Rapozo: Now, let us go to page 329. These are the different funds from Solid Waste Funds on page 330. I think there is one at the end. These three

hundred twelve thousand dollars (\$312,000) is what funds KPD with the abandoned vehicles. I am sorry, I meant page 306. The last page.

Councilmember Kualiti: Go to the end. Page 330, it might be a typographical error (typo), maybe it should be 332 or 333 or it jumps because of funds.

Council Chair Rapozo: This is the Beautification Fund. Is that you?

Ms. Fraley: That funds the rest of the Puhi Metals contract. We have some from the Operating Budget and some from the Beautification Fund.

Council Chair Rapozo: Are the beautification projects...this one is just the roads. Are there any further questions for Allison, in general, something that you might have missed?

Councilmemembr Cowden: Thank you, Allison.

Councilmember Kualiti: Thank you.

Councilmember Carvalho: Thank you.

Council Chair Rapozo: Thank you. Are there any further questions for Troy?

Councilmemembr Cowden: Let us give him five (5) more heavy questions.

Council Chair Rapozo: With that, tomorrow morning, we will start at 9:00 a.m. and we will start the CIP.

There being no objections, the Committee recessed at 4:12 p.m.