

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

April 6, 2001

Committee
Report No.

01-63

Honorable Chair and Members
of the County Council
County of Maui
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii

Chair and Members:

Your Budget and Finance Committee, having met on March 15, 2001, makes reference to County Communication No. 01-72, from the Director of Parks and Recreation, transmitting a proposed bill entitled "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2001 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI AS IT PERTAINS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION".

The purpose of the proposed bill is to amend the Fiscal Year 2001 Budget to transfer \$50,000 from the Maui Community Correctional Center (MCCC) Grant for the Workline Program to the Administration Program for Worker's Compensation.

At its meeting, your Committee met with the Budget Director, the Director of Parks and Recreation, a Deputy Corporation Counsel, and Albert Murashige, Warden of the MCCC.

The Director of Parks and Recreation informed your Committee that the MCCC Workline Program has been unable to staff all of the requested worklines, and therefore, funds for the program will be unspent. In contrast, the Department's Workers' Compensation claims exceeded the budgeted amount for Fiscal Year 2001 in January. The Director of Parks and Recreation provided a handout entitled "Department of Parks and Recreation - Analysis of Workers' Compensation Expenditures", which compares the expenditures and budgeted amounts for Workers' Compensation from Fiscal Year 1996 through January 2001. Your Committee was further informed that the claims are currently averaging about \$20,000 per month after a high of \$58,000 in August 2000. The Director of Parks and Recreation stated that the proposed bill requests funding the Workers' Compensation claims for the remaining part of Fiscal Year 2001 with the savings from the Workline Program.

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Mr. Murashige explained why the MCCC has been unable to staff the four Workline crews. He stated that until June 2000, it was the policy at MCCC to retain inmates serving a five-year sentence and send inmates with longer sentences to Halawa Prison on Oahu. The rationale for this MCCC policy was that the five-year term inmates would serve 18 months to two years, and by keeping them on Maui, it is easier to assist the inmates in making a better adjustment when they are released back into the community. The Workline Program provides a good mechanism for this readjustment. He stated that if they are sent to Halawa Prison, the inmates are often lost in the numbers and are returned to Maui just before release.

Your Committee was further informed that the State Corrections Division did not agree with this MCCC policy, and beginning June 2000, all inmates with a term of five years or more were sent to Halawa Prison. This resulted in a shortage of inmates for the Workline Program. Mr. Murashige stated that beginning in April 2001 the State Corrections Division reversed its rule, and is allowing the outer islands to keep five-year inmates on the respective islands. This change in policy will allow the MCCC to fully support the Workline Program in the future.

After discussion, your Committee voted to recommend passage of the proposed bill on first reading and filing of the communication.

Your Budget and Finance Committee RECOMMENDS the following:

1. That Bill No. _____ (2001), entitled "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2001 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI AS IT PERTAINS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION" PASS FIRST READING and BE ORDERED TO PRINT; and
2. That County Communication No. 01-72 be FILED.

Adoption of this report is respectfully requested.

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