

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

December 7, 2001

Committee

Report No. 01-234

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 November 13, 2001, makes reference to County Communication No. 01-297, from the Director of Housing and Human Concerns, transmitting the following:

1. A proposed resolution entitled "AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR, AND ACCEPTANCE OF, GRANT FUNDS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, RELATING TO THE HEALTHY HAWAII INITIATIVE".

The purpose of the proposed resolution is to authorize the acceptance of a \$24,000 grant for the Healthy Hawaii Initiative from the State Department of Health.

2. A proposed bill entitled "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING APPENDIX A OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2002 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI AS IT PERTAINS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND HUMAN CONCERNS".

The purpose of the proposed bill is to amend Appendix A, Part I, of the Fiscal Year 2002 Budget, relating to grant revenues, to appropriate \$24,000 for the Healthy Hawaii Initiative in the Department of Housing and Human Concerns.

At its meeting, your Committee met with the Budget Director, the Director of Housing and Human Concerns, and a Deputy Corporation Counsel.

The Director of Housing and Human Concerns provided an overview of the Healthy Hawaii Initiative. She stated that as part of the National Tobacco Settlement, the State established the Hawaii Tobacco Settlement Special Fund to be administered by the State Department of Health. The legislation

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

December 7, 2001
Page 2

Committee
Report No. 01-234

establishing the Hawaii Tobacco Settlement Special Fund mandated that 25 percent of the monies in the fund be used for health-promotion and disease-prevention programs. The goals of the Healthy Hawaii Initiative are twofold. The first goal is to increase the quality and years of healthy life for all of Hawaii's people. The second is to reduce existing health disparities among ethnic groups in Hawaii. The initiative has four major components: (1) school-based initiatives; (2) healthy communities initiatives; (3) public and professional education; and (4) Hawaii Outcomes Institute for assessment and evaluation.

The Director stated that the grant is for contract services to develop a community garden in Haliimaile, where community members can plant garden crops and native Hawaii plants, learn about nutrition, and engage in physical activity and exercise in an outdoor, tobacco-free environment. She further noted that the community garden in Haliimaile falls under the healthy communities initiatives component. She stated that the garden is a pilot project, which includes senior citizens living in the Upcountry area as the initial target population. School children will also be invited to help with the plants, working alongside the seniors. The seniors will serve in a mentoring capacity to provide insight and knowledge of gardening as well as cultural education in the sharing of their personal history.

Your Committee notes that the program will operate under the auspices of the Leisure Program at Kaunoa Senior Center. John Cadman, an instructor for Kaunoa's Leisure Program, is donating the use of two acres of his property for the project. Transportation to the site will be included as a part of Kaunoa's contract with Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.

Your Committee raised concerns that the transmittal letter did not provide enough information on the details of the project, which would have been helpful to your Committee in reviewing the proposed resolution and bill. Therefore, your Committee requested that the Administration's future transmittals include more descriptive information along with proposed resolutions and bills relating to grants.

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

December 7, 2001
Page 3

Committee
Report No. 01-234

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

Your Budget and Finance Committee RECOMMENDS the following:

1. That Resolution No. _____, attached hereto, entitled "AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR, AND ACCEPTANCE OF, GRANT FUNDS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, RELATING TO THE HEALTHY HAWAII INITIATIVE" be ADOPTED;
2. That Bill No. _____ (2001), attached hereto, entitled "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING APPENDIX A OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2002 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI AS IT PERTAINS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND HUMAN CONCERNS" PASS FIRST READING and BE ORDERED TO PRINT; and
3. That County Communication No. 01-297 be FILED.

Adoption of this report is respectfully requested.

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

December 7, 2001
Page 4

Committee
Report No. 01-234

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