

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
**HUMAN SERVICES AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

March 2, 2001

**Committee
Report No.**

01-36

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

Chair and Members:

Your Human Services and Economic Development Committee, having met on February 15, 2001, makes reference to County Communication No. 99-296, from the Managing Director, transmitting the following:

1. A proposed bill entitled "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE MAUI COUNTY CODE, PERTAINING TO THE UNIFORM BUILDING CODE".

The purpose of the proposed bill is to repeal Chapter 53, Energy Conservation, and to incorporate the Hawaii Model Energy Code and related revisions.

2. A copy of the Hawaii Model Energy Code.

Your Committee notes that County Communication No. 99-296 was referred to the prior Council's Economic Development Committee on December 3, 1999.

At its meeting of November 15, 2000, the Economic Development Committee recommended that County Communication No. 99-296 be referred to the Council Chair for the term beginning January 2, 2001, for a recommendation as to referral or other disposition.

At its meeting of January 12, 2001, the Council referred County Communication No. 99-296 to your Human Services and Economic Development Committee (County Communication No. 01-16).

By facsimile letter received on February 13, 2001, Dr. Seiji F. Naya, Director, State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT), stated support of the passage of the proposed bill.

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At its meeting, your Committee met with the Director of Public Works and Waste Management; the County Energy Coordinator; a Deputy Corporation Counsel; and Mr. Howard Wiig, an Institutional Energy Analyst, Energy, Resources and Technology Division, State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism.

Mr. Wiig provided your Committee with an overview of the history of the Hawaii Model Energy Code (HMEC).

Development of the HMEC began 12 years ago. In 1995, Hawaii County, the City and County of Honolulu, and Kauai County each adopted the code for construction of commercial buildings in their respective counties. According to Mr. Wiig, the counties have jointly realized a \$21 million savings since 1995.

Mr. Wiig noted that the HMEC attempts to establish a minimum of energy efficiency requirements for construction of commercial and residential buildings. He also noted that incentives were created to encourage developers, architects, engineers and building owners to go beyond the required minimums.

Mr. Wiig noted that there is no cost to the County for adopting the HMEC. He further noted that various Maui County building inspectors have already received training on the components of the HMEC.

A Model Energy Code Task Force has been created to update the code to incorporate changes in technology, according to Mr. Wiig. A member of each counties' building division has been invited to be a member of the task force, as he or she is charged with enforcing the HMEC, along with the building codes. In addition, a number of architects, engineers and others in the building industry will be members of the task force. The first meeting is tentatively scheduled for mid March, 2001.

Your Committee noted that the HMEC requirements were too minimal to provide any significant savings. Your Committee also questioned the need to mandate energy efficiency, especially when it appears that the people of Maui County are already doing much of this themselves. However, some of your Committee members noted that while most people would agree that recycling is

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needed, few actually take the time to recycle materials from their homes. Your Committee stated that perhaps some legislation would be needed.

Your Committee further noted that it was dismayed to learn that the Energy Coordinator from each county was not asked to be a part of the task force. Further, your Committee also expressed frustration that Maui's Energy Coordinator, whose salary is paid by the State's Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, seemed unable to speak freely about his thoughts on the best energy policy for the County. Your Committee requested that a letter be sent to the Budget Committee to consider the possibility of converting the Energy Coordinator position into a County position.

Your Committee also requested that Maui Electric Company provide statistics on the success of their various energy efficiency initiatives.

Your Committee stated that it felt that the HMEC provides the basic framework for energy efficiency, but didn't go far enough to meet the needs of Maui County, and should therefore be filed. Your Committee further noted that it wanted the Energy Coordinator, the Office of the Corporation Counsel and Committee staff to work together to formulate a Maui County Energy Policy for Council consideration.

Your Human Services and Economic Development Committee **RECOMMENDS** that County Communication No. 99-296 be FILED.

Adoption of this report is respectfully requested.

