

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
PLANNING COMMITTEE

March 16, 2001

**Committee
Report No.**

01-56

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

Chair and Members:

Your Planning Committee, having met on March 1, 2001, makes reference to County Communication No. 97-110, from Councilmember Alan M. Arakawa, transmitting a letter dated February 10, 1997, from Mary M. Evanson, requesting that a Haleakala Mountain Master Plan be developed.

Your Committee notes that the University of Hawaii's Institute for Astronomy wishes to develop a Haleakala High Altitude Observatory Site Master Plan for 18 acres at the top of Haleakala. Existing broadcast facilities located adjacent to the Haleakala High Altitude Observatory Site may cause radio interference with the observatories. As such, the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) has received requests for a Coordinated Broadcast Facility to be located down the Haleakala rift zone, and for the establishment of a Haleakala Mountain Master Plan.

Your Committee notes that County Communication No. 97-110 was referred to the 1997-1999 Planning Committee at the Council meeting of March 7, 1997.

By letter dated March 10, 1997, Christa Matthews, Secretary/Treasurer of the Friends of Haleakala National Park, informed the Planning Committee that the Friends of Haleakala National Park was in support of a Haleakala Mountain Master Plan.

By memorandum dated April 4, 1997, former Councilmember Alice L. Lee transmitted a proposed resolution entitled "URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII'S INSTITUTE OF ASTRONOMY TO INCLUDE THE GREATER HALEAKALA MOUNTAIN IN THE HALEAKALA OBSERVATORIES MASTER PLAN".

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The purpose of the proposed resolution is to urge the University of Hawaii's Institute for Astronomy to include the greater Haleakala Mountain in its master plan for the Haleakala Observatories area, and, that such efforts be coordinated with appropriate landowners, including, but not limited to, the County of Maui Administration, the State Board of Land and Natural Resources, and the Federal National Park Service.

At its meeting of November 30, 1998, the Planning Committee recommended that County Communication No. 97-110 be referred to the Council Chair for the term beginning January 2, 1999, for a recommendation as to referral or other disposition.

At its meeting of January 15, 1999, the Council referred County Communication No. 97-110 to the prior Council's Planning Committee (County Communication No. 99-13, as amended).

At its meeting of November 30, 2000, the Planning Committee recommended that County Communication No. 97-110 be referred to the Council Chair for the term beginning January 2, 2001, for a recommendation as to referral or other disposition.

By memorandum dated December 11, 2000, Elliott Krash, President, Kula Community Association, informed the Planning Committee that the Kula Community Association was in support of a Haleakala Mountain Master Plan.

At its meeting of January 12, 2001, the Council referred County Communication No. 97-110 to your Planning Committee (County Communication No. 01-23).

By letter dated February 8, 2001, the Chair of your Committee transmitted a second proposed resolution entitled "URGING THE STATE OF HAWAII TO FUND MASTER PLANNING FOR HALEAKALA", and related documents, to the Chair of the State Board of Land and Natural Resources, and requested comments.

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The purpose of the second proposed resolution is to request that the State of Hawaii provide funding for the Haleakala High Altitude Observatory Site Master Plan and the Coordinated Broadcast Facility Master Plan.

By memorandum dated February 13, 2001, the Chair of your Committee transmitted the second proposed resolution to your Committee for its consideration.

By letter dated February 20, 2001, Gilbert Coloma-Agaran, Chair of the State Board of Land and Natural Resources, provided comments on the second proposed resolution. Mr. Coloma-Agaran stated that the DLNR has been working with commercial broadcasters to assist them in a relocation effort. Discussions are underway between existing and potential users, the United States Air Force, the University of Hawaii's Institute for Astronomy, and the appropriate State and County agencies. When consensus is reached on a Coordinated Broadcast Facility site, all necessary permits and approvals will be required prior to development.

By facsimile letter dated February 27, 2001, Philip Thomas, Board Member, Friends of Haleakala National Park, supported the second proposed resolution.

By facsimile letter dated February 27, 2001, Bill Smith supported the second proposed resolution.

By letter dated February 28, 2001, Mary M. Evanson, informed your Committee that the Friends of Haleakala National Park supported the second proposed resolution.

By electronic mail dated February 28, 2001, Elliott Krash, President, Kula Community Association, informed your Committee that the Kula Community Association supported the second proposed resolution.

By memorandum dated March 1, 2001, the Council Chair transmitted written testimony from Kahu Charles Kauluwehi Maxwell, who supported the second proposed resolution.

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At its meeting of March 1, 2001, your Committee met with the Planning Director; a Deputy Corporation Counsel; Michael Maberry, Assistant Director, Haleakala Division, Institute for Astronomy, University of Hawaii; and Dr. Charlie Fein, Environmental Consultant, Faulkes Telescope, Haleakala High Altitude Observatory Site.

Mr. Maberry provided an overview of the situation regarding the Haleakala High Altitude Observatory Site. He noted that the University of Hawaii's Institute for Astronomy requested \$1.5 million from the State Legislature for a Haleakala High Altitude Observatory Site Master Plan. The Legislature appropriated \$550,000, but the Governor has yet to release the funds. Dr. Fein, responding to a question from your Committee, added that a Haleakala High Altitude Observatory Site Master Plan will include design guidelines to address the visual impacts of structures.

Your Committee noted that Haleakala is an important natural, cultural, and aesthetic resource of the County. However, much of Haleakala lies within the State Conservation District.

Your Committee noted that this matter may become a part of next year's County legislative package to the State Legislature. As such, your Committee requested: (1) that letters be sent to all persons and organizations who submitted written testimony to your Committee, encouraging them to contact the State regarding funding for master planning at Haleakala; and (2) that status updates on this matter be requested from the Governor, the President of the State Senate, and the Speaker of the State House of Representatives, and the DLNR.

Finally, your Committee voted to recommend adoption of the proposed resolution entitled "URGING THE STATE OF HAWAII TO FUND MASTER PLANNING FOR HALEAKALA", provided that all written public testimony is attached to the resolution.

Your Committee is in receipt of a revised proposed resolution. The revised resolution states that much public testimony has been submitted in support of master planning for Haleakala. The resolution also attaches all written public testimony received.

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Your Planning Committee RECOMMENDS that
Resolution No. _____, attached hereto, entitled "URGING THE STATE
OF HAWAII TO FUND MASTER PLANNING FOR HALEAKALA" be ADOPTED.

Adoption of this report is respectfully requested.

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